## **Brooktrails** board

hears leak is repaired, parcourse lot needs work

Barbara O'Reardon willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Tuesday, October 28 Brooktrails Township Services Community District board meeting only had a couple items on the Consent Calendar for the evening, so it appeared that the meeting would be matter of fact and brief.

All board members were in attendance as well as General Manager Tamara Alaniz and Brooktrails Counsel Chris Neary.

The meeting was quickly underway, and Alaniz had an update regarding the Tuck Road leak that was reported by Brooktrails resident Carolyn Muller at the September 23 board meeting. "It took a couple times for the crew to go out and find where the leak was located," she said. "There was also more concern expressed by other members of the public regarding the leak. I'm happy to report that the leak has now been repaired."

President Board Tyler-O'Shea then opened the floor to public **Brooktrails** comments.

Read the rest of **Brooktrails** 

Over on Page 11

## Judge Clayton Brennan has retired

Submitted by Superior Court of California, **County of Mendocino** 

October 29 - After more than nineteen years on the bench, Judge Clayton Brennan has announced his retirement from the Mendocino County Superior Court bench. His retirement date is October 31, 2025.

Judge Brennan was elected to the bench in 2006 and initially presided in the Willits branch courthouse. He transferred to the Ten Mile courthouse in Fort Bragg in 2011, replacing retiring Judge Jonathan Lehan, when the Willits branch was permanently closed.

Judge Brennan has spent his entire judicial career in Mendocino branch courthouses, presiding over all case types from serious criminal cases to complex civil cases, family law, and probate.

Prior to joining the bench, Brennan was in private practice for many handling civil years, and criminal cases and specializing in employment, discrimination, personal injury, wrongful death, and complex civil matters. He

Read the rest of Retired

Over on Page 11







Above, from left: Malakai Schindel played the pan flute for those waiting in the Enchanted Pumpkin Path gathering area. These three actors, Chet Collins, Rio Palley, and Cliff Paulin, told the story of Maui finding new land, and gave out fish hook necklaces. Kids were able to doodle chalk art on the pavement while waiting to attend the event. Below: Moira Jordan, left, and Joey Mayhugh told the story of "Little Star Shines Bright" and gave out star cookies.











Above: These Venus Fly Trap and Black Widow Spider costumes were a hit at the path. Below: At the end of each skit, attendees were given special treats pertinent to each story, including daffodil bulbs, apples, star cookies, honey sticks, necklaces, caramels, and a star

Above, from left: The sun, water and the moon played by actors Cheryle Evans, Carolyn Brown, and Nansea Boykin told the story of "The Dance that Made the Stars" and handed out star-adorned bookmarks. Creative costumes were everywhere, including this angler fish which was just reeling in two curious monkeys. The line was long, but moved quickly as the 600 attendees moved through the 3.5 hour event.

# **Enchanted**

Waldorf School of Mendocino County offers magical event with skits, food, costumes and celebration of the stars

Maureen Jennison Graphics & Photographres willitsweekly@gmail.com

While many have tons of fun spending the evening hours of October 31 in an adrenaline-pumped, shenanigan-filled and candy-glazed haze, the Waldorf School of Mendocino County

offers something else for families looking for a gentler, and more magical, experience at their Calpella school: the Enchanted Pumpkin Path.

Taking place on Halloween night, the Pumpkin Path wanders through Read the rest of the school's grounds, which are

Enchanted

Over on page 11







Above, left: "Orion and The Rabbit" with actors Estelle Cliffton, Marco Donner, and Renata Abbade. Above, right: The shooting star swung out over the audience trailing glistening tails behind in "Falling Star Wishes" with actors Jeffery Harris, Kim Shepard, and Cathy Monroe. Below, left: The final skit included a group song of "This Little Light of Mine." Below, right: The story of Helios was told in "Chariot of the Sun" with actors Stacy Sheldon, Calvin Turnwall, and Linnhe Thomson.





## **Proposition** 50 wins in Mendocino County, too

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

Proposition won statewide, with 63.8 percent "yes" to 36.2% "no" in results reported so far, Mendocino County also voted yes on the temporary redistricting initiative. As reported so far, 65.03 percent of Mendocino County voters voted "yes" and 34.97 voted "no."

A total of 21,384 voters in Mendocino County have so far been reported casting ballots - that's 13,906 yes and 7,475 no.

Proposition 50 the only question on Mendocino County's ballots in the November 4 special election.

Most local voters, a total of 21,101, sent in their ballots early enough so they could be counted before Election Day. So far, only 292 mail-in ballots are listed as coming in on Election Day itself.

Mendocino County Voter Registrar Katrina Bartyolomie noted it was unusual to have so many ballots returned before Election Day.

In California, mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day that arrive no

Read the rest of Prop 50

Over on Page 9

## **North Coast** journalist arrested

for 'knowingly annoying and or molesting a minor'

Posted by Ukiah Police Department

November 3 – On October 16, 2025, the Ukiah Police Department was notified by a concerned parent of a Ukiah High School student that a teacher, Matthew P. Lafever, 37, of Hopland, a journalism teacher at Ukiah High School, had made an inappropriate sexual comment towards daughter. Through the course of the initial investigation into incident, Ukiah Police Department detectives learned that a different UHS student had information regarding Lafever contacting minors on social media.

**UPD** detectives conducted an interview with the female high school student, who told the detectives that she had conversed with Lafever on social media, informed him that she was a minor, and Lafever had persisted to make sexually suggestive comments about her and repeatedly asked her to send him inappropriate

Read the rest of Lafever

Over on Page 11

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

#### Thanks from WCS To the Editor:

Hello Willits community! I would like to start out by giving a huge thank you to all the wonderful people, businesses, and organizations that have sustained Willits Community Services and Food Bank throughout the years. It is your contributions that have enabled what started out as an ambitious grassroots endeavor back in the 1980s to become and remain an invaluable resource in this

Your donations and dedication has kept us afloat in the roughest of seas during these last 40-plus years, and I hope you all know that your impact, be it big or small, is meaningful in the lives of those with food insecurity in our community. Your ongoing support To the Editor: says so much about the amazing community we have here in Willits.

that Willits Food Bank is here, and Festival Raffle Fundraiser. we don't plan on going anywhere anytime soon, but we need your help.

With SNAP recipients unable to receive their benefits, we anticipate a rise in need for our services, support our school. and we are working on increasing our supplies. It is heartwarming to see how many people are already reaching out to us at this time to help, but we need more to get through this newest storm. Just in the last week we have already started to see yet another rise in clients.

If you haven't donated lately, and monetary donations of any amount,

Submitted by CAL FIRE

really use your help. You are our funding stream, and we rely on your Meow, Sword and Board, Roselina donations to survive.

We have a donate button on our Facebook page and on our website:www.willitsfoodbank.com and we are on PayPal. You may also contact me directly at (707) 459-3333 or wendy@willitsfoodbank.com Mail checks to: 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490

Together we can make a difference in the lives of those in need during these difficult times. With appreciation and

> Wendy Copperfield, executive director, Willits Community Services and Food Bank

#### Thank you

Friends of Sherwood School Inc. (FOSSI) would like to extend our I realize this is a scary time for heartfelt gratitude to the businesses people with food insecurity now more and people that generously than ever, and I want you to know contributed to support our 2025 Fall

> Thanks to their contributions, our event was a tremendous success! Please help us to support and thank these businesses that helped to

A huge THANK YOU to the following businesses: Starbucks, Master Soot Chimney Sweep, Benbow Inn, Earth's Treasures, Willits Physical Therapy, Grocery Outlet, McNab Ridge Winery, Skunk Train, Mendocino County Sports Academy, Frey Vineyards, Good Guys Gym, Imagination Station Toy Depot, Book Juggler, you are able to contribute food or Birdies Deliveries, Friedman's, Tilly Sampson, T-UP Mini Golf, Mendocino or can volunteer some time, we could County Guns, Megan Jaramillo,

CAL FIRE graduates 39 new Company Officers

at Redding Training Center

Record progress in training capacity

CAL FIRE Training Program.

Read the rest of

With the graduation of Fire Control Class 25-11, CAL

FIRE has now trained over 540 new Company Officers

in 2025. This historic training pace is on track to meet

the department's goal of graduating over 650 Company

Officers by the end of the year, a record total for the

The increased capacity was made possible by the

addition of the Atwater Training Center in July 2025—

the department's fourth training location. The Atwater

Center recently held its inaugural graduation on

The CAL FIRE Company Officer is the first-line

The Company Officer: A critical leadership role

Graduates |

Sparetime Garden Center, Cat's Books, Blue Willow Tea, Moon Lady, Esthetics by Eden, Green Uprising Farm, Mulligan Gardens, Smokey's BBQ, Willits Power, City Nails, House Doctor Paints, Flying Dog Pizza, KarKar's Deli, Scoops, Starz Gymnastics, Safeway Willits, JD Redhouse, Golden Rule Gardens, TNT Market, Super Taco, LMR Crafts and Carvings, Kemmy's Pies, Unique Boutique, Earth Labs, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Subway, Pizza to Go, Szechuan Asian Restaurant, O'Reilly Auto Parts, April May's Drive Thru Coffee, Fish Out of Water, Luxe Tan, Sherwood Market,

Elizabeth Basterrechea, for

Re-Evolution, Mazahar Enchanted

Toy Shop, and 1st Nails.

## Thank you

The Little Lake Fire Department would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Eric from the Willits Arts Center and all the incredible volunteers who invested countless hours into making our community's haunted house a success.

