

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print



It's Real Estate Section Thursday!

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 434 **Thursday, January 13, 2022**

County CEO retiring early

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mendocino County Chief Executive Officer Carmel Angelo is retiring early – March 19 is her last day. Angelo “announced” her unexpectedly early departure via an interview on the MendoFever online news site, complete with photos provided by herself.

Willits Weekly called the CEO's office Monday to confirm the news in the January 8 MendoFever interview, and was told the office was working on a press release, but no

Read the rest of **Retire**
Over on Page 13

Willits woman found dead in Sonoma County field

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office has identified a deceased woman found January 7 off Highway 101 north of Cloverdale as Amber Dillon, 33, of Willits. Sheriff's Office detectives are treating the case as a suspicious death.

On Sunday, January 9, the Sheriff's Office released the below press release on the incident.

“On Friday, January 7, at about 4:11 pm, a California Highway Patrol officer was flagged down by a community member in the area of Geysers Road and Highway 101 regarding a possible deceased body.

“Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the scene and found a body in a remote

Read the rest of **Dillon**
Over on Page 13

Fatal vehicle vs. pedestrian accident on the grade

Submitted by CHP Ukiah

The California Highway Patrol has reported a fatal vehicle vs. pedestrian collision on January 10 southbound on the Highway 101 grade at around 6:40 pm.

As per the CHP press release, the pedestrian, a 53-year-old man from Santa Rosa, but reported to be living as a transient in Mendocino County, was walking southbound on Highway 101 Monday evening along the west road edge, south of State Route 20 West. The pedestrian was wearing

Read the rest of **Accident**
Over on Page 11



Shop Small Success

Willits Chamber of Commerce thanks Willits community for local support over holiday season

Whether it be shopping local, dining local, or just staying local, the Willits Chamber of Commerce wanted to express their gratitude to the members of the Willits community who did a great job doing just that this past holiday season. With the complications of COVID, the community needed support more than ever. The Chamber hopes that this trend will continue into 2022 and beyond, too, to help the merchants, restaurants, and service groups in the community.

"It was great to see so many people out and about, buying holiday gifts, having lunch, and stopping by the events that were being held during the holidays," said Willits Chamber of Commerce's Lisa Kvasnicka. "It really

helps our businesses and gives our clubs and non-profits great exposure and everyone a sense of holiday cheer to see familiar faces once again riding on the Skunk Train, checking out the Roots of Motive Power Holiday Express, smiling with Santa at the Lions Club breakfast, seeing the art at the Willits Center for the Arts, and even setting out trees for the Boy Scouts."

The Chamber is always looking for volunteers to help man the office and to help with projects. If you want to get involved, join the Willits Chamber of Commerce, or learn more, call 459-7910 or 272-2396 for more information.

– Maureen Jennison

Need to update, remove or add a phone number?
willitsphonebook@gmail.com

Deadline for ads & changes is February 10

Send an email to:
willitsphonebook@gmail.com

and get your business included this year!

Sorooptimist International of Willits prepares the 2022

Willits Community Telephone Directory

One of Willits' special gems, the Sorooptimist International of Willits' Community Telephone Directory, is once again on the minds of the service club's members who put together the publication every year.

2022 marks the 50th edition of the book, which features local residential, cell phone, and business phone numbers along with advertising, too.

These advertisements help fund the creation of the phone book, but also make available funds to donate to several women-and-girl focused projects, including scholarships, book programs, and cash awards.

The accuracy of the book relies on the community's input – if you have a change, want to be included, excluded, or make other adjustments, please let the club know before the February 10 deadline. They can't make changes after the book prints; they need to know now!

Advertising is available including a range of prices from \$100 for a business card to \$350 for a full page. Ads are out for the whole year! Deadline is February 10 – please contact them right away via email: willitsphonebook@gmail.com for info, questions and more.

– Maureen Jennison

Supes repeal pot facilities ordinance

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At their January 4 meeting last week, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors dealt with the usual slate of organizational and planning items that always come at the beginning of the year, including appointing supervisors to committees and special assignments, approving a legislative platform, adopting the master calendar for the year, and approving a new board chair and vice chair.

As pre-determined by a rotation between the

Read the rest of **Repeal**
Over on Page 13

Public Health advises against large gatherings

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

Mendocino County Public Health issued a Public Health advisory Wednesday, advising county residents to avoid large gatherings and limit personal gatherings and parties to 12 people, especially when individuals with higher risk are present.

