

EST. 2013

Donations Accepted Edition No. 479

**Wednesday, November 23, 2022**

**Forrest Glycer**  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Planning & Building  
Director Julia Krog  
recommended that the  
county go with a definition  
of moveable tiny homes  
similar to one Santa Cruz

***By Sgt. S. Gray, for WPD***

Read the rest of  
**Felon**  
Over on page 11



Photos by  
Maureen  
Jennison

Saturday morning's hard frost dusts  
the ground with a layer of sparkling, frosty white ambiance

*Below, left: One sad little tomato was unable to become its highest and best self before the frost claimed it for basically tomato-flavored granita – that'll be for the chickens. Below, right: The frost looks so pretty on the round, lacy edges of the leaves of this mallow weed plant. At bottom: Ribs of the blackberry leaves show themselves clearly with the frost.*

Stay warm, Willits, and have a great Thanksgiving!

– *Maureen Jennison*



**Jennifer Poole**  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The new forestry plan “is a long-term management plan to maintain and preserve, enhance and restore our urban forest,” said Community Development Director Dusty Duley, as he introduced the item.

“When we talk about

**Submitted by Mendocino  
County Public Health**

November 18 – Cold and flu season has begun early in Mendocino County, and COVID is still a threat as well. These viruses affect everyone including children, and most severely infants and toddlers less than 2 years old. Unfortunately, we are already seeing many more children needing emergency room care here in Mendocino County than the last two years.

Here are the four best ways to combat the winter viruses:

1. Get vaccinated, boosted (and treated). Get flu and COVID vaccines and boosters for everyone in your house over 6 months old.
2. Stay home if you're sick! You'll recover faster and spread it to fewer others.
3. Wear a mask. There is no vaccine for RSV, so wearing a mask can significantly slow the spread and protect babies and young children who do not yet have immunity and are too young to wear a mask themselves. Wearing

Read the rest of **Flu** 

*Over on page 11*



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Meals on Wheels truck update

To the Editor:

The Willits Harrah Senior Center has many fundraising events each year to fund specific programs and services, that include our door-through-door senior transportation, outreach department, and our Meals on Wheels program. We also raise funds for specific needs, for example, a stand-by generator.

On July 30, 2022 Reza and Debbie Ghannadan hosted a Pizza Party in their home to raise funds to be used exclusively for purchase of a new Meals on Wheels truck. It was recently brought to my attention there are people voicing concerns because we have not purchased the truck after holding the fundraiser.

The goal was to raise the \$60,000 needed to purchase the new truck over a three-year period.

I apologize for the lack of clarity on my part to explain our three-year fundraising strategy. As a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, we are required by law to categorize donations as either restricted or unrestricted. All funds raised for the Meals on Wheels truck are restricted funds that must be used to purchase a Meals on Wheels truck.

To date we have raised \$13,621.52 from a \$5,000 anonymous donor's pledge, individual donations, and the \$6,000 raised at the Pizza Party. Adventist Health Howard Memorial has pledged to match the \$6,000 raised at the Pizza Party.

We expect the total amount of funds raised for the Meals on Wheels truck this year to be \$19,621.52. We will be holding future fundraisers to raise the roughly \$40,000 of additional funds needed to purchase the Meals on Wheel truck.

Last year we delivered 24,328 meals to the homes of seniors with limited mobility and adults recovering from recent surgeries. Without a Meals on Wheels truck we would not be able to administer the Meals on Wheels program so many of our seniors have come to rely on.

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the critical funding we've received for this essential service so far. If anyone has any questions regarding this matter, I can be reached at 707-459-6826.

Richard Baker, director, Harrah Senior Center

## 'Budget dust'

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Willits Weekly staff for reporting each week on current community events and politics that involve our community.

I would also like at this time to thank SEIU 1021 representative Hickey ... who was clear in his statement: "Our proposal for a cost of living adjustment would cost the county about \$1.2 million a year, which is often referred to as 'budget dust.'"

As a taxpayer, I don't think \$1.2 million is "dust" in any small county budget. His clarity shows that these "important, hard-working, dedicated workers," like all citizens of the county could use more funding.

The food bank could use more funding. community medical costs could use more funding, fire protection could use more funding, schools could use more funding ... the list is vast.

Should we divide the county "budget dust" amongst all these needs. Or recognize the SEIU members can go without any more county 'dust.'

We also need to recognize that this county "budget dust" becomes an increase of pay ... which is than tabulated into worker retirement payments. Thus this "dust" grows into perhaps a larger dust ball year after year, or a significant overall cost to the county budget and the citizens of Mendocino.

Perhaps a tax for workers is needed. Then the SEIU workers can contribute to their pay increases ... and pay increases for other community workers.

David Pollin, Willits

## Thank you

To the Editor:

September 24 was a successful "Celebration of Life - Trail Trek." We had 50 participants for what was a first event in Brooktrails in more than 20 years. What a great start to what we hope will be an annual event. Thank you all who signed up and who participated, we really couldn't have done it without you!

### Our top 10-mile finishers were:

Kenny Smith, Greg Baer, Kenneth Breen, Blyth Rose

### Our top 5k finishers were:

Travis Brakeman, Taylor Perry, Cooked Duck (YOU know who you are!), Amanda Pierson

### Our top 5k youth finishers were:

Amelia and Lucia Franco and Joclyn Svendsen

Thank you to our volunteers, without your support and willingness to be at my disposal, we would have struggled (more than we did): Adam and Abigail Sherf; Lynn and Fred Webb; Macy, Rex, Phil, and Misty Davidson; James, Milles, Karen, and Scott Mattson; Dave and Debbie Bowles, Andrea, Martin, Robin Schiffbauer and Ross Brown; Amy Grooms; Eve Makdisi; Travis Brakeman and Rodger Schwartz of North Coast Striders; Kelley Labus; Cathy Warren; Gina and Philip Henebury; and Dana Arkelian.

These volunteers helped with marking trails (yes, even the 1,800' climb AND Sam's name in the rocks at the Thimbleberry turn around), baking and bringing tasty treats and drinks, and being at the aid stations, managing the start and finish line music, snacks, cheering, prizes, meeting for and bringing supplies, taking photos, and supporting us as we look for positive ways to honor Sam and the life we continue to live while keeping him in our hearts and memories.

Also, a big thank you to our local and not so local sponsors:

Adventist Health, Brooktrails Community District, Dr. Kerr Dentistry, East Hill Veterinary Clinic, Flying Dog Pizza, Honey Stinger, North Coast

Read the rest of Letters Over on page 13

## Senior Center menu for the week

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

**Wednesday, November 23:** Chicken Philly Sandwich, Potato Salad

**Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25:** Center closed for Thanksgiving

**Monday, November 28:** French Dip, Loaded Mashed Potatoes, Veggie

**Tuesday, November 29:** Fish Sandwich, Chips, Green Salad

**Wednesday, November 30:** Baked Chicken, Rosemary Roasted Potato, Veggie, Roll

**Thursday, December 1:** Chicken & Dumplings, Green Salad

**Friday, December 2:** Hot Open-Faced Beef Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie, Roll

**Community Thanksgiving Dinner, November 24:** The Willits Food Bank will sponsor its annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner again this year, to be held at the Willits Senior Center on Baechtel Road on Thursday, November 24, from 11 am until 3 pm. Sit-down dinner. Free but donations accepted.

**Activities:** Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm; Pancake Breakfast on the second Sunday of each month, 9 to 11 am, and 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 Deb at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

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

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

## Good Farm Fund's Winter Feast Farm to Table Dinner, December 6

### Submitted by Good Farm Fund

Please join us for the Good Farm Fund's Winter Feast Farm to Table Dinner, Tuesday, December 6, 6 to 9 pm, at Barra Winery in Redwood Valley.

This warm winter feast highlights the very best food and drinks from Mendocino and Lake counties, and celebrates the end of a successful harvest and farming season.

The dinner will serve up local food and lively music from the Clay Hawkins Duo. As a key fundraiser for the Good Farm Fund, the event will also offer gift baskets of local products and a Golden Ticket raffle.