We also want to recognize the generous candy donations from our wonderful community, which contributed to the enjoyment of our

Remember, it truly takes a village to bring every event to life, and we are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our community. Together, we create memorable experiences

Michelle Schnitzius, Little Lake Fire Protection District

#### Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501

Thursday, November 6: Chicken & Dumplings Friday, November 7: Irish Stew w/Roll

Monday, November 10: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked

Tuesday, November 11: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Mushroom Gravy

Wednesday, November 12: Chicken Philly w/ Scalloped Potatoes, Italian Pasta Salad

Thursday, November 13: Pepperoni Sausage

Friday, November 14: Sweet & Sour Chicken, White

Activities: Bingo on Friday nights, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Joliana 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

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 one-third of our workforce, which allows us to offer many services to our members and community." To learn more about volunteering: 459-6826.

### Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee, November 19

Submitted by Behavioral Health and Recovery

The Mendocino County Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee (Measure B) regular quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 1 to 3 pm. The meeting will be held at Behavioral Health & Recovery Services.

The mission of the Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee is to ensure the effective, efficient, and transparent use of those funds provided for by and as defined by Mendocino County Ordinance

This meeting is intended for members of the public who are interested in the Mendocino County Ordinance 4387 fund. Community members are encouraged to attend the meeting to ask questions, obtain information.

Measure B meeting agendas are published at: https://www.mendocinocounty.org/MeasureB

For more information about Measure B meetings. Services Administration at (707) 472-2355 or e-mail:

Conference Room 1, 1120 South Dora Street, in Ukiah,

4387 for the benefit of the community.

and provide feedback.

please contact Behavioral Health & Recovery measureb@mendocinocounty.org.

# The Rules: LETTERS

graduating class.

communities."

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters to the editor 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

Redding - CAL FIRE graduated 39 new Company

Officers on Friday, October 31 at the Redding Training

The graduation ceremony was attended by top

leadership, including Director/Fire Chief Joe Tyler,

Chief Deputy Director of Operations Anale Burlew, and

Cooperative Fire Protection Deputy Director Matthew

Sully, alongside CAL FIRE Region and Unit leadership.

Director/Fire Chief Tyler delivered the keynote

"These leaders represent the future of our emergency

response capabilities," said Director/Fire Chief Tyler.

"The continued success of our academies ensures we

can deploy the highest caliber officers to protect our

address before administering the official oath to the

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. Deadline is end of day Monday for each Thursday edition. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be

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Annie Evarts, reporter / features write

Addison Alvarado, school board reporter Danya Davis, Police Log

Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter Sheri Dockins, sports reporter

Ava Dockins, sports photographe

Damian and Andria, "What's Happening" Calendar: dandriawwcalendar@gmail.com

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707- 972-2475 / willitsweekly@gmail.com Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com

### Thank you to California voters

#### Submitted by District 2 Assemblymember Chris Rogers

Over on page 11

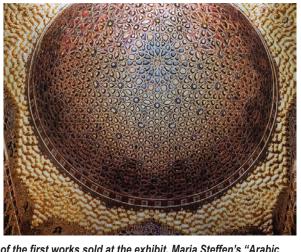
Thank you, California voters. Because of you, Proposition 50 passed — and it's a victory for democracy, fairness, and every Californian who believes in government for and by the people. To everyone who knocked on doors, made calls, donated, volunteered, or simply voted, thank you. You made this happen.

The results across the nation send a clear message to Republicans in Congress: You've allowed the president to take food out of the mouths of our nation's poorest. You've allowed the president to take health care away from our nation's sickest. You've turned our military's guns on our neighbors and your back on our allies – and in the 2026 midterms, accountability is coming.

The same energy and unity that delivered Proposition 50 will be what protects our state from attacks on our freedoms, our environment, and our people. We've proven that when Californians come together – across the North Coast and beyond - we can stand up to any challenge. Let's keep at it. With deep gratitude and determination. www.chrisrogersforassembly.com

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Above, from left: Lucia Acero shows her photo, "Chiffon Waterfall," one of the first works sold at the exhibit. Maria Steffen's "Arabic Beauty," photographed in Alhambra, Granada, Spain. Lydia Sims shows her photo of sand dunes, creating almost abstract patterns. Below, left: Bruce Haanstra converted these dynamic photos from color originals. Below, right: John Fisher's "Nose to Nose" was shot from a boat as bears frolicked. At right, from top: Jerry Albright takes photos of subjects and the beauty of his environment. Sandy Strong finds beauty in the delicate folds of this peony. Michael Steffen caught a moment with this dragonfly resting in a California poppy. John Glyer's take on the oft-photographed Chamberlain Falls.





"It's just something I enjoy doing," said Bruce Haanstra.

"It's also an excuse for going places that are nice. I pretty

much just seem to take pictures of what I see. I'm not a

patient photographer. Yeah, I don't wait for things to happen.

usually, I'm just kind of moving along, not really spending a

John Fisher offered some brilliant photos of bears and

glaciers. He photographed the bears from a boat. "They're

going after the salmon, but every now and then, you look

at them and they're looking right at you. Then they go right

back to what they're doing, you know, so they're aware of

that just happened to swim up to him while he was out

photographing scenes. "So, these moments happen,

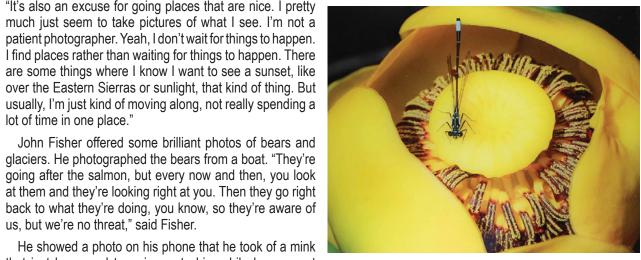
I believe in luck. I really do, especially with the mink. I'd

never seen a mink like that before. We have a few otters,

we've seen a few otters, but that mink swam about 70 to 80

feet up the stream right at me. I got about 17 pictures done.







#### Willits Photography Club showcases its members' wide-ranging work at WCA through November 23 Photographers see the world in moments. Some then you're on to the next one. You don't have to paint it. catch those moments as they see them. Others see the When I do my paintings, they take a long, long time, so possibilities of a scene and wait for the right moment, for it's really great to have photography to just capture what I love, which is the trees and flowers. They're just from my yard and around Willits. I'm always looking for a photo and

lot of time in one place."

us, but we're no threat," said Fisher.

Three of them turned out pretty sharp."

the sun to illuminate the view as they have guessed it would at a certain time, wait for the people or wildlife to line up in a perfect pastiche, or for something as simple as a car to a composition, you know, I just see life through different pass or a bee to take wing. One of the qualities of being a lighting, the contrast of dark and light. That's what really good photographer is patience. catches my eye a lot in photography.

Mathew Caine

The current exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts is the annual show of the best of the Willits Photography Club, with subjects ranging from a close-up of a dragonfly ensconced in a poppy, to an oft-photographed area of Death Valley sand dunes. Two of the photographers in the

show photographed the Eureka Dunes, but interestingly, they turned out very different, due to the position of the sun and the angle at which they were shot, mostly turning the dunes into abstract shapes of light and dark. Michael Steffen, a longtime Photo Club member, thinks photographers' eyes are open to the possibilities of

compositions that they might see and that it is beneficial to always carry some type of camera, be it a cell phone if nothing else. Photo possibilities present themselves when least expected on many occasions and photographic artists try to be prepared for those moments because some moments are impossible to recreate.

"Like today, we're driving in. There's a hawk, and gosh, I wish I had my telephoto," said Steffen. "But you know, photographers can be in one place and the light changes all day long. I'm kind of impatient about that, so I'm more of a paparazzi in that sense. I see it. I take it."

Lydia Sims was dedicated to capturing the dune in the first morning light to create a contrasting abstract. She spent the night at the dunes with fellow photographers and captured just the right lighting.

"Well, it [photography] catches the moment," explained Sims. "Your act of taking it catches it, and then when you're processing and choosing, you get to go back and revisit that moment. In the processing, you actually get to make it how you saw it, because the information is always there. With the cameras these days, the information is in there sometimes hard to choose your photos to put in a show because you wonder if someone will really be interested in that."

Sandy Strong, a multi-genre artist, loves photography as a medium. "It's like you see something in the moment and it's like, whoa, that is so cool, and you take its picture and

WILLITS FAMILY DENTISTRY છ

**IMPLANTS** 

707-459-2163

12 W. Valley St / Willits, CA 95490

the Willits Center for the Arts. "People can contact me, and we'll work out how many of what we can probably use," stated WCA Curator Margi Gomez. "It's super small work, technically it says 12-inches-by-6-inches, but, you know, if you have sculptural, you can't really apply that same kind of size, so we're not real strict about it. Members can submit their work. We're doing it all on one day, Tuesday, December 2. Since it's a member show, oftentimes people sign up as members when they bring their work in, so somewhere. It's really for us that we take it. That's why it's they have a couple different tables set up, so we can do everything at once." The Photo Club exhibit will be available to the public

through November 23, Friday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm, in the Willits Center for the Arts gallery, located at 71 East Commercial Street. Visit www.willitscenterforthearts. org/ for more info.