Mendocino County is experiencing a dramatic surge of COVID-19 cases due to the introduction of the Omicron variant. Omicron is more transmissible than previous variants and more apt to evade immunity from a past COVID infection or vaccination (immune evasion). Cases in Mendocino County have more than quadrupled since December 25, 2021. Case numbers are also rising

Read the rest of **Advises**
Over on Page 11

WPD recovers most stolen Youth Football gear

Submitted by Willits Police Department

On December 29, 2021, Willits Police Department officers were dispatched to Baechtel Grove Middle School regarding the theft of a travel trailer and miscellaneous football equipment from the Willits Youth Football program. The equipment was for three different football teams.

During the course of the investigation a suspect vehicle was identified with the assistance of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. The information was

Read the rest of **Gear**
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters

from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

Some 30 years ago the original Willits Petanque Club built the original petanque courts into the northeast corner of Founders' Grove Park (across from the future skate park). This year, with able and willing assistance from Willits Public Works, the courts are back in use.

Petanque is an international bowling sport, akin to "bocce," and can be found on YouTube. Our local club survives, playing usually Tuesdays and Fridays, weather permitting. Newcomers can watch, borrow a set of "boules," and receive some coaching

Our thanks once again to Kenan O'Shea and the crew of Willits Public Works.

Tim Gregory,
Willits Petanque Club

Thank you!

To the Editor:

The Willits Center for the Arts would like to thank everyone who supported, organized and participated in the 34th Annual Holiday Craft Fair. It has been a difficult couple of years for everyone, and with the cancellation of the 2020 Fair we were not sure everything would work out to produce a fair in 2021.

We were all surprised at the wonderful reception we received, and the Holiday Craft Fair was a great success!

We had only 22 booths this year with a new spacious layout that everyone seemed to like. Artists and customers noted that the fair felt very comfortable and festive even without live entertainment, which we plan on bringing back next time.

A huge thank you must be extended to all the artists, without whom the fair would not exist. Each artist donated a piece to the prize drawing, volunteered their time to distribute posters, decorated the Community Center and cleaned-up Saturday after a long day in the booth. A big thank you goes to the Willits Charter School whose students provided the delicious food menu and wonderful goodies throughout the event.

The artists also want to thank the citizens of Willits and the surrounding areas for coming out to support and help sustain our artists and economy. All of the artists were grateful for the appreciation and kind words from everyone who attended the fair and the community's commitment to our home-grown talent. The artists all noted good to great sales and the attendees were so happy to have this wonderful holiday tradition continue.

We also want to thank the Willits Weekly staff for several great articles to promote the fair. Every year it takes a special group of dedicated people to provide our community with a high-quality, festive, fun and profitable Holiday Fair. With the support and participation of everyone we look forward to the Annual Holiday Craft Fair in December 2022.

Willits Center for the Arts
board members and Bonnie
Belt, craftsperson coordinator

Some COVID good

NEWS

To the Editor:

Is COVID weakening? We look to England to see a country like ours that is about two to three weeks ahead in the Omicron spike. **Cases are up 75% while deaths are down 18% in the same period.** Deaths tend to peak three to four weeks later than cases, so we still might see a rising death rate, but overall medical providers are pleasantly surprised that the severity is down.

Looking at various reports from around the world, it looks like the virus has mutated into a more contagious but weaker strain. Interesting is that this is exactly what happened to the influenza virus from the 1918 epidemic. And it took two years for that to happen.

Is the booster effective? Here we look to Israel where people got vaccinated earlier and then got their boosters earlier so the first data on results has come in. Comparing boosters after two weeks (three shots) to two shots of the Pfizer vaccine, **those boosted are 10 times less likely to catch the virus and 18 times less likely to get severe disease or death.** And this is true across all age ranges.

The message is clear: As the original protection wanes, a booster has a profound effect to increase protection.

As we look ahead, I forecast many more infections and soon, but the vaccinated-plus-booster group who continue to mask indoors and avoid crowds should do well. Looking closer to home at San Francisco, a city that has excelled in COVID protection, the case count has gone up 348% in 14 days while the hospitalized rate has gone up 40% so far and the death rate has not budged. The hospitalized number is still at 17% that of a year ago.

On top of this good news is the advent of the new Pfizer anti-COVID pill that will be available soon that is nearly 90% effective at treating early cases of COVID and avoiding severe disease. So there is even good news for the ultra-high-risk people with immune disorders or ages 80+.