A team of local chefs, food businesses, and farmers will work collaboratively to create a Mediterranean-style meal. Among the contributors to the event will be Ruthie King of Headwaters Grazing who will provide pastured lamb, and Olan Cox will be bringing his pizza oven. Headwaters Grazing was a Good Farm Fund grant recipient last year.

Since its inception in 2015, the Good Farm Fund has awarded over \$250,000 in grants to local farms. Good Farm Fund also supports the Market Match program, which helps residents in need with access to locally grown food.

Barra of Mendocino Winery & Event Center is located at 7051 North State Street, Redwood Valley. Tickets on sale now at <https://winterfeastmendo.brownpapertickets.com>

See you there!



## Annual Free Thanksgiving Community Dinner, November 24

The Willits Food Bank will sponsor its annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner again this year, to be held at the Willits Senior Center on Baechtel Road on Thursday, November 24, from 11 am until 3 pm - or when we run out of food.

Sit-down dinner. Free but donations accepted.

- Willits Community Services & Food Bank

## Make a Big Impact Shop Small

Supporting local businesses supports the community, families, and kids during the holiday season and all year long.

Join us for a Small Business Saturday Shopping Event on Saturday, November 26, from 9 am to 12 noon, in the old Rexall Parking Lot. Catered by Laura from the Ice Box. Free hot beverages and pastries. Free Shop Small swag and gifts.

Sponsored by the Willits Chamber of Commerce. For more info on how to become a Chamber member: [www.willits.org](http://www.willits.org).

- Willits Chamber of Commerce

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

**Willits Weekly**

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

Volume 10, Number 479

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

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047  
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**Willits Weekly**

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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# Toy Run Time

## Annual motorcycle ride and holiday party to gather toys for Willits Kids Community Christmas Program this Sunday

With Thanksgiving on Thursday, it means it's also time for the Toy Run, with this year's event again falling on the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Willits Wild Bunch riders, and anyone else interested in coming along, will once again gather at the Evergreen Shopping Center around 11 am for a "Meet 'n' Greet" to chat and mingle before taking off for the ride to the Little Lake Grange at 12 noon.

"This is a rain or shine event, and everyone is welcome to attend the open-to-the-public event," explained Willits Wild Bunch's Richard Venturi. "If it rains, the run will be shortened to Evergreen Shopping Center straight to Little Lake Grange.

"If there's no rain, we will make a ride through the scenic Little Lake Valley. We'll head north up Main Street all the way to turn right onto Reynolds Highway, then turn right onto Hearst Willits Road, back down to Commercial Street, and the left onto School Street on the way to the Grange. We'll be escorted by Little Lake and Brooktrails fire departments."

Once arrived at the Grange, admission to the event will be one new, unwrapped toy, or \$10. The toy or donation includes entry into the party where there will be a free lunch, beverages for an additional purchase, raffle prizes, and a live auction (where you can also use the credit card in your wallet to bid and pay via the Square reader!), a 50/50 raffle, and music by DJ Mikey T.

"Items for the auction, silent auction, and raffle items are growing," said Venturi. "There will be a Ruger firearm, Craftsman tool box, and a Milwaukee drill set for live auction, and leather jackets, load of gravel, and many other awesome items for silent auction and raffle.

"Don't forget, the Raffle Grand Prize is a \$500 Chevron gas card and the Raffle Grandest Prize is a \$1,000 Chevron gas card. Hope to see you all there!"

More info: [willitswildbunch@gmail.com](mailto:willitswildbunch@gmail.com).

- Maureen Jennison



Above: An estimated 400 bikers participated in the 2021 run. At right: Kim "Sugar B" and Richard "Pops" Venturi have shepherded the event for some years now.

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Mendocino Transit Authority



Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

5			7	2				
4					1			
	2		8			1	3	
				3		7	9	
	6	4	2			3	8	
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CHILLY WEATHER WORD SEARCH

G	L	I	S	Z	Y	R	U	C	R	E	M	R	B	E	T	I	P	E	C	T
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AIR MASS	CONDENSATION	GALE
ALTITUDE	CRYSTALLIZATION	HYPOTHERMIA
ARCTIC	DEGREE	MERCURY
BAROMETER	FOG	SNOW
BLACK ICE	FREEZING	TEMPERATURE
BLIZZARD	FRONT	VISIBILITY
CLIMATE	FROSTBITE	WINDCHILL
COLD	FROZEN	WINTER

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60			61		62					63			64	
65		66						67				68		
	69							70						

CLUES ACROSS

- India's 'City of Lakes'
- Large marine mammals
- Used to carry belongings when traveling
- Rechristens
- Equally
- Heavy plant-eating mammals
- Millihenny
- Japanese immigrant to N. America
- Deep, red-brown sea bream
- Norse gods
- Peppermint and pekoe are two
- Auguste \_\_, founder of positivism
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- High-resolution microscope (abbr.)
- Wide metal vessel used in cooking
- V-shaped open trough
- People of southern Benin
- People of southern Ghana
- It's a significant creed
- Period between eclipses
- Furies
- Emergenced
- Philippine Island
- Where wrestlers battle

- Unhappy
- Central European river
- Language
- Semitransparent gemstone
- Forming in a bottom layer
- Distinct region
- Broad blades
- Leavened bread
- Influential cosmetics exec
- Exclamation of surprise
- Era free of war
- One who helps professors
- Idealistic
- Ornamental plants
- Grouped
- Kids love this street

CLUES DOWN

- Beloved hound
- Equal to 100 grams
- S-shaped moldings
- Hawaiian cliff
- Everyone has one
- Subatomic particle
- Ghost
- Adult female bird
- Greek temple pillars
- Emits coherent radiation
- Measures the width of printed matter
- Musical interval
- Tantalizes
- Places of worship

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE LOG

October 31 to November 6

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **87 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

October 31

2:14 am: JACKSON, Alexander Louis (39) of Ukiah was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 14601.1 (A) VC (Driving with a Suspended License), on felony charges of possession of stolen property (vehicle), and failure to appear, and on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation and failure to appear.

2:27 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:31 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

12:58 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Lenore Street.

6:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

7:22 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of East Commercial Street and North Humboldt Street.

8:01 pm: HOLCOMB, Lumiere Moonflower (39) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of Sherwood Road. She was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol), on felony charges of willful cruelty to a child with possible injury or death, and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher, and driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher.

November 1

12:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Railroad Avenue.

11:53 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.

November 2

3:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Sequoia Boulevard.

4:13 pm: RAASCH, Charles Robert (45) of Willits was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order).

November 3

8:42 am: MARKS, Dustin Wayne (37) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Margie Drive. He was arrested on felony charges of failure to appear, and on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation and failure to appear.

11:24 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

8:24 pm: DODD Jr., James Monroe (29) of Willits was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11377 (A) H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine), 11364 (A) H&S (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), on felony charges of violation of parole and violation of probation, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance.

8:24 pm: GOFORTH, Brady Kevin (56) of Willits was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 496 (D) PC (Buying or Receiving a Stolen Vehicle), 4462.5 PC (Misuse of Vehicle Registration), 11377 (A) H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine), on felony charges of possession of stolen property (vehicle), and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance.

11:50 pm: AVANSINO, Kalia (24) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue. She was arrested pursuant to 273.5 (A) PC (Domestic Battery).

November 4

8:49 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:21 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of shoplifting in the 800 block of South Main Street.

November 5

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

8:17 am: COSMA, Mihai (54) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was booked on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

8:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:50 pm: WHETSTONE, Michael Leonard (38) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher), 23578 VC (Enhance DUI Penalty for Excessive Blood Alcohol Content or Test Refusal), 14601.2 VC (Driving with a Suspended License for DUI), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), on felony charges of willful cruelty to a child with possible injury or death, and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, and driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher.

November 6

7:45 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 200 block of School Street.