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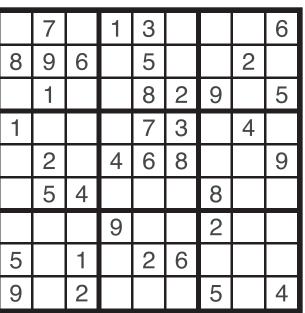
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\* O

# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



### 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

# **ROLE MODEL WORD SEARCH**

I P T M H U K U V A O I T O H R U M L A  $\texttt{C} \ \texttt{S} \ \texttt{S} \ \texttt{W} \ \texttt{V} \ \texttt{G} \ \texttt{R} \ \texttt{B} \ \texttt{D} \ \texttt{D} \ \texttt{G} \ \texttt{P} \ \texttt{M} \ \texttt{A} \ \texttt{Q} \ \texttt{R} \ \texttt{O} \ \texttt{U} \ \texttt{O} \ \texttt{M}$ 

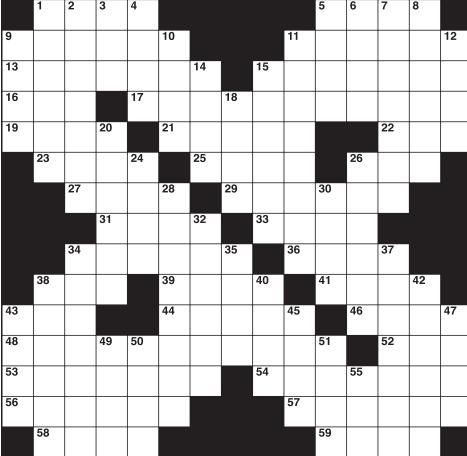
**ACTIONS ADULT ASPIRE** ATTITUDE **BEHAVIOR** CHILDREN

**GOAL GUIDANCE GUIDE INFLUENCE INSPIRE INSTRUCT** 

**MENTOR STUDENT** MODEL **TEACHER OVERCOME TRAITS POSITIVE** WORKFORCE QUALITIES

**REACH** 

**LEADER** 



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Difficult
- 5. Coarsely ground corn 9. There's one for
- the 'world'
- 11. Loved Romeo 13. Sticky situation
- 15. Pelvic areas
- 16. An informal debt
- instrument 17. Cannot be repaired
- surgically
- 19. A device attached to
- a workbench 21. Related on the
- mother's side
- 22. Sound unit
- 23. \_\_ Sagan, astronomer 25. Utah city
- 26. A disappointing effort 27. Steal goods during
- a riot 29. Wakes up
- 31. Hair salon service
- 33. Serenaded
- 34. Looked intensely
- 36. U.S. Air Force
- expert Robert F. 38. A type of cast

- 46. Ancient Greek City 48. Having had the head cut off
  - 52. A place to stay

39. One's duty

41. Where golfers begin

43. Make a mistake

44. Semitic sun god

- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most unnatural
- 56. Dennis is a notable one
- 57. Ointments 58. Students' exam
- 59. Leaked blood **CLUES DOWN**

3. Jest at

8. Irked

6. Dismounted

7. Small vehicle

9. One who earns by

10. Monetary unit

of Samoa

11. Long, mournful

disreputable dealings

1. Brave 2. Act of awakening

5. Chapter of the Koran

- 38. Put in advance 40. Satisfy 42. Felt 4. Sandwich store
  - 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

lamentation

12. Weight unit

14. Alone, single

15. Decreases

18. Indicates beside

20. Worn by exposure

to the weather

24. A body of traditions

32. US government entity

37. Grant an exemption to

26. College students'

ultimate goal

35. Legislative body

in Řussia

28. Amino acid

34. Swinish

30. Nasal mucus

- 45. Witnesses 47. Picnic invaders 49. Gasteyer and de
- Armas are two 50. Ancient person of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless 55. Unwell

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT **POLICE LOG**

October 13 to October 26

#### By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police the 1300 block of South Main Street and Department reported 145 incidents in this issued a citation 14-day period.

#### **Summary of Active Investigations** and Arrests

### October 13

12:04 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and

12:09 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:24 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and

11:22 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

1:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:26 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued

4:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued

6:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1100 block of Locust Street.

10:52 am: MARSHALL, William Neil (45) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of failure to appear and misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

10:56 am: TIMBERLAKE, Justin Phillip (42) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance.

12:07 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of North Main

3:47 pm: SPECIALE, Realia Evangelina (43) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance. contempt of court (disobeying a court order), and violation of probation.

10:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 800 block of

Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning. 10:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street

## October 15

and issued a warning.

- 4:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
- 4:49 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 41000 block of North Highway 101 and issued a citation.
- 7:43 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
- 8:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Holly Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and

issued a warning. 8:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

800 block of South Main Street and issued 8:49 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

500 block of South Main Street and issued 9:00 pm: BUSK, Staci Joal (58) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony

charges of receiving stolen property and

taking a vehicle without owner's consent.

### October 16

9:56 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of North Main Street.

11:25 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

2:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning. 2:34 pm: Officers responded to a report

of a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of

South Humboldt Street. 3:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

10:00 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Coast Street and West Highway 20 and issued a citation.

10:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation

10:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Van Lane and School Street and issued a citation.

#### October 17

7:52 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Commercial Street

#### October 18

4:42 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of South Main

#### October 19

4:18 pm: LOPES Sr., Anthony Frank (55) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of West Mendocino Street and Brookside Drive. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol), disobeying a court order, and violation of probation.

10:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

## October 20

5:52 am: JACOBOSIERRAS. Navelli Esther (23) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of McKinley Street. She was arrested on felony charges of domestic battery and misdemeanor charges of domestic battery.

October 21 7:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and

8:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued a citation.

Hollands Lane and issued a warning

8:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Monica Lane and issued a warning.

9:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

### October 22

4:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation

5:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Pine Street and Maple Street.

6:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation

7:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and North Street and issued a warning.

8:09 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

8:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued

8:43 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

9:57 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of North Main Street and issued

#### October 23

4:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation. 4:38 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

the 1000 block of South Main Street and issued a citation 8:47 pm: BEAN Jr., Leland Cheyenne

(48) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance and violation of parole and on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Read the rest of Over on page 11 WPD







Above, from left: Brooks shows off his chiseled physique as well as his determined-to-win attitude during one of the many fight scenes. Carlos Madrid Mora escapes a sea of flames in a special-effects shot, created digitally by Brooks. Bryan Brooks speaks about his plans for the future and ideas for more productions. Below: Star, writer, director and producer, Bryan Brooks, enacts a scene from the film with Noyo Theatre owner Jim Devine. At right: Ex-Willits resident Jessica May attends with Nathaniel Stoner, who played Pyro in "Wrecker," a character who breathes fire and acts as one of the evil henchmen.



Photos by Mathew Caine

# 'Wrecker'

#### Willits-resident Bryan Brooks Peterson creates action film full of local friends and locations

When speaking with Bryan Brooks Peterson, the writer, director, producer, actor, set builder, and editor of the highoctane, locally created film, "Wrecker," it is impossible not to notice his rather beefy size and physique, but after a few minutes, one is struck by his intelligence, creativity, joie de vivre, and general love of the art he studied in film school. He is, in fact, a film nerd who can impress with his knowledge of filmmaking, his ideas of how a set should be run, and his plans for the future.

Mathew Caine

"Wrecker" was and is a labor of love, a no-holds-barred B-movie romp with plenty of high-action

fight scenes, all done within a miniscule budget, with local Willits friends and locations. It took eight or nine years to complete his project, due to lack of available funding, a first-film norm. For his professional name, he usually drops the last name and goes by Bryan Brooks, an apt action-

On Halloween, Brooks arranged with Jim Devine of the Novo Theatre to do a screening of the film. About 30, mostly actors and crew, showed up to celebrate their accomplishment and to enjoy a couple of hours of escapist

entertainment, interspersed with messages and morals. "I'm super excited to have 'Wrecker' here," said Devine. "I think it's a great opportunity for Bryan to get his movie up on the big screen and showcase some of our local talent. Halloween is not traditionally a very movie-going night, so

it was a good opportunity to do this sort of off-beat film." Brooks commented: "It's so nice to create something you've worked on so hard, for so many years, with only a budget that I can afford. I could only work on it when I could. How much time I spent writing a script, developing each and every character, taking all the money I earned, everything I had in the bank, put it into this endeavor, just hoping that people have a two-hour escape from their lives

and they have a good time. "The reason why I decided to become a filmmaker," explained Brooks, "the reason behind making this movie, is that I was getting a little sick of all the trash that's out there. They spend millions, hundreds of millions of dollars. Is there a message behind it? Are you a better person for watching this? Is there anything that makes you better as a person, anything at all? I was seeing, in most instances, the answer was no."

There are scenes in the film where it is hard to see the low, low budget. Some of the production scenes, although



produced on a shoestring, seem to have been done by a larger independent studio. Brooks has created an instant cult classic, which, in time, it may become, once it gets distribution and some good marketing. At this time, it can be rented on Prime Video, or seen for free on Tubi.

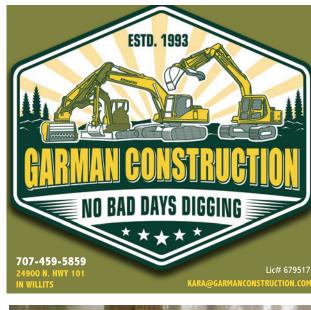
"In a city plagued with crime, a determined cop, and a man pushed to the edge, uncover a sinister plot and must ioin forces to battle an unspeakable evil," was the tagline of the trailer, and a fitting synopsis for the movie.

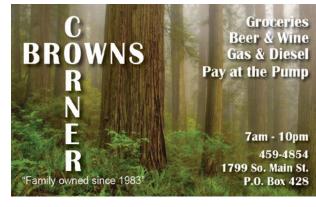
One of the big production scenes takes place in seemingly a low-class boxing venue with graffiti, crowds, lithesome dancing girls, and beefy fighters. The fight is emceed by local actors Billy Hetherington and Bryan Arnold, hamming it up, and eventually dying. Hetherington, a theater instructor at the Willits Charter School, loved the experience of working on the movie.