John Glycer, MD, Willits

A fun writing class

To The Editor:

If you like to write, have stories to tell, ditties to share, poems, even a script, we have a Writing Class for Older Adults that meets at the Willits campus of Mendocino College starting Friday 10 am on January 21.

We mask and social distance and sit in a circle and share everyone's individual writing in a safe and encouraging environment. We also look at writings from our favorite published authors, and we talk about craft issues and how to improve student work.

This non-credit course is free to those who enroll, except for a minimal processing fee. A separate section for credit meets at the same time and is often taken by younger students working on degrees at the college. As a result, we have a mix of ages and backgrounds and interests on board.

Anyone interested can register at the North County Campus, 372 East Commercial Street, or online at www.mendocino.edu. For more information, contact shellman@mendocino.edu or the North County Center office at 707-459-6224.

Steve Hellman, Willits

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

January 2022 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

With the new year upon us, how are we going to come together to create healthier, safer communities, a robust economy, and a county government that is responsive to the needs of all the people who call Mendocino County home?

The county is in the final stages of completing a Strategic Plan. Instead of reacting to crises, this process addresses these questions in a proactive way. As you can imagine, there are many opinions. We are taking input and discerning the key issues. The final community input session was Thursday, January 6. The Mendocino County Strategic Plan sessions are available to watch at www.youtube.com/c/MendocinoCountyVideo/videos.

I voted no on the combining of the Auditor/Controller's office and the Treasurer/Tax Collector's office. Unfortunately I was the lone vote. The people who run those offices were vehemently opposed to such a combination. There were valid reasons not to combine the positions as expressed by the Auditor and Treasurer. However, the combination plan passed, and I hope it succeeds for the County's sake. The result will be one elected position running those four positions.

PG&E has received a lot of criticism over their actions over the last few years. A lot of this was warranted. Yet when the power went out throughout the County over the Holidays, I worked with the Sheriff and Office of Emergency Services to put pressure on PG&E to power up the substation in Covelo since almost 1,400 were without power with snow on the ground. PG&E came through and brought in generators to power the substation while they tried to fix the transmission lines that were down. This got power back to residents three days before the expected return of power. I am grateful for the work they did in resolving a potentially serious situation.

Our volunteer fire departments do incredible jobs each and every day. We have a huge debt of gratitude to all who respond to life threatening situations in the middle of snowy nights or blazing hot days. Chief Sue Carberry just retired from the Long Valley Fire Department. Chief Chris Wilkes retired a couple of months ago from the Little Lake Fire Department. I would like to thank both of them for exemplary work and dedication to our communities and for being such fine people.

There will be a Town Hall meeting on Feb. 3 at 6:30 pm. Much appreciate to WELL for sponsoring these town hall events. These are forums to share your concerns, questions, and thoughts on important issues of our community. I hope that we can have these important events in person in the near future.

Best of New Years to you.
You can always contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.

Senior Center indoor dining to reopen January 17

Willits Senior Center's indoor dining room is set to reopen on Monday, January 17. The Senior Center will continue serving drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$5 through March 31, 2022

Thursday, January 13: Italian Chicken: tomato, peppers, onions over rice, Veggie, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, January 14: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Monday, January 17: Open-faced Turkey Sandwich, Potato with Gravy, Cranberry Sauce

Tuesday, January 18: Lasagna with Meat Sauce, Veggie, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, January 19: Chicken Tacos, Rice, Beans

Thursday, January 20: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Roll, Green Salad

Friday, January 21: Beef & Amish Noodles, Veggie, Roll

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.

METALfx Celebrates

Willits manufacturer throws holiday party for its 200+ employees and looks forward to another record-breaking year

"Today's accomplishments become tomorrow's expectations," said METALfx President Henry Moss, quoting noted college-football coach Lou Sabin.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

Moss' talk, the more than 200 employees gathered at the Willits Community Center for the holiday party, was full of congratulations, hope, and high expectations for the coming year. Behind the collection of new and long-time employees, many dressed in their colorful Christmas finery, was a feeling of accomplishment and a look to the future that was cautiously optimistic.

"We are doing amazingly well," explained BJ Gutierrez, head of human resources at the company. "We are hitting nine or 10 months straight of record-breaking months, whether it be a record-breaking sales month, a record-breaking shipping month. We have just been having month after month of fantastic record breakers. We are currently at 209 employees. We probably need to be at 220 to 225. At this exact time last year, we were at 136 employees. That's a significant growth."