Above, from left: Yams with homemade peanut butter are a staple of these gatherings. Greens are always a welcome addition to a vegan dinner. The potluck dishes were colorful, perfectly prepared with love and very tasty, like the vegan mac 'n' cheese seen here. At left: Two tables are filled with healthy vegan food. Below, left: New Laytonville residents, Sally and Martin Mueller were quite pleased to find that a vegan community exists in the area. Below, right: Kami Lenn of Willits helped to organize the event and added colorful flowers from her farm to the tables. At bottom: A Vegan Thanksgiving dinner plate provides as many colors as a non-vegan one.



Photos by Mathew Caine

# Vegan Thanksgiving

## Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience dinners resume, starting with a colorful holiday meal

Yes, even vegans can enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving with close friends, family and strangers who might become friends, bonding over their love of plant-based comestibles, love of animals, and love of their vegan community.

The tradition of meeting for a meat and dairy-free Thanksgiving meal began about eight years ago at the Long Valley Garden Club clubhouse, under the L.O.V.E. (Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience) organization, coordinated by local activist Jon Spitz.

"I have three reasons why I became a vegan," explained Spitz at the dinner on Sunday. "One, it's a healthier diet. Two, is for the environment. It takes a lot less resources to grow plants for people to eat than it does to grow animals.

"It takes a huge amount of feed and pasture, which takes up a large amount of land. It crowds out wildlife and it's a huge under-told story about how much damage is being done by animal agriculture, all to feed our habit of animal foods that in the long run are making us sick.

Read the rest of

Vegan

Over on page 6

# SPARETIME

—GARDEN CENTER—  
208 E. San Francisco Ave. (707) 459-6791

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### Homebody Luke

Luke is an affectionate, lovable homebody who is looking for someone who will take the time to earn his trust and slowly introduce him to new experiences. Luke had a hard start in life without positive human interaction, followed by a lengthy shelter-stay in Merced, but he's working hard to overcome his fears. Luke is a medium-energy dog and is submissive to other dogs. Luke is an incredibly sweet dog who will make a wonderful pet for someone that has a quieter lifestyle and understands that his socialization process will require a lot of time and patience.

To learn more about Luke or view other adoptable animals, visit [www.milofoundation.org](http://www.milofoundation.org) or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

### Social Jon Snow

Meet Jon Snow! This gorgeous young dog is a real treat. When Jon Snow isn't showing off his good looks, he loves to let loose in the play yard and make new doggie friends. Jon hasn't met a person or dog that he doesn't like and we think he is a must meet!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: [www.mendohumaneociety.com](http://www.mendohumaneociety.com), our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



### Mellow Bop

Bop is a reserved 1-year-old cat who likes to get to know people at his own speed. He is the sweetest, mellowest boy. He will nap in his favorite spot all day, or until you come around to give him some love. Looking for a TV or couch buddy? Bop could be your guy!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Bop or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com).



ABove: Organizer Jon Spitz says a few words prior to the meal.

Photos by Mathew Caine

The rest of  
**Vegan** From page 5

"The third reason, of course," said Spitz, "is for the animals. To feed billions of people on animal foods, you have to raise billions of animals. The only way to produce that many animals is with these giant factory farms to make enough food for people. If they didn't do it that way, most people wouldn't be able to afford meat. Throughout history, only the rich were able to afford to eat meat. Now, everybody can eat it. It's ubiquitous. It's killing us. It's destroying the planet. It's torturing the animals."

Most of the participants expressed the same three reasons for their non-meat diet, although several were not strictly vegan, but rather practiced a vegetarian diet, with the inclusion of dairy.

"I'm not strictly a vegan, more vegetarian," said Paul Jacobson. "When I used to drive up and down the [I]5 freeway coming north, I kept seeing 'Cowschwitz,' the feedlots at the side of the road at Coalinga near Harris Ranch. There are thousands of cattle that just sit there in their own manure – factory farming at its worst."

"That's what inspired me to stop eating meat. I don't think animals should be treated that way. They treat chickens even worse. They live in little boxes and they cut off their bills. I've been a vegetarian for over 20 years now."

Martin and Sally Mueller are new to the group, having moved to their 10-acre property just two weeks prior.

"We've become totally vegan. Our kids got us into it," said Martin. "We've been here about two weeks. We're quite pleased that there is a vegan Thanksgiving. We heard it on the radio, KPHT-LP, 99.9 FM and were delighted. We had to come."

The Muellers hope to grow much of their own food on their property on Mulligan Road, where they live with their son, Miles, and daughter-in-law, Rachel, who is expecting her "vegan baby."

Prior to digging into the vast array of lovingly and skillfully prepared vegan food, the approximately 30 hungry



Above, left: A participant writes down the ingredients used in his dish so sensitive diners can avoid allergens. Above, right: Rachel and Miles hit the buffet table.

participants formed a circle to introduce themselves to the group and possibly state one thing for which they are thankful.

"I missed this event so much," said Kami Lenn, from Willits, one of the organizers of the dinner. "I want to express gratitude for everyone who came out. You all could have been anywhere in the world tonight but you chose to be here. Thank you for sharing time and space. Thank you to the plants that are nourishing us today."

Janae Stephens was grateful to be at the gathering. "I live outside Willits, in the hills. I've been there about 40 years and I just want to thank everyone. I'm just so grateful to be living in a place where we have access to good, clean food and water. Blessings," she added.

"Benji has been here almost three years," said Amanda Scopen, who was accompanied by her young son, "and I've been here about 20 years. I'm grateful for Jon making this happen a few times a year."

Rosebud, of the satirical political singing duo, Bug Guts, as usual, had much to say: "Scott and I came here from Southern California 20 years ago and landed in the Spyrock / Laytonville area. We met Jon pretty soon after that. We totally bonded over being plant-based and joyful and celebrating compassion without judgment, and compassion for all. It's a celebration to be in such a group like this. Thank you, Jon, for keeping it going. We can taste the love in everything that's here."

After everyone had introduced themselves, the feast began with many tasty choices for the discerning vegan palate. Conversations with old and new friends formed over the shared love of healthy and bountiful living with love and gratitude to the earth for its generosity.

"You'll only have another five months to wait before our next L.O.V.E. Springs Eternal Vegan Potluck in early June," said Spitz in a follow-up email. "In the meantime, stay warm and well through the coming winter months."



## Healthy Planet, Healthy Body

Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital earns prestigious certification for solar project and excellent patient care

Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital's patient-centric approach has earned them a Planetree Gold certification by the Planetree organization, for their work in creating a hospital where the patients participate in their own course of treatment, for their adherence to environmental concerns, and several other criteria.

Mathew Caine  
Features Writer  
[mathew@willitsweekly.com](mailto:mathew@willitsweekly.com)

"We're actually going for Planetree Gold with Distinction," explained Linda Givens, hospital administrator. "Distinction means that we teach other hospitals how to be more patient-centric. The distinction part comes in that we want to spread these practices to Ukiah and the coast with our Planetree ways."

"Being Planetree," said Givens, "solar is part of it because we consider the environment. Part of us being Planetree is our Commonwealth Organic Garden. We took a trip back East to a Planetree Gold hospital. We went there and they showed us their garden which consisted of six raised beds. There was an eggplant on one, a couple cucumbers on another."

Read the rest of  
**Solar**

Over on page 15



At top, from left: These plans illustrate phase one and two of the solar project, showing where the construction will be performed and where the patients will be able to park. The utility room houses a complex series of equipment that supplies electric, water, and other utilities. The amount of equipment required for the project is quite extensive.

Above, from left: Phase one of the solar project has closed down about half of the available parking in front of the hospital. Howard Facilities Manager Stephanie Wheeler, Marketing Communications Manager Shelby White, and Foreman Michael Murphy oversee the construction project. The forms are fitted into the holes to create supports for the cassettes that hold the solar panels.

At left, top: The holes for the columns are dug about 15 feet deep. At left: The BEI Construction, Inc. crew is working on the drilling and "mud pits."

Photos by Mathew Caine

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Above: The Willits headquarters of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District is located at the old Coleman Ranch on Hearst Road.