"Working on this film was really fun," Hetherington mused. "Bryan did a great job of setting up a really fun environment. The characters he chose for Bryan Arnold and myself were really a lot of fun. We got to play the announcers for the death match. I got stabbed. Spoiler alert: I got shot, too. I got a great death scene. A lot of people have said that we are the comic relief of the film. There's comedy interspersed. You can't really take the movie too seriously. It's got a lot of nods to the action film

"I love Bryan," said Hetherington. "At first look, it's like 'who's this hulk of a human?' You get to talking to him and

it's like, 'man, you are just a big movie nerd." Brooks became knowledgeable in many aspects of filmmaking, partly at film school, but mostly by just doing it. He is a problem solver with the ability to see the big picture of each scene and figure out the best way to do it on his shoestring budget. He learned After Effects (a special effects computer program) and editing software and it is almost certain that his next film adventure will go much smoother and take considerably less than eight years to produce. Smart film investors should take a look at this gem of a first effort and see the possibilities of what Brooks can produce, given a budget and a marketing team.









Above, left: Bryan Brooks strikes a pose reminiscent of his character in "Wrecker." Above, right: Jim Devine, owner of Noyo Theatre, enjoys showing works from local entrepreneurs. Below: A scene from "Wrecker," one of many where Brooks gets pummeled but comes out on top. Further below: In one of the entertaining scenes, locals Billy Hetherington and Bryan Arnold act as announcers in a wild fight scene. At bottom: Ashley Becciani was the madam at the nightclub, where her girls had quite a fight with









#### Agape **Bible Church** 290 S. Lenore Ave.

Willits, CA 95490 Where love is first and the Bible is central. Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. - Worship dult Sunday School 8:30 a.n Info? 707-459-1905 www.agapebiblechurch.com

## **Amazing Grace** Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street P.O. Box 489, Willits Worship Service - 5:00 p.m Pastor Kris Strickland EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

### Church

of Christ What must we do to be saved Acts 2:37 1095 S. Main St., Willits (next to Super 8) (707) 459-5023 Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service-6-7:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study-7-8:00 p.m.

#### The Church of **Jesus Christ of** Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive Willits, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

#### Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedor • A University for Soul

 Spiritual Living Courses Spiritual Discussions ECK Light & Sound Services More information? Call 530-224-8703 www.eckankar.org

#### **Grace Community** Church

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

#### St. Anthony of Padu Catholic Church 61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadam

Mass times: Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. Saturday-5:30 p.m. Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English 10:30 a.m. - Spanish Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m. Or by appointmet at

707-459-2252 https://stanthonywillits.org/ saintanthonywillits@gmail.com We welcome All Walks of Faith

#### St. Francis **Episcopal Church** North Main Street, Willits

707-272-0177 Sunday Service - 10 a.m. In-person and on Zoom Call for information. ALL ARE WELCOME The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

#### St. John **Lutheran Church**

Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. (707) 459-2988 24 Mill Creek Drive acebook.com/stjohnswillits

#### ALL ARE WELCOME Willits Seventh-Day **Adventist Church**

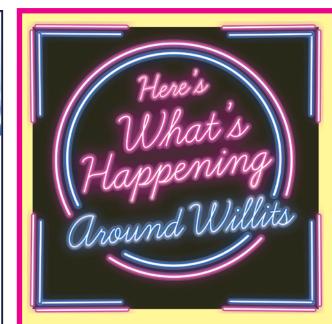
707-459-5714 Friendly, open worship Saturdays Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:45 a.m. Zoom Transmission Available. Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m 399 W. Mendocino Ave. All are welcome!

### **Willits United Methodist Church**

Labyrinth and Peace Garden A place to find comfort where all are welcome Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild Sunday Worship at 10:30 am 286 School St. (at Pine) 707-459-2855 wumc@outlook.com

www.willitsumc.org Facebook: facebook willits umo If you want to be included in

this column please call: **April Tweddell** (707) 972-2475 april@willitsweekly.com



#### Thursday, November 6

Willits Farmers Market Moves to the Grange: Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm, now at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street for the freshest produce

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE

TRTS Presents

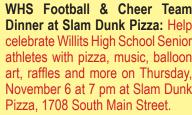
Art and Immigration

available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food, and tasty treats from local businesses, crafts, live music, Herbal Wellness Wagon, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

Behind the Scenes Tours at the Museum: First and Third Thursday of the month from 2 to 3 pm. To reserve your tour call the Mendocino County Museum: 707-234-6365.

Free Food at Mendo Food Network: First Thursday of each month (excluding federal holidays) receive free food from 10 to 11:30 at 1250 Blosser Lane, Willits.

NAMI Townhall Meeting at the Museum: National Alliance on Mental Illness hosts presentations on the CARE (Community Assistance, Recovery, and Saturday, Empowerment) Act, designed to help those with mental illness break the cycle of hospitalization, incarceration and homelessness, and identifies local resources to help those in need, on Thursday, November 6 from 11 am to 1:30 pm at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, Willits. Free to attend but please register at Eventbrite.com or email matilda@ namica.org.



Tall Guy Short Songs at Inner Earth Tea: Thursday, November 6 at 8 pm at Inner Earth Tea House. Cost is \$20 and includes unlimited tea. Seating is limited so reserve tickets at lovebombrecords.org.

#### Friday, November 7

S.T.E.M. Activity at the Library: Experiments and Crafts for kids 9 to 14. This week: Light & Color Science. Friday, November 7 from 3:30 to 5 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

Food Not Bombs in Rec Grove Park: Food Not Bombs Willits presents a free meal, zines and supplies every first and third Fridays around 5 pm. Everyone is welcome. Join us at the picnic tables.

> Art Talk 'Immigrants and Art' at WCA: This month's talk is on Friday, November and is an exploration of how contemporary art engages with the human consequences of refugee experiences and global inequities by Dr. Nilgun Bayraktar, PhD at 6:30 pm at Willits Center for the Arts.

Skate Night at Harwood Hall: Roller skate for \$1 from 6 to 8pm on Friday, November 7 at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville.

RTS Presents

Sunday, November 9th,2025

8:00am - 11:00am

1501 Baechtel Rd. Willits, CA 95490

Breakfast Prices.

Sr. Center Members- \$12

Breakfast includes Biscuits and Gravy with side off scrambled eggs <u>ONLY</u> **OR** rat pancakes, 1Pcs. sausage OR 2Pcs. bacon, Scrambled eggs, cup of coffee, milk or juice.

SANTA & GRINCH PHOTOS

\$5 DONATION PER GROUP - DIGITAL IMAGES ONLY

Willits, CA

SEE the GRINCH

Sat 11/29:

10 am to 1 pm

at TOY DEPOT

4:15

Sat/Sun:

1:15, 4:15, 7:15

Wed/Thur:

4:15, 7:15

**SPRINGSTEEN:** 

**Showtimes: November 7 to November 13** 

Stop by and try this month's breakfast special!

Vegetarian Breakfast Casserole

Children- \$8

SEE SANTA

Sun 11/30:

12 to 4 pm

at JD REDHOUSE

57 East Commercial Street - Willits

707-459-6660

www.noyotheater.com

Mid week promotions: Wednesday -

Matinee prices to all shows all day.

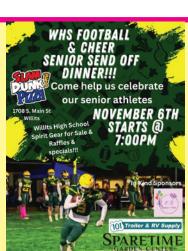
Theater

Friday, November 7, 6:20 PM.
71 East Commercial Street Wolf Tree at Northspur Brewing Co: Acoustic Americana November 7 from 6 to 8 pm at Northspur Brewing Co., 101 North

> Rising Signs Reggae band at Shanachie: Friday, November 7 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

# November 8

Willits Photography Club at WCA: open to all skill levels and meets Saturday, November 8 from 10 am to noon in the Arts. (Enter through back door)



'Day of the Divine' at WCA: Celebrating the Feminine with massage, acupuncture Henna Art, Crystal Bowl Sound Healing, botanical beverages and live music. Cost is \$22. Saturday, November 8 from noon to 6 pm at Willits Center for the Arts.

Pumpkin Succulent Class at Sparetime Garden Center: Create a succulent arrangement in a pumpkin on Saturday, November 8 at either 1 pm or 2:30 pm. Cost is \$30 - Reserve your spot by signing up and paying in full or at venmo.com/u/thegardenerspantry. Sparetime Garden Center, 208 East

San Francisco Avenue. CAL FIRE Open House: for high school or college students curious about a career with CAL Fire. Learn about different career paths and meet with Cal Fire personnel on Saturday November 8 from 10am to 4pm at the Jesse Pittman Training Center, 17501 N Hwy

Dirty Cello at WCT: A high-energy blend of blues, rock and Americana, Saturday, November 8 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. Tickets \$20 at DirtyCello.

Cowtown at Shanachie: and a cast of puppets Saturday, November 8 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

#### Sunday, November 9

Pancake Breakfast at the Senior Center: Second Sunday of the month from 8 to 11 am. Menu choices: 1) All-you-can-eat pancakes with scrambled eggs, sausage or bacon or 2) Biscuits & gravy with

scrambled eggs. Includes coffee, orange juice or milk. \$13 adults; \$12 Senior Center members; \$8 children 8 and under and benefits Nutritional, Transportation, and Outreach services for Willits seniors. 1501 Baechtel Creek Road.

Brunch, Sip and Paint at WCA: Have champagne brunch and paint watercolors on Sunday, November 9 from 1 to 4 pm. Fee is \$75 and covers materials, brunch and a seasonal alcoholic or nonalcoholic beverage. Willits Center for the Arts.

to this free event and enjoy winter warming tea blends on Sunday, November 9 from 2 to 4 pm at the Little Lake Grange.

Mad Hatter Tea Party at the Grange: Wear a fun hat

#### Tuesday, November 11

American Legion Breakfast at the Veterans Building: Tuesday, November 11 from 8 to 11 am, followed by a Flag Raising ceremony at noon in honor of veterans. Breakfast is free to all veterans, military and emergency response personnel and their families, and to students who participate in Scouting America, 4-H and FFA programs. Veterans Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street, Willits.