The growth is not without some hiccups. "Even with that growth we are still behind at getting parts out to customers," Gutierrez continued. "We are still having to give customers a longer lead time for their parts than what they would like. So, there is still room for improvement. The projections are if we were to take no more work in from now until the end of January, middle of February, and only concentrated, with the staff that we have, on the work that we currently have, we would be caught up. It's pretty amazing how much just one employee would help us to catch up even sooner. Every so many employees would get us a couple weeks ahead."

Even one additional employee makes a huge difference in the company's ability to service its growing list of customers, who rely on METALfx to supply them with materials and parts. "We have filled many, many entry-level production-worker positions over the past two or three months. More of our focus now is shifting to skilled-labor positions, so somebody who has experience in machining or experience in operating a CNC [computer numerically controlled] machine, welding. Definitely we are shifting the focus towards those skilled positions," said Gutierrez.

One of the growth areas which Moss is considering is in machining. "One of our big initiatives for growth is machining, which we don't do a lot of at this time," said Moss. "With sheet metal, you're starting with a flat piece of metal, cutting it to shape and then forming into a shape. Machining starts with a block

of metal and then chip away to get the part you want. Sheet metal is less expensive and machining is a higher cost. We're working on an acquisition to obtain a higher capability to be able to do machining. We see this as a huge area for growth. We'll need even more people if that happens."

According to Moss, the company has some past hits to their reputation to overcome. "Who we were is not who we are. I've learned from being here that there are plenty of people in this town who still see METALfx as AM&D [the original name] was in the past, but that is not who we are today. We are not even close to being the company that they think they know. The company has a checkered past. A lot of people lost their jobs in a big layoff years ago. There was a time this company had 400 employees in multiple locations.

"A lot of people in this town lost jobs and I think they still hold grudges because of that," said Moss. "We treat our employees with respect. We take care of our employees. We have great benefits. We're doing our best to grow in the town of Willits, but because it's a small town, there are challenges: finding good-quality people to come to work."

When Moss and his group of investors took over METALfx a couple of years ago, they wanted to create an opportunity for growth and a company that would benefit the employees as much as the investors. "This is a solid company with great growth potential. In my experience, I saw a quality product. It was a hidden gem that I thought could really grow. We're closing in on doubling the size of the company."

Their loyalty to their employees was evident at the holiday party. Honors, plaques, recognition, and other prizes were given to those workers who had been at the company for many years, those who had managed to amass a great amount of hours without an injury, and other employee-centric honors. All were treated to some perfectly cooked tri tip, with side dishes and desserts from Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli, tons of brightly wrapped presents, money bonuses, and a gift basket.

Moss spoke about the future and some of the changes to employee benefits, most of which were well received by the attendees.

In speaking with many employees, it is evident that METALfx is a good place to work and to grow. For inquiries about employment or for any other questions, contact METALfx, 200 North Lenore Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, hello@metalfx.com, www.metalfx.com, 459-9451.



Above, left: The tri tip dinner was provided with sides prepared by Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli. Above, right: Jacqueline Chikoyak is an enthusiastic early arrival. Below: Most of METALfx's over-200 employees showed up for the party in the Willits Community Center.



Above, left: President Henry Moss regales the employees with some encouraging statistics on the improvements in shipping and manufacturing. Above, right: Human Resources Director BJ Gutierrez, right, and her daughter both work at the company.

At left: Awards are given out to those who had the most hours with no accidents.

Below, left: Safety-award winners are very enthusiastic when called up to receive their gifts. Below, right: One of the safety-award winners smiles with his plaque and pullover.

Photos by Mathew Caine



The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Do you want to submit a letter to the editor?

It's easy.

We print letters from residents of the 3rd District, just email us yours: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits Weekly

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willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

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

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

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

Forrest Glycer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com

Joanne Moore, reporter / features writer / joanne@willitsweekly.com

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

B.B. Kamoroff, reporter / bb@willitsweekly.com

Ree Slocum, features writer / ree@willitsweekly.com

Danya Davis, features writer / police log / danya@willitsweekly.com

April Tweedell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com

Jackie Cobbs, features editor

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EST. 2013

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Movie Times for Jan. 14 thru Jan. 20 Masks Required Tightwad Tuesday Titles for Jan. 18th are in Red. All tickets for all ages \$6!