# Natural History

Learn about plants and animals of Little Lake Valley at new interpretive center in Mendocino County Museum

There is a new community treasure at the Mendocino County Museum! An adjunct office and interpretive center for the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District has opened to the public, to highlight the natural history of over 2,000 acres of the Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands, which have been entrusted to the MCRCD for the purposes of conservation, protection and restoration.

Marisela De Santa Anna, who works for the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District and is the project interpreter and wildlife biologist for the Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands, said that the basic mandate for the project is to establish, rehabilitate and preserve a mosaic of highly functioning habitats in perpetuity.

This work increases the ecological value of Little Lake Valley and improves water quality in the Eel River Basin. The MCRCD has main offices on Hearst Road, at the former site of the old Coleman Ranch, which are connected to the southern end of the freeway bypass mitigation project. However, these offices closed to the public pending needed renovations. The museum office and interpretive room offers MCRCD a public face, where area residents and visitors can learn about local forests, watersheds and wildlife. De Santa Anna, who has an extensive background in science and in botany in particular, worked as a Willits High School teacher for 10 years. She is also the president of the Peregrine Audubon Chapter and has led nature hikes for over 50 years. She explained that the new MCRCD space at the museum offers a uniquely collaborative opportunity: "We hope to share museum events and have classrooms visit museum displays, while also learning about

Above, left: The sign for the Willits headquarters of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District. Above, right: 3. Marisela De Santa Anna of MCRCD holds up a healthy clump of wild mushrooms found on the mitigation lands.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde

At left: Otters play and hunt for crayfish and other food at Outlet Creek, part of the wetlands that comprise the MCRCD-managed mitigation lands.

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Representatives from 100+ Women Strong for Inland Mendocino present more than \$12,000 to KZLYX. From left: Carolyn Welch; Dina Polkinghorne, president of the KZLYX board; Marty Durlin, general manager of KZLYX; Karen Christopherson; Sarah Marshall; Holly Madrigal; and Megan Barber Allende.

## KZLYX wins latest 100+ Women Strong event

By Heidi Cusick Dickerson, for 100+ Women Strong

Another successful 100+ Women Strong for Inland Mendocino County event took place in October at Nelson Winery and Vineyards. KZLYX Community Radio won the most votes cast by attendees, narrowly edging out Ukiah Vecinos en Acci3n and Anderson Valley Village.

"I was very moved when Karen made the announcement, especially because the other two nonprofits were so impressive and worthy," remarked Marty Durlin, general manager of KZLYX. "It still brings tears to my eyes to realize that we won. I know it was close."

As Mendocino County's longest-broadcasting and most comprehensive community radio station, KZLYX is on the air "every minute of every day." Founded in 1989 "by a group of visionaries," KZLYX and Z is broadcast by three transmitters, covering nearly 4,000 square miles.

What makes KZLYX stand out among community radio stations around the country is the programming. Locals host most of the art, music, and opinion shows, alongside NPR and other public radio broadcasts.

In addition, KZLYX is the go-to place to receive timely, reliable emergency information about wildfires and other disasters. Their public service announcements and online event calendar are designed to help other nonprofits in the county. And, with the recent hire of Viktor Palomino as news director, more bilingual offerings are filling the air and reaching more of the county's population.

KZLYX, which also streams on the internet, is free to everyone and supported by more than 2,000 listeners

who become members of the station. More than 60 local businesses are underwriters.

Manager Durlin explained during the event that "after 33 years of community service, KZLYX's signal is threatened by tree growth between the station's main studios in Philo and the transmitter on Cold Springs Mountain." The radio station has purchased property at 390 West Clay Street in Ukiah, "putting the main operations in the county seat and installing a stronger connection for everyone," she said.

"The money from 100+ Women will go into the KZLYX Building Fund," says Durlin. "And move us forward one more step toward remodeling the building and setting the station up for the future."

100+ Women Strong is an inclusive all-volunteer group. Anyone interested in volunteering to help or attend the gathering and hear from three nonprofits doing indispensable work in our community is welcome. It is also customary for many attendees at the 100+ Women Strong events to also make out checks to the two other nonprofits. 100+ Women of Inland Mendocino has distributed more than \$130,000 since its founding in 2019.

Events for 2023 are currently being planned. 100+ Women Strong for Inland Mendocino County is taking nominations for nonprofits now. To register, each attendee pledges \$100 on the 100+ Mendocino Women Grapevine website via <https://100strongmendo.com>. Click the "Become a Member" button.

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW406

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Annual Invitation for Inclusion on the 2023  
City of Willits List of Qualified Bidders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that:  
The City of Willits is soliciting applicants for its 2023 List of Qualified Bidders. Interested parties should complete the City of Willits Informal Bidding Annual Pre-Qualification Application for 2023 and submit to:  
Brandy Sanderson  
City of Willits  
111 E. Commercial St.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Re: 2023 Qualified Bidders List  
Bidders are hereby advised that the previous bidders list will be replaced with the new list and no contractors will be carried over from the previous list.  
REQUESTS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY December 30, 2022  
Questions concerning this notice should be directed to Brandy Sanderson at [bsanderson@cityofwillits.org](mailto:bsanderson@cityofwillits.org).  
The application can also be found on the City's website on the Engineering page;  
<http://www.cityofwillits.org/147/Engineering>.  
CITY OF WILLITS; s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk  
DATED: 11/17/22  
PUBLICATION DATES: November 23, December 1, 8, 15, 2022

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The rest of Flu From page 1

a mask in indoor public places is a good way to limit the spread of germs.

4. Get treatments through your provider if someone is sick with flu or COVID. Use TeleHealth if you cannot get an appointment with your regular health care provider.

5. Test! Take an at-home test before attending a party and before returning to work or school after the holiday.

Vaccines and treatments are available at local pharmacies, through your health provider, and at Public Health offices and clinics throughout the county. For more info, please see Mendocino County's Vaccines webpage at [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/health-human-services-agency/public-health/nursing/immunization-program](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/health-human-services-agency/public-health/nursing/immunization-program)

Questions? Contact the Call Center 707-472-2759.

The rest of Felon From page 1

Lawson was later transported and booked into county jail for violation of: 11377(a) HS [Possession of a Controlled Substance - Methamphetamine], 29800(a)(1) PC [Felon in Possession of a Firearm], 11370.1 HS [Possession of a Controlled Substance While Armed], and 30305(a)(1) PC [Felon in Possession of Ammunition].

Steven Todd Dwayne Lawson of Ukiah.

Pg. 10 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | November 23, 2022

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is seeking bids for the repainting of school buildings. Prevailing wage not required. Bid closing date 12/9/22.

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Environmental Health Specialist I/II  
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Legal Secretary II  
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Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C  
Supervising Juvenile Corrections Officer

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca)  
EOE

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Above: Come make a wreath out of beautiful greens at Emandal.

Above, right: Different types of pizza will be made for all to enjoy during the event – and to go orders also available!

Below: All-you-can-eat pizza will be offered during the event in the brick oven at Emandal.



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# ‘Pizza and Wreaths’ at Emandal

Spend Saturday making wreaths and eating pizza

On Saturday, November 26, join us on the farm for “Pizza and Wreaths”! We’ll have pizza to eat from 10 am until 3 pm. At the same time, we’ll have greens and rings and our wreath-making machines set up for you to create a unique holiday beauty!

Should you wish to take a walk/hike to the river or lake, you’re welcome. If it’s the sandbox your kids are craving, let’s hope it’s not raining out! We might even have corn-hole set up. Raining? We’ve got the covered deck and a roof over the front of the outside oven.

Bring pruning shears if you plan to make a wreath, and

your own greenery/herbs/dried grass/boxwood/etc., if you prefer. (There will be plenty here and available.) We’ll have folks here who can guide you through the process. It’s not hard, it just takes a bit of time.

We’re charging \$20 for over 10 years old, \$12 for under 10 and over 2 years old: includes all-you-can-eat-while-you’re-here pizza. \$2/metal wreath ring and pizzas to go are \$22/each. Orders online preferred, but ordering when you’re here is fine. We’ll have multiple toppings. You’ll choose what you want when you see what we have.