#### Wednesday, November 12

Learn & Share Family History at the Library: Learn how to track down your ancestors for your family tree on Wednesday, November 12 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

### Thursday, November 13

Willits Farmers Market: Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, for the freshest produce available, local meat, tasty treats, crafts, and much more. See Nov 6 listing for more details

Trivia Night at The Munchery: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 6 pm at The Munchery, 1797 South Main Street, Willits.

#### Friday, November 14

Andrew Victor at Shanachie: Friday, November 14 from 8 to 10 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Skate Night at Harwood Hall: Roller skate for \$1 from 6 to 8pm on Friday, November 14 at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville

S.T.E.M. Activity at the Library: Experiments and Crafts centered on the nature of light and color for kids 9 to 14. This week: Willits Prism Challenge. Friday, November 14 from 3:30 to 5 pm at the Willits Branch

#### Saturday, November 15

Anniversary Celebration at WCA: Celebrate 25 years of Art and History with food, drinks and music on Saturday, November 15 from 5 to 8 pm in the Great Room at Willits Center for the Arts.

Rosewater at Shanachie: A tribute to the Grateful Dead on Saturday, November 15 at 8 pm at Shanachie

# Call to Artists 38th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair December 13th and 14th, 2025 to be held at the Willits Community Center and Willits Center for the Arts. Sunday 10am-4pm. 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 Willits Center for the Arts

Presentations

**NAMI** California

nami Mendocino County

Townhall

Mendocino County

400 E. Commercial S





#### classroom at Willits Center for the Opening Nov 1 through Nov 23 1 East Commercial 5 Willits, CA 95490

Save-the-Date for this satirical farce written by Native American playwright Larissa FastHorse and directed by veteran director Mike A'Dair, which tells the story of four well-meaning but utterly clueless white people who attempt to create a politically correct grade school play about the origins of Thanksgiving. Show opens November 21 and will run through December 7 at Willits Community Theatre.

'The Thanksgiving Play'

opens at WCT November 21

#### Mendocino County Homebrew Festival November 15

For brewers and enthusiasts alike, this is an opportunity to share your passion, exchange ideas and savor exceptional brews. Proceeds benefit the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, which assists county residents to survive and thrive in a wildfire-prone environment. Saturday, November 15 from 3 to 6 pm at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center, 200 School Street, Ukiah. More info and tickets: mendohomebrewfest.com

#### Mendocino College Repertory Dance Company presents SHINE November 13 thru 16

'Inside and Out, From Broadway to the Stars' brings to life works by local and national choreographers utilizing techniques of Contemporary, Ballet, African, and Fosse Jazz. Performances are November 13, 14 and 16 at 7:30 pm with a gala on Friday, November 14 at 6:30 pm, and on Sunday, November 17 at 2 pm in Mendocino College's Center for Visual and Performing Arts Theatre 1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah. Tickets are \$15 at the door (cash or check only) or online: artsmendocino.org.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

# 'The Occult'

The Story: Metaphysical Good vs Evil horror thriller. DT (Ryan W. Garcia) meets a flirtatious Tarot card savant (Kelly Walker) whose wildly off-the-wall predictions for JT just might be spot-on true. Meanwhile, JT gets entangled with a thuggish gang of Aleister Crowley devotees who have quite unnatural rituals...Very sick, and very very dark..



Dan Essman

Fortunately for us Enthralled Film Goers (Spoiler-no spoiler): The Good Guys will Fight Against and Spectacularly Destroy the Evil Doers with non-refundable Tickets to Flaming Hell. Hooray for the Good Guys! I'm

My Thoughts: This flick and its narrative played out in my chest like I was living it. Visually innovative Writer/ Director Peter Hyoguchi has put together a large cast of charismatic actors to tell his dark, tension-driven drama of occult abominations.

One definition of the word occult is: Secret and/or Hidden. Peter Hyoguchi, like a modern day muckraker, describes the horrors he hints at in his movie as Very Real. Though these evil doers are hidden, still they do exist. And sometimes just down the block or even right next

'The Occult' movie is truly scary, but it doesn't need "jump scares" because it is about scary things. Won't be available on TV for two years. Parents: Don't even think about bringing your kids. No!

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



about a career with CAL FIRE?

Come explore your future with CAL FIRE at our open house. Discover career opportunities, meet our team, and get guidance on starting your CAL FIRE journey.

What to Expect: · Meet CAL FIRE team members from a variety of different fields

Explore CAL FIRE vehicles and gear up close — fire trucks, crew busses, a helicopter

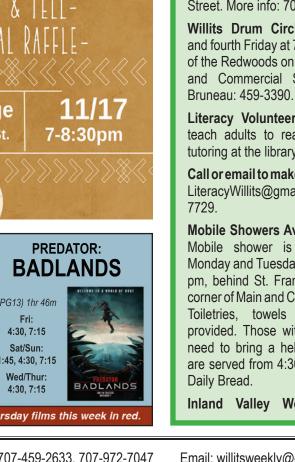




TARY CLUBS OF UKIAH PROUDLY







# TOWN-WIDE ONGOING EVENTS

KAISER PERMANENTE

Willits Tennis Club: Meets every Monday and Wednesday from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School Tennis Courts. All levels welcome. More info: 707 484-3385.

**Drop-In Life Drawing Group at WCA:** Every Thursday from 1 to 4 pm at Willits Center for the Arts. Cost is based on sliding scale. More info: Margaret 707-459-9251.

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Saturdays at 1 pm, sack lunches are served by local churches, community organizations, and families at Bud Snider City Park on East Commercial. Come at 1 pm to be assured a lunch!

Willits Indivisible Democracy Vigil: Every Friday from 5 to 6 pm at Babcock Park on South Main Street. More info: "Willits Indivisible" on Facebook.

Lunch to Live Music at Brickhouse **Coffee:** every Wednesday from noon to 2 pm featuring various artists. Corner of Main and Commercial Streets, Willits.

Pickleball: Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 5 pm and Saturdays at 9 am at the Willits High School tennis courts. Free to play and all levels welcome. **Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group:** 

Meets every Monday at 6 pm at the

Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866. Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Friday at 7 pm, at St. Francis of the Redwoods on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Info: Bill

Literacy Volunteers of Willits: We teach adults to read! Free personal tutoring at the library.

Call or email to make an appointment: LiteracyWillits@gmail.com or 707-456-

Mobile Showers Available in Willits: Mobile shower is in Willits every Monday and Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, behind St. Francis Church at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Toiletries, towels and washcloths provided. Those with disabilities may need to bring a helper. Sack dinners are served from 4:30 to 5:30 by Willits Daily Bread.

Inland Valley Women's Chorus: Area.

Every Thursday (except holidays) from 6 to 7:30 pm to sing songs of peace, joy, social justice and healing. No audition or experience required. Carpooling available from Willits. Holy Trinity Church, Mary & Martha Room 640 South Orchard Avenue, Ukiah. More info: Madge Strong, 707-459-

#### Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, Tommy G will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub. Bring any instrument and explore your creativity!"

Bluegrass String Jam: An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm, with all Bluegrass musicians welcome! Wednesday Open Mic Night: Every Wednesday- Enter your name in the lottery from 3 to 7 pm to choose your 20-minute time slot, with performances beginning at 7:20.

## Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Sunday and Monday.

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Wednesdays, 11 am to 1 pm, in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of

**LEGO Club:** Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 pm. "Bring your imagination and start buildina.

**Tech Help:** Saturdays from 11 am to noon, come get computer help and your technical questions answered!

Spinning and Knitting: Saturdays at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome! Spinning, 1 to 2 pm; Knitting, 2 to 4:30 pm.

Story and Playtime: Fridays from 11 am to noon, bring the kids for a story followed by play time in the Children's







Above: Richard Toutreese ended up as the de facto leader of the procession. At right: Locals, some dressed in their Halloween or New Orleans costume took part in the procession. At far right: The procession of kazoos and percussion instruments began at Northspur Brewery.



Randall Cantua, LUTCF Cantua Insurance Agency 16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490 786 Redwood Drive Garberville, CA 95542 Tel 707.459.3276 Tel 707.923.2179 Fax 707.923.9550 rcantua@farmersagent.com

VETERANS

**T-SHIRT** 

GIVEAWAY

**NOVEMBER 11** 

FROM 9AM TO 11PM

**GUESTS WHO** 

REDEEM

200 POINTS

RECEIVE A

SHERWOOD VALLEY

CUSTOM

T-SHIRT

#### A musical procession from Northspur to the Grange

On a late afternoon in Willits, the day after Halloween, when the spirit of cosplay was winding down, a hearty group of revelers set off from the Northspur Brewery, making musical noise on their kazoos and percussion instruments.

Their goal was to march to the Little Lake Grange where a party was about to happen

featuring the popular group, Hot Buttered Rum. It was to be a Louisiana-centric event with beads and Cajun food, and music, billed as "a New Orleans-flavored celebration of community." Not waiting for the doors to open, the group began their revelry on the streets of Willits.

– Mathew Caine. Willits Weekly

Above, left: Willits

Center for the Arts

Studio Manager

shows her joy at

looking forward to the

evening. Above, right:

The procession to the

the Hot Buttered Rum

Grange, to celebrate

Sasha Thomas

concert.



# Avenues to Wellness: 'Exploring Green Burials,' November 20

#### Submitted by ATW

Avenues to Wellness presents: "Exploring Green Burials" by Seth Furguson, funeral director. Thursday, November 20, from 6 to 7 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts. 71 East Commercial Street. FREE to the public. Wheelchair accessible. Donations appreciated.

What is a "Green Burial," and why do people choose this burial practice? Please join us as we cover a range of earth-friendly options including full body burials, ocean ash scatterings, and various composting options. This

> discussion will also highlight traditional green burial approaches in our local cemeteries, and legal considerations.