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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HOW TO SUDOKU

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

LOCAL NEWS WORD SEARCH

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AUDIENCE	CLIP ART	DISTRIBUTION	NEWSPAPER
BEAT	COLUMN	EDITION	OBITUARIES
BROADSHEET	COLUMNIST	EDITOR	OPINION
BULLETIN	COMMUNITY	HEADLINE	POLICE BLOTTER
BYLINE	CUTLINE	LOCAL	SPOTLIGHT
CIRCULATION	DECK	NEIGHBORHOOD	TABLOID

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49									51	52	53	54	55
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59											61		
62											63		

CLUES ACROSS

- Requests
- Calendar month
- Invests in little enterprises
- Bird sound
- S. American plant cultivated for tubers
- Car
- Bullfighter
- Hill (Celtic)
- Strong criticism
- Detector
- When you hope to get there
- Having the skill to do something
- Legendary MLB broadcaster
- Vulcanite
- C. Asian mountain range
- In a way, healed
- Midway between east and southeast
- Small appendages of insects
- Greene, 'Bonanza' actor
- A place to bathe
- Postal worker accessory
- Classical music

- A way of wrecking
- Terminator
- You eat three a day
- Pointed end of a pen
- NATO official (abbr.)
- Genus of clams
- Boxing's 'G.O.A.T.'
- A colorless, odorless gas used as fuel
- Covered thinly with gold paint
- Bachelor of Laws
- Red fluorescent dye
- Engineering group
- Female sibling
- Adjacent

CLUES DOWN

- What a thespian does
- Footwear
- Adjust spacing between
- Witnesses
- Who shows excessive fondness
- Distinct form of a plant
- National capital
- Hunting expedition
- Related to medulla oblongata
- European country

- Cola
- Excluded from use or mention
- Speak
- Bloodshot
- Make better
- Keyboard key
- Type of degree
- Paddle
- Peacock network
- Not young
- Baseball stat
- One's grandmother
- Breakfast food
- Bathroom features
- Disease-causing bacterium
- NY ballplayer
- Got up
- Prophet
- Part of the mouth
- Unnatural
- Acronym for brain science study
- Three are famous
- Languages spoken in Patagonia
- Freedom from difficulty
- Widely used OS
- Many people pay it

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

December 5 to January 1

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **277 incidents** in this 28-day reporting period.

December 5

2:48 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of South Main Street.

10:55 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 600 block of South Main Street.

December 6

9:22 am: **CHAVAN, Desiree Lynn** (37) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Creekside Court. She was arrested pursuant to 11550 PC (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance) and 451 PC (Arson).



Desiree Lynn Chavan of Willits.

7:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

7:45 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Alameda Avenue.

December 7

7:33 pm: **BECKER, Ethan Gabriel** (37) of Laytonville was contacted in the 300 block of North Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 22210 PC (Possession of a Loaded Cane or Similar Weapon), 11350 H&S (Possession of a Controlled Substance), 11364 H&S (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

December 8

1:40 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of School Street.

4:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Laurel Street.

9:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of School Street and Commercial Street.

December 9

No incidents to report

December 10

4:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

December 11

9:50 am: **GOFORTH, William Roylee** (53) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Pine Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended license, violation of probation, and failure to appear.

9:32 pm: **IVY, Barbara Jenean** (58) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of Pine Street. She was arrested pursuant to 23152 (A) VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol) and 23151 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher).

December 12

7:28 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of School Street.

December 13

11:00 pm: **KESTER, William Euclid** (54) of Willits was contacted in the 600 block of Coast Street. He was arrested on felony charges of resisting or threatening an officer, and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, possessing a loaded cane or similar weapon, and resisting or obstructing an officer.

December 14

4:31 pm: **DUARTE, Denise Kylee** (19) of Ukiah was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

5:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 15

10:59 am: Officers responded to a report

of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:50 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of South Street.

December 16

1:17 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

1:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Walnut Street and Locust Street.

6:17 pm: **MAPLES, Tony Wilson** (46) of Redwood Valley was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (A) VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol), 11364 H&S (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

December 17

No incidents to report

December 18

No incidents to report

December 19

No incidents to report

December 20

1:02 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Madrone Street.

10:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

December 21

11:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Poplar Avenue and Holly Street.

December 22

4:34 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

December 23

7:04 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1600 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:21 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:52 pm: **MARTINEZ, Jorge Javier** (26) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 484 PC (Petty Theft), 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol) and violation of probation.

4:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued a warning.

5:54 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

6:56 pm: **MCELROY, Tony Vincent** (33) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol) and violation of probation.

10:43 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

11:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

December 24

2:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of West Commercial Street and issued a warning.