– Submitted by Tam Adams for Emandal



Luscious’ ladies include, from left: owner Dawna Hetherington, Krista Schafer, Carissa Diskin, Katie Arlich and Shannon Gillespie.

## Happy Holidays from Luscious Beauty Boutique & Day Spa

The talented aestheticians, masseuse, hair stylists, and make-up artists of Luscious Beauty Boutique & Day Spa want to wish the Willits community a happy holiday and look forward to continuing to offer cuts, colors, waxes, lash services, facials and so much more. Remember to book your holiday appointments now, or pick up a gift certificate anytime for quick and easy gift-giving.

– Maureen Jennison

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The rest of Homes | From page 1

County uses: “an independent dwelling unit, maximum 400 gross square feet, excluding loft area space... and maximum 14 feet in width.... It provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and is built upon a single chassis and is towable by a hitch mechanism and cannot move under its own power.”

Krog noted that tiny homes that are stick-built on a foundation are already allowed in the county, and that the “permit process for a tiny home on a foundation is the same as for any new single-family dwelling within the county.”

Tiny homes on wheels however, are currently classified more along the lines of recreational vehicles, and are only allowed “temporary uses.”

Those moveable homes will continue to need to be registered with the DMV even if permitted by the county according to Krog.

Scott Ward, a local building code consultant and former code official, spoke during public comments in support of moveable tiny homes in the county.

“I think it’s an excellent solution to our housing crisis,” he said. “I’ve got kids that have to live in Lake County because they can’t afford homes here. Tiny homes would be a good solution for my property for them.”

Ward also gave a few recommendations on regulation changes for the homes, all of which the board agreed to send on to either the planning commission or the county’s Public Health department for consideration.

These included changing the window rules to increase fire safety, having a basic standard deck requirement, and to “devise some kind of simple septic system for these tiny homes that could be installed anywhere.”

Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren also suggested that the exterior wall requirements for moveable tiny homes be similar to those of stick-built homes, which the board agreed with.

“I think it might help it feel less stigmatized if it’s in parity,” she said.

The discussion on tiny homes led to a few debates on housing and regulations in the county in general.

At one point during the discussion, Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde got some pushback on his notion that the county should “establish greater setback requirements for these tiny homes from the neighbors” due to noise concerns.

“They have thin walls so even when someone is indoors, watching a movie late at night, it might be heard if they’re located next to a neighbor,” said Gjerde. “But more importantly when it’s that tiny you’ll have a significant number of these residents spending an awful lot of time outdoors not living in their ... tiny house. And when they’re outdoors playing music, watching movies outside, we’re going to have neighborhood conflicts if we don’t ensure that they’re located at some good distance from the neighbors.

“And if we don’t have good setback standards for these tiny homes from the neighbors, what are we supposed to say when someone contacts me or another supervisor?” he asked. “We’re supposed to say, well go contact supervisor ‘so and so’ because supervisor ‘so and so’ said setbacks weren’t important for tiny homes?”

Supervisor Mulheren retorted, “Would you like my cell phone number?”

“I think it’s discriminatory,” she said. “There are single family stick-built residences ... that have neighbors that spend time outdoors. Just because you have a [3 bedroom 2 bath house] doesn’t mean you’re any less loud or more loud than somebody that lives in a 400 square foot house.”

Board Chair Ted Williams agreed with Mulheren, and talked about his concern of overregulation in general.

“I don’t know that we can address the noise issue by tying it to the size of a structure, and this is a county that really struggles to house its people,” he said. “We have a lot of people living in substandard, frankly, unpermitted illegal buildings – cars, RVs. Drive through the county, you see it all over. I see this would be a way to allow some people to come into compliance and have a little bit more dignity.

“They can’t afford a large house, but they might be able to afford a 250 square foot small house and get by,” he continued. “So I like the idea of opening up more options rather than continuing down a path of more and more restrictions.

“If we had the building code of 1950, we would have development all over this county today,” he added. “We wouldn’t have a housing shortage. The housing

shortage was created by policy makers with good ideas, but the ideas are so good, people sleep in a car in the Walmart parking lot because developers can’t afford to build houses and people can’t afford to buy those houses. So I see this as the county’s opportunity to push back a little bit on the state.”

First District Supervisor Glenn McCourtly also disagreed with increasing the setbacks for the moveable tiny homes, and felt they should consider having a noise ordinance with the same rules for all properties.

“It’s an issue that is a separate issue,” he said. “And I think that we should have standards for noise in Mendocino County that don’t exceed 55 decibels at the property line which is kind of standard in a lot of communities, and that would address the issue in the end.”

Supervisor Gjerde also had concerns that allowing tiny homes to be a primary residence could have a negative impact on certain areas.

“If in 2022 or 2023, we suddenly say, well, you know, for decades you’ve needed to build a stick-built house on a foundation, but beginning now, a neighboring vacant property could have nothing on it more than a tiny home – especially when you’re talking smaller parcels in more suburban conditions – I think it really could be out of character with the rest of the neighborhood,” he said.

Once again, Chair Williams disagreed with Gjerde’s assessment.

“I’m weighing consistency, what people expect in a neighborhood, with government intruding on an individual’s right to live in a small house,” said Williams. “And imagine a neighborhood where all parcels on all sides are developed with 2,500 square foot houses, and somebody decides they want to live in a 300 square foot house. Maybe that’s all they can afford. Maybe that’s all the resources they want to use.”

“I don’t know if it’s government’s job to say ‘No, you have to build a large house,’” he added. “What’s wrong with somebody choosing to live in a very minimalist [home]? I mean if we all did that, we would have less of a climate impact.”

Another issue of concern that was discussed was grading and foundation rules for the moveable tiny homes.

The original memo from Planning Director Krog suggested that pavement or concrete generally be required for the foundation of the homes, but to also “allow for alternatives to paving, as determined by the Director of Planning and Building Services, provided the alternative surface is sufficient to hold the weight of the unit.”

Gjerde didn’t agree with basically requiring paved pads as a foundation for the moveable tiny homes.

“We don’t really want to see a bunch of asphalt or concrete placed where it’s not needed,” he said. “And you know, these tiny homes may be here today, gone tomorrow. Who’s to say how long they’ll stay on a piece of property. It could be something of a fad.”

Biological consultant Estelle Clifton and botanist Heather Morrison also expressed their concern during public comments that only requiring a ministerial permit for the tiny homes wouldn’t properly take into account the environmental impacts of grading.

Krog said that applicants for tiny moveable homes “would have to go through the standard grading permit with our office, if they trigger a grading permit,” and that “it really depends on the amount of cubic yards that they’re moving” as to whether a permit is needed.

Eventually the board agreed that compacted gravel should be considered by the planning commission as an alternative for the foundation of the tiny homes.

Commenter Lindsey Wood described herself as “the tiny home lady and a board member of the Tiny Home Industry Association,” and spoke during public comments about the promise of the idea in general.

“As someone who had my own tiny home built here in Ukiah, California, I’m working on developing a company to actually build them here,” she said. “The Ukiah High School is actually building two tiny homes with the [Career and Technical Education] program.”

Wood said that the training of Ukiah High students is being carried out by Tiny EDU, a non-profit organization aiming to bring tiny home construction into schools.

“We have a lot of opportunity to train our youth and also house more people, offering worker force housing, agriculture housing, and so much more – so that people like myself who grew up here since 1980 can actually afford to live here,” she said.

The rest of Trees | From page 1

urban forest, we’re not talking about creating 20 acres of forestland,” he continued, “what we’re talking about are street trees, the trees in our parks, the trees on private property, both the residential settings, certainly in commercial settings as part of the landscaping there.

“Having a plan is important,” Duley said, “but it doesn’t do much use to us if it just sits on a shelf and collects dust. So there are a number of action items that are in there, and staff will work with our city manager to develop a plan as to when we can start delivering some of those action items to the council.”

No new funding was approved for the plan, which was paid for by a grant from CAL FIRE, a grant that also paid for “installation of street trees on Main Street, Blosser Lane, the dog park, so we’re very much grateful and thank you to CAL FIRE,” Duley said.