Seth Ferguson has been the funeral director at Chapel by the Sea in Fort Bragg for four years, with seven total years in the field. His career started, unexpectedly, when he was hired to do "removals" at a mortuary in Eureka. He is currently studying to be an embalmer and is in a two-year apprenticeship Seth Furguson, funeral director at Chapel by program. He holds a BA in political science the Sea in Fort Bragg, is the speaker at the from Humboldt State University. Seth is the proud father of two children. He enjoys eating baked goods, coaching the high school tennis team, and watching basketball

mental health!

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490



November 20 Avenues to Wellness speaker

Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit: avenuestowellness.org for an online archive of past events. Call: (707) 456-9676 for more information. Email: spicetti@howardfoundation.org



**VALLEY@CASIN** WWW.SVRCASINO.COM

**Pg. 8** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

(707) 466-7388

Willits Weekly | November 6, 2025





Locally raised in Willits organically fed and pasture raised Beef, Pork and Lamb

Personal and

Commercial orders

**EASTSIDE RANCH** 

Contact Melissa at (707) 513-5705 | eastsideranchwillits@gmail.com





OBITUARY | Lee

# **Smith** Lee Wayne Smith

("Spaceman") passed away on October 15, 2025. He was born on August 5, 1951, in Wichita Falls, Wisconsin. leaves his two boys, Joe and Jeff Smith, his two grandsons, Hunter and

Holden Smith, and his older brother Jim Smith and little foreclosure brother Kevin Smith notices, storage

A potluck memorial will be held on November 15 at the Willits Grange, 11 am to 2 pm.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE



This lecture will explore artistic responses to exile, displacement, these simultaneously hyper-visible and invisible frameworks, as well as the ethical and political questions surrounding artistic engagements with precarity and socio-political inequality

Presented by: Nilgun Bayraktar, PhD



Friday, November 7, 6:20 PM

East Commercial Street, Willits, CA. 95490 Upstairs in the Great Room For more information www.willitscenterforthearts.org 707-459-1726

# **Furry Friends** Hoping for a Home

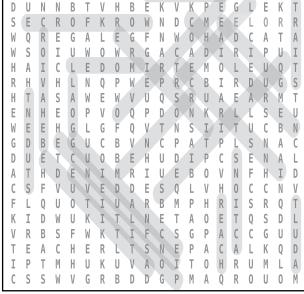
#### **Quiet Dixie**

This sweet herding-type girl has a gentle soul and a shy streak that'll melt your heart. Dixie is still learning that the world is a safe and happy place, and she's looking for a patient home to help her come out of her shell. Around other dogs, she really shines her tail wags faster, her eyes light up, and you can see her

confidence bloom! A doggy friend could be just the thing to help her feel brave and loved.

With a little time, encouragement, and some secure fencing for her safety, Dixie will reward you with loyalty, love, and quiet companionship. She's the kind of girl who may start out timid but ends up being your most devoted friend.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from 9:30 am





**Fictitious Business** Name Statement

The following person or persons are doing business as Beautifying Mendocino. 5365 N. State St. Ukiah CA

Registered owner: Maria Consuelo Ponce Ribotta. 5365 N. State St, Ukiah CA

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/8/2025 FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-

Recorder on 10/8/2025. /s/ Maria Ponce Publication Dates: October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025

Willits Weekly

can run legal

notices including

fictitious

business name

statements.

unit auctions,

and more.

Contact us for

more information

at willitsweekly@

gmail.com

more information.

Friendly

Johnny

social,

Johnny is very

affectionate and a

tad goofy. He will

greet you with a big

smile and with non-

stop tail wagging.

Such a sweet boy,

he loves playing

with other medium

happy,

2025-F0456

persons are doing business

Baechtel Road, Willits CA

as Creative Craft Loft, 1490

Registered owner: Yover OK

LLC. 1490 Baechtel Road.

Willits CA 95490. State of

This business is conducted

by a limited liability company.

The registrant commenced to

transact business under the

above on N/A.

**LEGAL NOTICES** 

fictitious business name listed

FBN statement filed with the

Mendocino County Clerk-

Recorder on 10/27/2025.

/s/ Jeff Yokum, President,

Publication Dates: October

30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025

**Fictitious Business** 

Name Statement

persons are doing business

South Main Street, Willits CA

as Willits Kids Corner, 90

95490. Mailing address: 16300 Bluejay Lane, Willits

CA 95490; 707-459-6329

Corner LLC, 16300 Bluejay

This business is conducted

by a limited liability company

FBN statement filed with the

Mendocino County Clerk-

Recorder on 10/9/2025.

Managing Member, Kids

Publication Dates: October

16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025

/s/ Carlos Swinney,

Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm)

Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available

at www.mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for

to large dogs. He's fine around small dogs, and has been

fine with cats, but might be a tad too physical for some

smaller types. He's athletic and wants to be where the

action is: he loves walks and playing with other

It has been some time since Johnny has been

in a home, but he crates well if needed when

being left alone. Johnny would love to go to an

active and predictable home without too many

unexpected visitors or chaos. A household with

older kids would be fine (because he is active

and wiggly), as long as parents are dog-savvy.

The best-case scenario for our boy is active and

fun-loving folks with the time to go out and play

with their dog every day! This is a dog to lounge

with, wrestle with, love on, and go have plenty of

Johnny's adoption fee is half off (sponsored by a fan!),

To learn more about Johnny, or to 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. Please

complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an

appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 459-

5

all kinds of adventures with.

so his adoption fee is \$200.

9

Registered owner: Kids

Lane, Willits CA 95490.

State of incorporation:

The following person or

incorporation: California.

Brown Bag **Fictitious Business** Lunch Program Name Statement Every Saturday at The following person or

1 pm sack lunches are served by local churches, community organizations. and families at Bud Snider Park on East Commercial. . Come at

Do you need

food?

1 pm to be assured a

Food Bank 344 Railroad Avenue CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 11 am to 4:30 pm. New Client Choice model where you select your own items. Bring shopping bags, Bring an I.D. Info: (707) 459-

**CLASSIFIEDS** 

For Sale

Regency Classic C34-

LP10. Almost new!

\$750 or Best Offer!

10-foot flue, remote

and details call 707-

385-9333 or write to:

GoodStuffGoingFast@

Free Food for All

Pop-Up

Network presents food

pop-ups with free food

for all on first Thursdays

of the month; 10 to

11:30 am. 1250 Blosser

Lane, Willits. Info:

Rachelle@mendofood.

org or 707-615-6654

Food

Willits!

and

For photos

control.

/ahoo.com

Mendocino

Fireplace-

For Rent Studio, walking distance to Safeway. \$800 a month plus deposit. Utilities included in 4696. See at http:// Rent. Call Laura or www.oaknvine.net/tp leave a message: 459-

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for two weeks. Email us your ad today to include your ad here next week! Deadline is Monday for Thursday's

**RV/Trailer Space** for Rent Space for RV's and Trailers – starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-

Tattoo Shop Shop Tattoo Downtown Clean, cute, and private shop with 10 years experience. Love to tattoo botanicals, cute critters, and sceneries! Appointments bookings: kikibtattoos.

to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 3 pm on The rest of Prop 50

From page 1

later than 7 days after the election are counted, after they are vetted, so the ballot counting process is still going on

As the California Secretary of State's office states: "Election results will change throughout the ballot counting canvass period as vote-by-mail ballots, provisional ballots (including conditional voter registration provisional ballots), and other ballots are tallied.

State law requires county elections officials to report final official results to the Secretary of State by December 5, 2025. The Secretary of State has until December 12, 2025, to officially certify the statewide results of the election.

#### Mischievous Seth

extra toes and extra personality! With his classic brown

tabby stripes and mitten-like paws, he's as unique as he is adorable

Playful, curious, and full of kitten mischief, Seth is always up for a game, a cuddle, or an adventure around the house. His special toes make him look like

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

he's wearing tiny baseball gloves and he's ready -to catch your heart. Come meet Seth and see just how special a little extra can be!

dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety. com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

P E R I N E A N O P E R A T I V E

8 9 2 6 8 6 5 9 8 6 9 8 5 5 9 4 3 2 6

Seth isn't just any kitten, he's a polydactyl superstar with





At left: A beautiful bed of zinnias and dill at Nurturing Seed Farm with the backdrop of Little Lake Valley. At right: Mike Adams is an organic farmer who owns Nurturing Seed Farm. He has produced food for local consumption for 15 years and has donated generously to local organizations and schools. Below, left: Mike is spacing his russet seed potatoes about 6 to 8 inches apart. There are seven main types of potatoes grown in the U.S. Each type has different characteristics and culinary uses. Below, right: Here Mike is digging in the seed potatoes in a slightly raised furrow, with drip system in place. Unlike in commercial griculture, no pesticides will be used.





Below, from left: Potatoes being harvested from a bed in Mike's greenhouse, planted early in the season. Potato greens die off with frost. Outside of a greenhouse, they are a seasonal crop in Willits. Potatoes are a staple crop in a large part of the world. Bins of kale and other greens delivered to the back door of the new Food Bank on Railroad Avenue. This beautiful sunflower, a composite flower, attracts both birds and pollinators and is a good source of nutritious seeds









In June, Mike planted these extra seed potatoes in slightly raised beds. He says that potatoes are a laborintensive crop on a small farm when no machinery is being used, so he welcomed the extra money to help cover labor for planting and harvesting the potatoes. Through his successful farming

practices, Mike has already donated 160 pounds of potatoes to the food bank and an additional box to the volunteer group called Food Not Bombs, which offers a free meal in Willits once a month. If all goes as planned, weekly deliveries will continue through November or December.

Debi Menesini and Nils Gustafson, co-managers of the Willits Food Bank, are enthusiastic about the new potatoes Mike brings in. Customers appreciate the freshness and notice the difference.

Wendy Copperfield, executive director of Willits Community Services. is heartened by how the community has stepped up to help the food bank since the announcement of cuts to the Emergency Food Assistance Program which supplies food banks with surplus

commodities from large American agribusiness farms.

Farmer Mike Adams

grows extra potatoes for Willits Food Bank

thanks to a Gleaners grant

When the Grateful Gleaners asked

he ordered an additional 250 seed

potatoes to put in the ground. He was

already planting potatoes for local

sales, but this grant would be used for

the planting and harvesting of potatoes

Potatoes are a popular item for

people who come to the food bank.

Aside from being a nutritious calorie

crop, most people know how, and take

the time, to cook them. For a farmer,

they are both weight-efficient and area-

efficient, which means you can grow a

lot of potatoes that produce a significant

amount of calories in a small area.

specifically for the Food Bank.

According to Copperfield, the potato project at Nurturing Seed Farm is a welcome addition in their struggle to supply food to the many people who cannot afford to put meals on the table

The mini-grant provided to Mike Adams was raised by the Grateful Gleaners from the sale of plants at the group's popular spring plant sale, a fine example of how cash and resources can circulate locally.

It is interesting to note that historically there is no evidence of a significant commercial potato production in Willits, although potatoes were grown locally for family consumption. Records indicate that Northwestern Lumber Company farmed a 200-acre parcel alongside Highway 101 and Sherwood Road that was planted with potatoes and other vegetables, which were sent to the cookhouse of the sawmill located in Brooktrails. Also apparently, by the mid-20th century, Mendocino County farmers were raising seed potatoes for growers in Bakersfield and other centers of production better suited to large-scale commercial agriculture.

Other groups and individuals who are routinely donating to the food bank will be featured in a future article.

If you are interested in delivering produce to the Willits Food Bank, or are interested in volunteering, you may drop in on Wednesdays and Fridays between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm. You may also call (707) 459-3333 for more information on how to donate or to make arrangements on another day of

Monetary donations can be made on the "Support My Community" button on their website at www.willitsfoodbank. com or on the "Donate" button on Willits Community Services and Food Bank's Facebook page, or mailed to 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.

Nurturing Seed Farm can be contacted at nurturingseedfarm@









#### The rest of Brooktrails

resident Michelle King stepped to the I can contribute to the community. I podium. She said: "My mom walks the have a son and his family who live here parcourse three times per week, and I in Brooktrails. I also enjoy walking the transport her there and have done so parcourse. It's a beautiful place, and we year after year for several years. Have any of you ever been to the parcourse parking lot? It is awful! I drop my mom off at 10 am, and she's able to walk with her friends. I stay in my car, and I'm able to do emails etc., and I watch other people come into the parking lot and "jimmy" around the potholes. I've taken pictures and have gotten several people to sign a petition to register the concern

Board Vice-President Rick Williams interrupted King registering his agreement with her statements, and asked for King to hand him the petition so he could also sign it.

about the condition of the parking lot."

King went on to outline some options for temporary repairs for all of the parking lot potholes that could be beneficial during the rainy season. She noted that with all of the recent wonderful work done (by the Willits Area Cyclists volunteer crew) on the trail system connected to the parcourse, that there surely could be some funds allocated to repair the parking lot.

Tyler-O'Shea thanked King for attending the meeting and asked for the photos and the signed petition. King handed them to her.

Linda Hill of Buckeye Circle went to the podium and said she had two things to note. She said: "I am very concerned about the port-a-potty at the golf course that we pay \$700/month for rental. I took my granddaughter in there last week, and I wouldn't take my dog in there! There are no seat covers, no hand sanitizer and you can see urine running down at the front of the toilet. We pay good money for the facility, and it needs

Hill also wanted to also let the board know that the bag of trash that she had noticed before the September 23 board meeting that had been at the water treatment plant on Primrose Drive for several weeks was there until she recently took it upon herself to finally remove it. She said: "The garbage laying around is a reflection on Brooktrails. We need to do better than that."

The last person to step to the podium introduced herself: "I am Buffy Wright Bourassa, and I am a Willits community member. I'm also a proud Willits Rotarian and a tribal member of Sherwood Valley Rancheria. I've also served three terms on the tribal council. I'm really here to

#### The rest of Enchanted

nestled into the hillside next to a winery. Each year, the Path keeps the same format of a "variety theatre experience." but it also takes on new scenes, actors, sets, skits, and - a new theme. This year for the Path's 37th annual event, around 600 ticketholders came to see the "Starry Night" themed event. Each of the eight skits during the event revolved around the theme, and attendees received a special gift at the end of each skit that spoke to the theme of that story.

"Eliza Frey is the creative force behind the production," explained Taj Uvaro, Enrollment & Outreach coordinator for WSMC. "From developing the theme, writing the script, designing costumes and sets, to assembling the cast. Most of the actors are parents or alumni parents, bringing a special sense of connection and joy to the performances. The Path showcases the amazing talent and creativity of the WSMC community of teachers, staff, parents, alumni, alumni parents, grandparents, and

This year's skits included: "Starry Eyed Astronomer" and actor Katrina Frey; "The Dance that Made the Stars" and actors Cheryle Evans, Carolyn Brown, and Nansea Boykin; "Falling Star Wishes" and actors Jeffery Harris, Kim Shepard, and Cathy Monroe; "Little Star Shines Bright" with actors Joey Mayhugh and Moira Jordan; "Maui Finds New Land" with actors Chet Collins, Rio Palley, and Cliff Paulin; "Orion and The Rabbit" with actors Estelle Cliffton, Marco Donner, and Renata Abbade; "Chariot of the Sun" with actors Stacy Sheldon, Calvin Turnwall, and Linnhe Thomson; and "This Little Light of Mine" with actors Don Willis and Richard "Tootreese" Jeske.

"The Enchanted Pumpkin Path is especially dear to us because it's a

have tribal lands up further. We are just trying to find out how we can be good

Tyler-O'Shea asked if any directors had any response to the public comments. Williams said: "I'll respond to what Michelle said about the parcourse parking lot. It is a disaster and if we can do anything about its condition and keep up with the repairs, that would be great." Director Mary Ziady said: "I concur. If we could get gravel and get the crew to work for a couple hours filling the holes that would be good."

Director Susan Mahoney requested that the mound of asphalt that's at the parcourse should be covered and protected from the upcoming rains because the asphalt could be used to do repairs in the future.

Alaniz responded to all of the comments stating, "After hearing from the three board members and from the members of the public about this issue, I'm going to take what has been said as direction for me to work on this and find the funding and staff time to see if we can come up with a timely and permanent improvement to the parking

Continuing, she said: "We've had a Parks grant and included in that grant was the resurfacing of the parcourse parking lot. Because of the debacle that's been the parcourse fitness equipment, we've had some issues with getting the grant money and with filing for reimbursement for work that's been done because we're in the middle of the actual physical hardware issue. It's a lot harder for them to consider the reimbursement requests for time and labor. I apologize for not making the parking lot a priority because it was made a priority in the grant. We can still potentially make it a priority, because we are still in that grant window and we can claim for reimbursement and see how it

Finally, Tyler-O'Shea drew attention to the Consent Calendar items: Review and Approval of Accounts Payable Report for Authorization to Issue Checks on or about October 29, 2025 in the amount of \$136,574.01 and the 2025 Quarter 3 Golf Course Green Fees Report. Director Ed Horrick made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar items and Williams seconded it. The board's listen and learn and find out about how vote was unanimous for approval.

# From page 1

time when we welcome the extended community to our campus," continued Uvaro. "We love seeing friends from other schools join in the fun! In addition to the Enchanted Pumpkin Path, we also host a few other public celebrations throughout the year: Michaelmas and May Day, and we invite community members to come experience those as well."

In addition to the main event, attendees enjoyed seeing the creative and elaborate costumes of the other attendees, creating chalk art on the blacktop, listening to music, sitting around the fire, and enjoying bites to eat including piping hot pumpkin soup, hearty chili, popcorn, and refined sugar-free treats lovingly baked by preschool families from The Smokey Cauldron Café, which was led by Jim Stuart and a team of volunteers.

"Live music was provided by Malakai Schindel on hand pipes, pennywhistle, and guitar," said Uvaro. 'Malakai's father, Greg Schindel, the original Skunk Train singer, was a beloved part of the Pumpkin Path for decades before his passing two years ago. Having Malakai carry on that musical legacy made this year's event especially meaningful," he said.

"We were also thrilled to have Blue Zones as our event sponsor this year," continued Uvaro. "Waldorf education beautifully supports many of the same principles that Blue Zones celebrates for living long and healthy lives: creative expression, deep and meaningful community relationships, multidisciplinary learning, and active community engagement.

To learn more about the Waldorf School of Mendocino County, visit their website: www.mendocinowaldorf.org/ or call (707) 485-8719.

#### The rest of Retired

also served as a deputy district

attorney early in his career. Judge Brennan earned

Juris Doctorate degree from University of California, San Diego in 1990.

From page

Judge Brennan is known as even-tempered and mindful of the financial and other social challenges that face many defendants and litigants in the Mendocino community. He has been an advocate for ensuring that court fines and fees are fair and affordable. He has presided over Behavioral Health Court for many years, working closely with defendants with underlying mental health issues that often contribute to their law violations. He is deeply rooted in the Mendocino coastal community.

Reflecting on his time in public service, Judge Brennan said: "I've enjoyed my career and feel very privileged to have worked with so many talented and dedicated people. We have a difficult and stressful job, but it's also interesting and rewarding."

Presiding Judge Keith Faulder acknowledged Judge Brennan's contributions to the public and said: "Judge Brennan's judicial temperament, sense of humor, and ability to preside over any case type will be missed. We all wish him well."