Councilmember Gerry Gonzales said he felt the plan was a “best practices” type plan, and especially given that the city “is below the staffing we’d need for this program,” he asked whether the plan was to fund some of the plan’s goals with grant funding, or local monies leveraging grants?

“We see this plan as the next key step in being able to open the door for some of this additional funding,” replied Consultant Abby Beissinger, from Dubek’s Urban Forestry Division, who provided an overview of the plan via online connection. “There are a number of different grant opportunities, especially provided by CAL FIRE, that really open up once the city adopts an Urban Forest Management Plan.”

She noted a new chapter in the plan that “highlights different funding opportunities the city could consider applying for, through different grants that could enable the city to receive additional funding to be able to meet some of those staffing challenges we did highlight throughout the plan.”

Beissinger told councilmembers that the Vision Statement in the plan was created to reflect what “an ideal urban forest would look like for the City of Willits,” as follows:

“The City of Willits urban forest will serve as a Gateway to the Redwoods and be a healthy, equitable, and sustainably funded resource that provides ecological, social, and economic benefits to all Willits residents.”

City council members all voted “yes” on the plan. “This is a really neat plan,” Councilmember Larry Stranske said, “I’m all for it,” but he brought up stakeholders’ opinions included in the plan that voiced concerns about the cost of watering trees.

Mayor Rodriguez agreed and commented that she hoped any new future ordinances about trees would take these concerns into consideration.

Consultant Beissinger told the councilmembers about four guiding principles that provided a framework for the management plan:

1. Sufficient Resources for the Urban Forest: “The city will provide the financial and human resources to sustainably manage the urban forest”;
2. A Sustainable and Resilient Urban

The rest of Letters | From page 2

Striders, Northspur Brewing Co., The Book Juggler, Brickhouse Coffee, Shanachie Pub, Scoops, Safeway, and Susie and Glenn Violette. You helped provide snacks and hydration, finisher pins, top finisher prizes, people, and mowing of and access to district facilities.

With the registrations from our participants, we were able to evenly split the proceeds between the following non-profit organizations: North Coast Striders, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeastern & Central California and Northern Nevada, Tyler Robinson Foundation with Imagine Dragons serving families coping with a devastating pediatric cancer diagnosis, and St. Jude’s Children’s Cancer & Research Fund. Thank you for your support.

A couple of anecdotes from the aid stations were: They were surprised that people stopped to eat the random homemade snacks and that by the end of the event, most all of them were gone (of course, they were delicious). Another was at Lake Emily where a woman said she heard that they were selling iced tea and she’d like to buy some. There was no iced tea – only water and last miles snacks.

We saw people laughing and enjoying the company of each other, some kids who looked like they were being dragged along

Forest: “The urban forest will be prepared for changing environmental conditions brought on by climate change”;

3. Expand the Urban Forest: “Canopy cover will be increased above current levels for all residents and stakeholders”;

4. Protect and Preserve the Urban Forest: “City policies and ordinances will contribute to large, healthy trees on both private and public property.”

She then highlighted eight of the plan’s key findings, which she described as “areas where the city can target in terms of where the urban forest is and where it might want to be in the next 30 to 40 years.”

The first key finding is that the City of Willits has an aging tree inventory. “Of the 425 trees that we identified in the city’s inventory,” Beissinger said, “approximately 1/3 of the trees were reaching the end of their life, in a mature state. These trees must be replaced as they mature to ensure environmental benefits continue.”

Budget limitations and staffing constraints were identified as the second and third key points. The plan noted that Willits had 2.5 fewer fulltime employees involved with urban forest management than other cities of a similar size.

The plan also identified a key need for the trees in Rec Grove Park to be planned for. “Over 25% of the city’s tree inventory is in Rec Grove Park,” the plan said, “with varying health conditions and a site history of slight tree failures.” The plan notes: “Completing a tree risk assessment of all Rec Grove trees can help tree managers prioritize maintenance actions moving forward.”

The next key finding was that the tree canopy cover in the urban areas of the City of Willits is considered “low” at 16 percent. “Given that the city is in a forested area, this is why we consider it to be low,” Beissinger said, “Because the city only has so much land that it owns, in order for the city to be able to increase canopy cover, it may need to encourage residents to plant trees on private property to meet city-wide canopy goals.”

The plan also encouraged community engagement and outreach: “Residents place a high value on the city’s trees, but may not understand their part in the urban forest.” The final key points included addressing tree management practices: “The city should consider defining a strategy to prune trees that require urgent maintenance. Following this, a 5 to 7 year pruning cycle could be established for city trees,” and also: Planning and policies: “The city code lacks a policy that stipulates the responsible party for tree management, maintenance, and damage caused to public and private property.”

The full City of Willits Urban Forestry Management Plan can be seen by visiting <https://cityofwillits.org/agendacenter> and opening or downloading the agenda packet for the November 9 Willits City Council meeting.

A video of the full Willits City Council meeting can be seen at the Willits Community Television channel on Youtube. com.

and others who hadn’t stopped wriggling, with energy to spare as they crossed the finish line.

Some heartwarming comments from participants were: They hope this event will happen again next year, and it was exciting to have an event on the trails they grew up running on. We also heard folks talking about and sharing their interactions with and memories of Sam.

We appreciate the time and the space to talk freely, because yes, we are devastated that Sam is no longer with us and often we are only sad, but we honor him and find some comfort (while missing him deeply) in the retelling of our stories of him in our lives, because he is and always will be.

We hope that all participants enjoyed whatever route at whichever pace they chose (the Par Course will be better marked next year) and that you were able to be in the moment with yourself or others and that you might’ve even found a new trail or two you like. We hope to see you (and more) on the trails and into next year – tell your friends! Every moment presents an opportunity for connection, don’t miss them. Thank you sincerely,

Bronach, Crystal, and Davey Bowles, Willits





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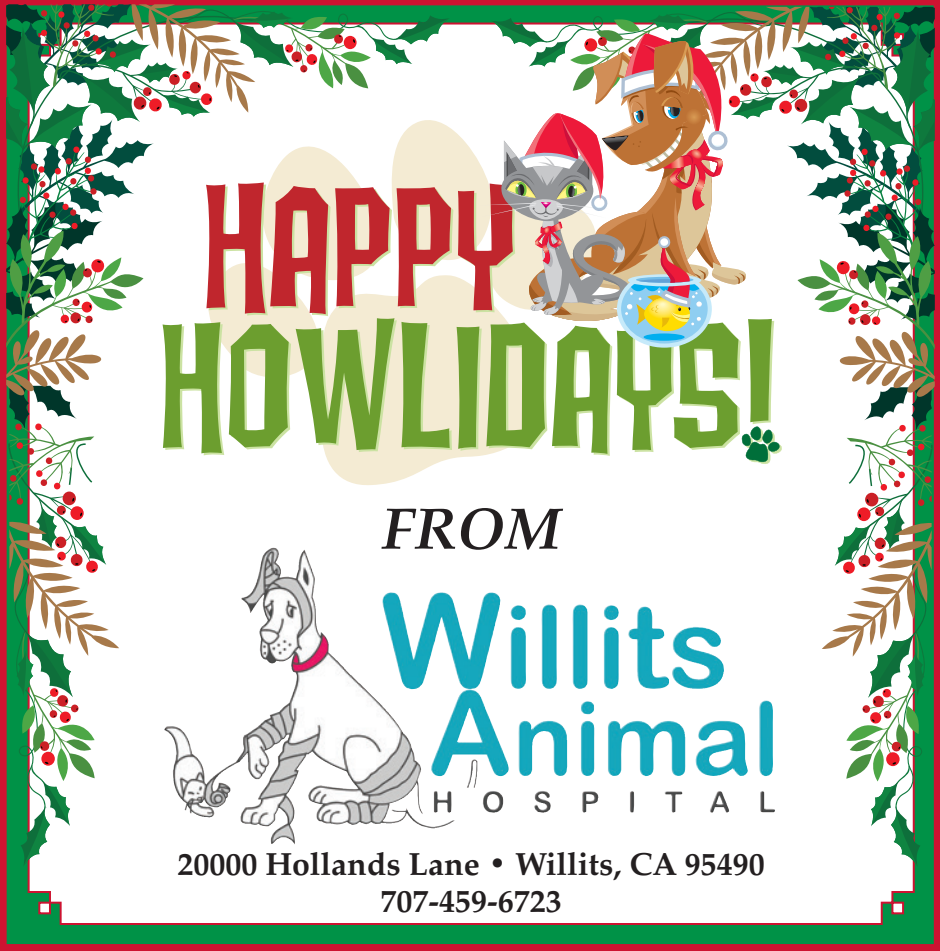
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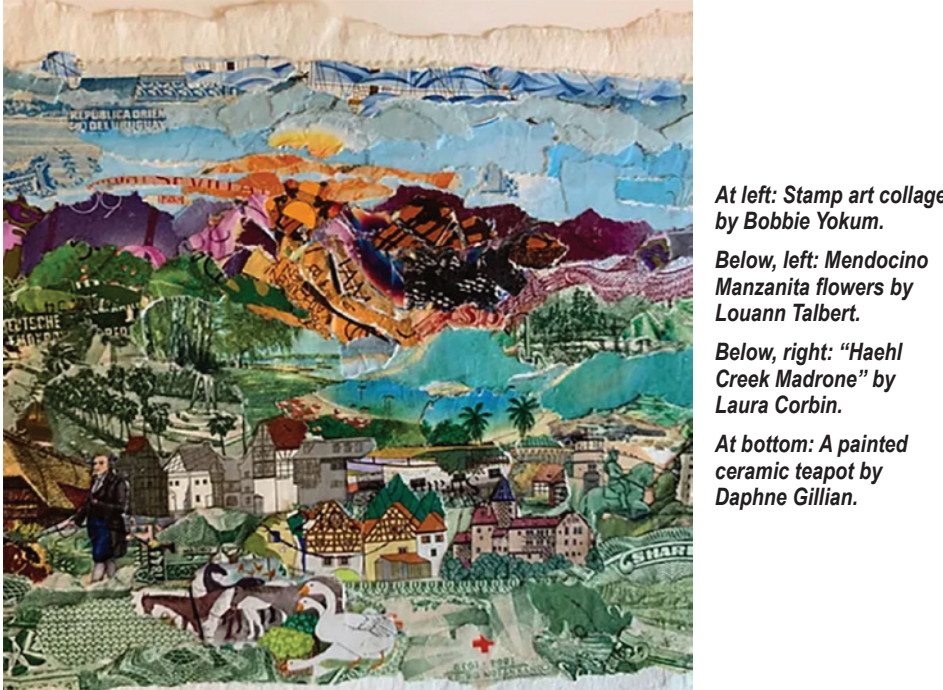
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*At left: Stamp art collage by Bobbie Yokum.*

*Below, left: Mendocino Manzanita flowers by Louann Talbert.*

*Below, right: "Haehl Creek Madrone" by Laura Corbin.*

*At bottom: A painted ceramic teapot by Daphne Gillian.*



## 'Members Small Works Show' opens on Friday at Willits Center for the Arts

*Submitted by the Willits Center for the Arts*

The Willits Center for the Arts presents the annual "Members Small Works Show." This show reaches out to the community to display art and gift-giving diversity. Members join in and we see everything from Bobbie Yokum's popular stamp art to handmade ornaments by Suzanne Sandhamwich.

Daphne Gillian will be displaying her whimsical ceramics and Laura Corbin will be offering her sensitive watercolors to the show. There are too many talented people in our town to mention all members participating in the show. Come by the WCA to see the show and find one-of-a-kind gifts for friends and loved ones.

The show opens on Friday, November 25, from 9 am until 5 pm. A chance to meet the artists will be held the following evening, Saturday, November 26, between 6 and 9 pm. There will be special extended hours to coincide with the 35th Annual Craft Fair on December 9 and 10.

Regular gallery hours are weekends between 11 am and 5 pm. We are located at 71 East Commercial Street, right next door to the Noyo Theatre. For more information, visit [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org) or call 459-1726.



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*The utility room at Howard Memorial Hospital is where the electricity is distributed to the hospital.*

The rest of **Solar** From page 7

*Photo by Mathew Caine*

"Knowing how efficient and productive the Commonwealth Garden is, this was amusing to us. We're in a community of farmers. We know how to create a garden. Our garden is so abundant that it supplies most of our needs. The coast also has gardens over there. We want to share that. That's a healthy lifestyle," Givens said.

The hospital's concern for the environment and need to save money that they can then put into patient care and facilities, has spurred them to begin a project to install banks of solar panels on shade structures over the existing and new parking spaces.

"The solar is because we are conscious of our environment," Givens continued. "There will be charging stations. There are so many people now with electric vehicles. The first time I saw a Tesla was in our parking lot. Now, it's just so commonplace. Those charging stations will be open to the public as well. Patients and visiting families can charge their car while they are here. This service will be free when we start it."

Currently the project, designed to be accomplished in two phases that will allow for at least half of the public parking spaces to be available at all times, is projected to be completed in May. The parking for staff has been greatly expanded behind the building to free up spaces for patients and families.

Drilling to provide conduits for the needed cabling from the inverters to the switching area is being done laterally in order to avoid the need for open trenching. The process is called "boring" and does not disrupt the hospital grounds.

"Right now, we're setting columns, what we call 'flagpoles,'" said site foreman Michael Murphy as he explained the process and the current progress. "We're going to have 42 columns in total. After this step, they pour the concrete. Those will be set and then we'll go ahead and set up a station and start building what we call cassettes. There are six per bay. Each one of these sections is a bay. There will be 15 panels per bay.

"We put up the solar panels," said Murphy, "and then we have electricians who subcontract to connect the panels. These guys are direct-drilling to set the conduit for the electrical, and running it to each one of the arrays, each of which will have an inverter which will take the electrical from direct current and run it over to the switch gear.

"All of this will be placed underground," he said. "It's a lot easier than digging a trench. We should start hanging the panels on December 5. Right now, we're preparing the columns, getting the concrete poured on them."

According to Stephanie Wheeler, facilities manager of the hospital, the solar array will provide up to 885 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power approximately 170 houses. Whatever electric is not utilized will go back into the grid, to be used when the environmental conditions are not conducive to solar-electric production.

In other Howard Hospital updates, the facility is slowly opening back up to the general public, with Roots Restaurant available for the public to eat in and enjoy the great selection of healthful food. This will occur on January 1, 2023.

Certain classes are also opening. "We're starting our classes back," said Givens. "Food for Life," Diabetic Education," a lot of those classes we were doing for the community, specifically disease-based. We have great dieticians here who can teach the public and do counseling on diet.

"Planetree is patient-centered," Givens further explained. "It's built around what is easiest for the patient. We accommodate their needs and desires. They can eat breakfast when they want it rather than on a tight schedule. They can order any meal at any time.

"The Planetree movement began in San Francisco," Givens said, "and now it's all over the world. It's a certification we have to go through. It's about being transparent with patients, allowing them to see their records and lab reports. We treat them with intelligence rather than treating them as if they are ignorant.

"It's about eating healthy and educating people on their disease. We allow people to take control of their treatment, give them information, and they make many of their own decisions, advocate for themselves. We listen to their complaints, many of which can be valid. It challenges us to be listeners and be sensitive to the patients' decisions," Givens concluded.

The Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital solar project is just one part of the hospital's ethos of patient-centric care with adherence to the needs of the community.

To learn more about the Planetree organization, visit <https://planetree.org>.

## Museum's History Makers program explores letter-writing

*Submitted by Mendocino County Museum*

Join us as we explore the Mendocino County Museum's exhibits and collections through our hands-on program: History Makers! This program is open for all, but is ideal for children ages 2 to 5.

Inspired by our festive pop-up exhibit, "Correspondence: A Gift for All Seasons," December's History Makers will explore the tradition of letter writing.


Staff will read stories and share letters and postcards from the museum's collection followed by a take-and-make greeting card activity. Participants are also invited to use our old-fashioned typewriter or try their hand at using a quill and ink.