Above: Some of CAL FIRE's new Company Officers being sworn in

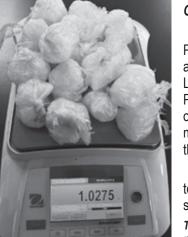
Graduates

From page 2

supervisor and tactical leader. Graduates of the rigorous standardized academy are now prepared to assume a broad range of command and management responsibilities. directing the safe and effective deployment of their crews and equipment during all types of emergencies.

Beyond incident response, this role is crucial during non-emergency periods, as Company Officers lead crew training, manage station readiness, and head essential fire prevention efforts like defensible space inspections and public education, ensuring a continuous, highly trained presence in the communities they serve.

### CHP seizes more than a pound of meth in Covelo



Posted by CHP Garberville Office

California Highway Patrol Officers Heaton and Mann from the Laytonville Resident Post have removed over a pound of methamphetamine from the streets of Covelo.

Their efforts continue to keep our communities

These small white bags of methamphetamine seized by the CHP add up to over

#### Ukiah school district's statement on teacher's arrest

#### Submitted by UUSD

November 3 -Ukiah Unified School District was informed Wednesday that a high school staff member was arrested following allegations of inappropriate electronic communications with a high school student.

When law enforcement first advised the district of the allegations on October 16, 2025, the staff member was immediately placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation. The employee remains out of the classroom and off campus during this process.

UUSD Superintendent Deb Kubin said: "The safety and well-being of our

From page 4

students are our highest priorities. We are cooperating fully with law enforcement and conducting our own internal investigation. We will continue to communicate with families as appropriate while respecting the privacy rights of all involved."

All district employees undergo background checks that continuously monitor for new information throughout employment. Staff also complete annual training on maintaining professional boundaries and are mandated reporters of any suspected abuse or misconduct.

School counselors will be available on campus to provide support for any student who wishes to speak with someone or needs assistance processing this information.

# October 24

4:04 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.

9:23 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:47 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of East Hill Road.

12:02 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.

2:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Spruce Street.

5:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial

10:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and California Street

#### October 25

9:46 pm: STEPHENS, Tony Frank (47) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of East Oak was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance with two or more prior convictions and on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

#### October 26

7:38 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Holly Street.

9:39 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Sherwood Road and North Main Street.

9:48 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Alice Drive and issued warning

photographs. Lafever also

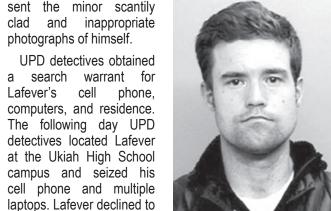
provide the detectives with

a statement

Lafever's

photographs of himself.

# From page 1



electronic Matthew P. Lafever, 37, of Hopland

devices were forensically downloaded, and detectives were able to confirm that the social media interaction described by the 17-year-old had occurred, and she had clearly informed Lafever that she was a minor. Through the course of their investigation the detectives also located additional evidence that Lafever was reaching out to numerous minors throughout Sonoma and Mendocino counties, however those victims have not been identified at this time due to the anonymity of social media.

On November 3, 2025 UPD detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Lafever for the crime of knowingly annoying and or molesting a minor. At approximately 7 am UPD detectives went to Lafever's residence, and he was taken into custody. Lafever was booked into the Mendocino County Jail for Street and Railroad Avenue. He 647.6(a) PC and would be required to post a \$10,000 bond.

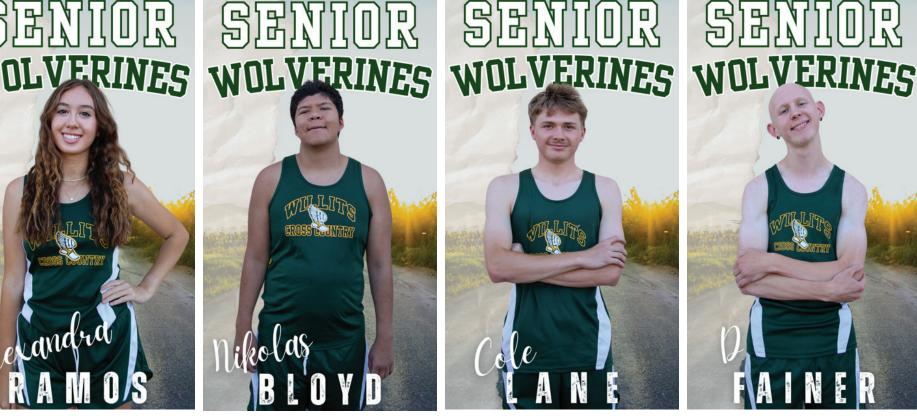
> Lafever used numerous variations of the screen name 'Johhnyender" across multiple social media platforms, and the Ukiah Police Department is asking that any minors that had contact or received any messages from similar social media accounts to please contact us.

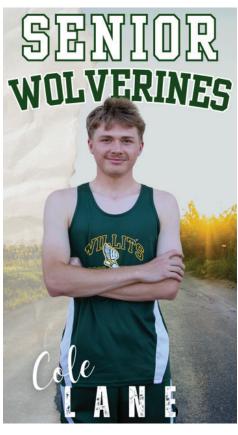
> The Ukiah Police Department remains committed to keeping the residents of Ukiah safe, and we appreciate the assistance we received from the Ukiah High School and the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office.

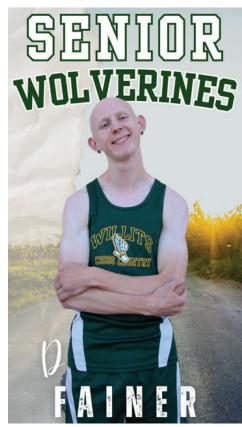
> For updates about crime in your neighborhood, residents can sign up for telephone, cell phone, and email notifications by clicking the Nixle link on our website: www.ukiahpolice.

> Editor's Note: Matt Lafever was publisher of the MendoFever online news site, and was also North Coast Contributing Editor to www.SFGate.com.









COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

# Cross country wraps up season and says goodbye to senior runners

It was hard to catch up with some of our finest cross country runners to honor them as seniors. But once we did,

Sheri Dockins Sports Reporter

we had the privilege of learning who they are as athletes, and humans. Willits High School sports programs, coaches and teachers continue to

help mold many young men and women through sports, to shape them into even more fabulous young adults as they make their way into real life. Cross country has had a great year, one these talented runners will likely not forget.

Cole Lane plans on going to a JC in Iowa to play on their golf team, and study natural resources. "I've been doing cross country since my sophomore year," said Lane. "I've always enjoyed running, and winning at it. Once I joined cross country, I found out it was something I really did well at. I like the aspect of competing as an individual, and as a team. My coach, Mr. Smith, is great. He makes practice fun, and painful. He is encouraging, and just a fun person

"Cole is a very talented and competitive runner," said Head Coach Kenny Smith. "This will be his third season in a row being all league, and likely his second season in a row being the league champion. Cole hasn't finished lower than first place in a league race since 2023. It's been fun coaching him and watching him develop into the dominant runner that he is."

D Fainer has promising plans after high school. "Being a part of such a fun and tenacious group of runners has been an unforgettable experience," said Fainer. "I am invigorated by our recent victory in Lakeport, and am grateful for the unending support of my family, friends and coach, who have encouraged me to take part in a marathon in December. I greatly look up to our incredible coach, calculus teacher, and advisor to my architecture club, Mr. Smith, and grateful he persuaded me to join this team. Looking ahead, I will carry what I have learned about determination and camaraderie into my future in activism

"As a first-year runner, D has had an impressive season," said Smith. "During the first week of the season, his fastest mile was 6:43. Now his mile time is under 5:20, just behind Cole. He is currently ranked fourth in league and will earn all-league status. D is a fun, goofy guy and an encouraging, supportive teammate to the entire group."

Nikolas Bloyd is unsure of his plans after high school as he is still giving it some serious thought. We know he will do great at whatever he sets his mind to.

"I did cross country for two years," said Bloyd. "It kept me in shape, while keeping me from being bored. Cross country was good, and fun. Mr. Smith is a good coach who puts a lot of effort into it. Bonus, he got me a lot of milkshakes!"

"Nikolas is the team celebrity," said Smith. "He's loved by all, has the best one-liners, and is all around a great guy. He works hard, always shows up with a great attitude, and is the type of athlete every coach wants on the team."

Alexandra Ramos plans to attend Mendocino College in the fall after high school, and she is looking to play softball on their team. "This was my first year of cross country, after playing five years of volleyball," said Ramos. "I wanted to

try something new. The number-one reason I joined was because of my teacher and now coach, Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith is one of the best teachers at Willits High School and a great coach. He is encouraging and cares about each and every one of his students, he is one of my biggest role

"I was nervous about joining the sport because I wasn't fast but in the end it doesn't matter about your speed," shared Ramos. "My favorite thing about cross country is even though you are on a team, you go at your own pace. Out of all the sports I played, I have never enjoyed being on the team more than this one. There is never a dull moment around the cross country team, and they always cheer me up, even on a bad day. I always come out of practice or a meet laughing. Even though it's my first year of cross country, we definitely had the biggest team out of our competitors and it was a very fun year. I can't wait to see where the boys place in the championships!"

"Alexandra has been a great addition to our team," said Smith. "She works hard and has improved steadily throughout the season. Alexandra is also responsible for the team camaraderie that has developed over the last couple of months. We joke that she is the team mom because she organizes events, makes sure everyone is included, and takes care of the freshmen. She will definitely be missed by the team next year."

WHS cross country senior athletes: your community wishes you the best as you head into your next stage of life. We are all very proud of you, and excited about your future plans. Congratulations on all your success and dedication to your school. You will be missed. Wolverines



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