### History Makers Program Dates December 2022

- Saturday, December 3, 11 am to 3 pm – extended hours for Roots of Motive Power Holiday Express
- Wednesday, December 7, 1 to 3 pm
- Wednesday, December 14, 1 to 3 pm
- Wednesday, December 21, 1 to 3 pm

History Makers! is an ongoing program which is held from 1 to 3 pm the first Saturday of every month and then repeats weekly on Wednesdays. Be sure to check back as themes and activities change monthly.

For more information, please visit [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum) or contact the Mendocino County Museum at [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org) or 707-459-2736.



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The rest of **History** From page 10

the Little Lake Valley habitat and wildlife. The MCRCD will also be hosting public tours of the mitigation lands out of the museum."

MCRCD has mounted a large TV monitor which streams beautiful wildlife and informational videos on the project, including dramatic drone footage of the beautiful acerage. Tule elk antlers, a variety of animal skulls, numerous bird nests, and many plant species are on public display.

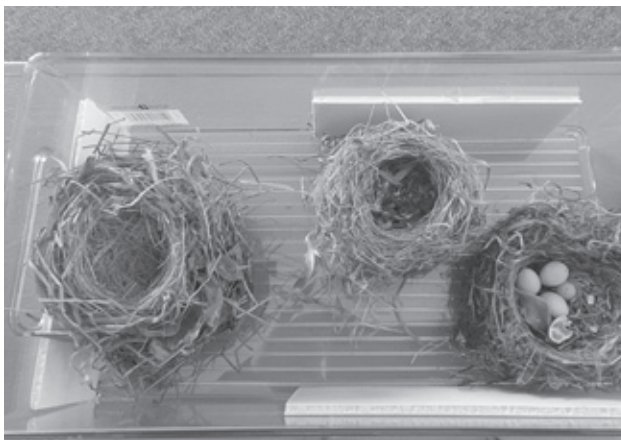
"We hope to keep an active herbarium with plants from the mitigation lands," said De Santa Anna, "along with our collection of natural-history artifacts for students and the general public to see."

De Santa Anna has had too many exciting experiences on the mitigation lands to name just one, but she certainly has many wonderful stories of her wildlife adventures. These include seeing beaver in Outlet Creek, watching a bull tule elk "bugle" with its vegetation-draped antlers held high, witnessing a bald eagle being harassed by a peregrine falcon, having six river otters approaching during a quiet lunch, and so many more.

"There is a another kind of excitement," she added, "in being part of a team doing restoration, removing invasive plants, planting oaks, harvesting and seeding endangered plants, and tracking and monitoring results."

MCRCD, which is the interim and future-term manager of the Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands, works closely with five main organizations: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, the Water Quality Control Board, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Caltrans. They also work with five local cattle ranchers as leasees, who graze specific pastures at specific times, in order to discourage non-native plant species, allowing MCRCD staff to encourage and plant native species at the appropriate time.

*Below, left: A variety of bird's nests are on display at the interpretive center. Below, right: Shedded snakeskins and beaver skulls are just some of the found natural artifacts to be seen at the new interpretive center.*



## Hacedores de Historia: Correspondencia, el Museo del Condado de Mendocino

Únase a nosotros mientras exploramos las exhibiciones y colecciones del museo a través del programa práctico: ¡Creadores de historia! Este programa está abierto para todos, pero es ideal para niños de 2 a 5 años.

Inspirándose en la exhibición emergente festiva, Correspondencia: Un regalo para todas las estaciones, los Hacedores de historia de diciembre explorarán la tradición de escribir las cartas. El personal leerá historias y compartirá cartas y tarjetas postales de la colección del museo, seguido de una actividad de tarjetas de felicitación de tomar y hacer. Los participantes también están invitados a usar la máquina de escribir antigua o tratar de usar una pluma y la tinta.

### Fechas del programa History Makers diciembre de 2022:

- sábado, 4 de diciembre, 11 am – 3 pm - Horario extendido para Roots of Motive Power Holiday Express
- miércoles, 7 de diciembre, 1 - 3pm
- miércoles, 14 de diciembre, 1 - 3 pm
- miércoles, 21 de diciembre, 1-3 pm

¡Hacedores de historia! es un programa continuo que se lleva a cabo de 1 a 3 pm en el primer sábado de cada mes y se repite semanalmente los miércoles. Asegúrese de volver a consultar ya que los temas y las actividades cambian mensualmente.

Para obtener más información, visite [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum) o comuníquese con el museo del condado de Mendocino en [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org) o al 707-459-2736.

**Last weekend in 'No Fare November'**

Mendocino Transit Authority has been offering free bus rides from November 1 to 30 on all fixed-route buses as part of their "No Fare November" promotion.

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

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

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



Below: Posing near the new plaque in the corner of the Brooktrails Playground, from left, Brooktrails board member Ed Horrick, Brooktrails board President Rick Williams, Rotarian Jolene Carrillo, Rotarian Jenny Senter, Rotarian Dickey Weinkle, Rotary Club Secretary Cathie Gernhardt, and Brooktrails Deputy Finance Officer Philip St. Pierre.



Above, right: Brooktrails board president Rick Williams cuts the ribbon to present the new plaque at the Brooktrails Playground, with Rotarians Jolene Carrillo, left, and Jenny Senter. Below, right: The new plaque noting the dedication of the Brooktrails Playground to former Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose.



Photos by  
Tamara  
Alaniz

### Brooktrails Playground dedicated in honor of Denise Rose

Submitted by Brooktrails Community Township

Members of the Brooktrails Community Township Board of Directors and the Rotary Club of Willits gathered at the Brooktrails Playground on November 17 to dedicate the playground to the former general manager of the township, Denise Rose.

Rose managed Brooktrails Township from 2013 to 2018 and developed the playground using a Rotary District Grant and Brooktrails Township general funds.

Volunteers and township staff built and assembled the playground, which is

enjoyed by many children from Willits and Brooktrails every day.

“It was Denise’s perseverance and planning that made this playground happen,” said Jenny Senter, Rose’s friend and fellow Rotary board member. “She was a wonderful woman.”

“Denise was an amazing Rotarian and great manager who is missed,” said the Brooktrails board President Rick Williams. “She contributed so much to our community.”

# SANTA & GRINCH PHOTOS

BY MAUREEN JENNISON!



SEE SANTA

Saturday 12/3 at

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10am – 4pm

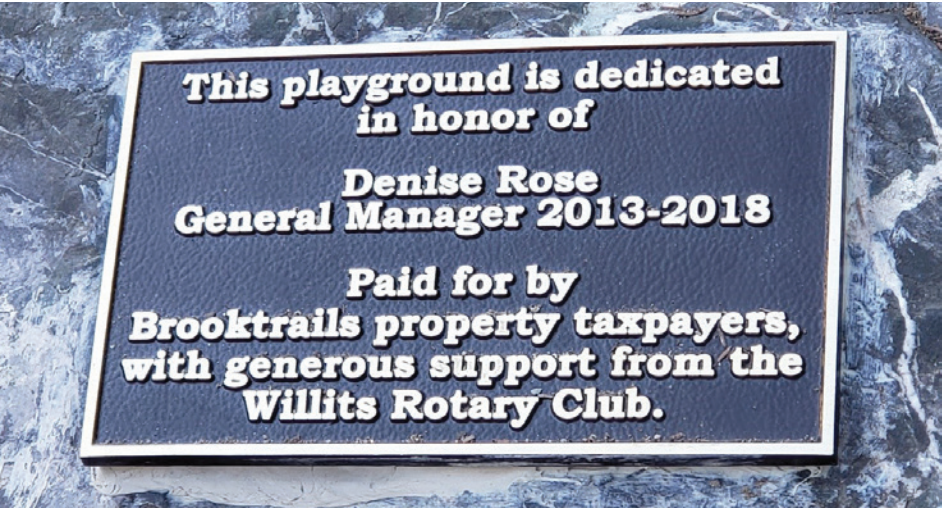
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