December 25

11:59 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of Camp Lane.

December 26

No incidents to report

December 27

4:42 am: Officers responded to a report

Read the rest of **WPD** *Over on Page 11*

Sherwood Firewise to meet January 13

Submitted by Sherwood Firewise Communities

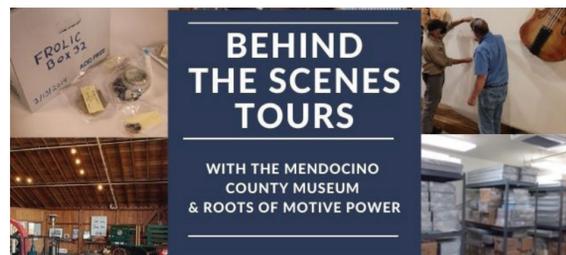
Please join the Sherwood Firewise Communities online quarterly meeting on Thursday, January 13, at 6 pm, if you live along the Sherwood corridor.

The agenda includes Supervisor John Haschak and a CSA3 Benefit Zone Update. There will also be a special presentation on the Home Hardening Inspection Program funded by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County.

Guest speaker will be Thomas Clegg, of Labyrinth Fire Resistant Solutions.

To join the online Zoom meeting, visit: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85625036304> Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304; password: 918795 Join by Phone only: 669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304; password: 918795

Visit <https://www.sherwoodfirewise.org/> to learn more about Sherwood Firewise Communities.



Mendocino County Museum, Roots of Motive Power to offer behind-the-scenes tours

Submitted by Mendocino County Cultural Services

Did you know that most of the Mendocino County Museum collections are in storage? Our vast collections contain artifacts that tell unique stories about historic events, such as the Frolic shipwreck and the 1906 earthquake. A plethora of early logging tools, historic furniture, and wagons are waiting to be shared and ... wait ... is that? An X-ray machine or a time-teleportation device?

If you have ever been curious to see more of the intriguing and sometimes unusual collections in our care or to learn how we manage and store objects, join us for a behind-the-scenes tour!

The Mendocino County Museum will partner with Roots of Motive Power, who will open the Engine House and provide a closer look at permanent collections and special loans from the community. Explore the cab of a 1916 Steam Locomotive made by Heisler Locomotive Works! Find out more about the Blue Stone Mining and Smelting #1, and the Northwestern Pacific Railroad #13. The 1909 Standard Steel Car Company Caboose will be open for viewing. Don't miss this chance for a personalized tour from Roots members.

These tours are free with museum admission – \$4 adults; \$1 for ages 7 to 18; free for under 6; and \$7 family/household. Space is limited, so be sure to book early, as you will not want to miss this opportunity to explore! The museum is located at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits.

Saturday, January 29: Tours available at 1 pm, 2 pm, or 3 pm; registration opens January 10.

Saturday, February 26: Tours available at 1 pm, 2 pm, or 3 pm; registration opens February 7.

Saturday, March 26: Tours available at 1 pm, 2 pm, or 3 pm; registration opens March 7.

To reserve a tour space, please call 707-459-2736 or email museum@mendocinocounty.org

Please note: The museum is practicing social distancing, and facial coverings are required for museum visitors and program participants. This program is recommended for adults and children aged 8 and over.

For more information, please visit www.mendocinocounty.org/museum or contact the Mendocino County Museum at 707-459-2736 or museum@mendocinocounty.org.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES



Dan Essman
Columnist

'Sing 2'

The Story: This flick is a feature-length cartoon chock full of mostly familiar pop songs. As some of y'all might have guessed, it's a sequel to "Sing." A buncha dear animals whom we've met before, such as an elephant and a porcupine and a koala and a mother pig diva, all want to croon their hearts out on the Big Stage in the Big Town. But the Big Town is tough, dangerous.

The animals are hungry for fame, yet sensitive and fearful of risk. It's a universal fear, we all know it: The Fear of Failure. But this is a story from Hollywood where sentimentality and schmaltz and pizzazz are triumphant, and against all the odds (spoiler alert!), the dear animals put on a gigantically successful show biz extravaganza!

My Thoughts: Our world, it's a great big farm filled with 8 billion of us animals. Against those billions, how do we individuals get to feel like we're important? Maybe, some of us wonder, do I even exist? The answer lies in the darn near universal hunger for recognition. It's why we want fame.

It's the desire to be a big important animal – as an individual. To be the plow horse, to be the cock of the walk, to be the Big Betsy butterfat queen of the milking shed. So now we have "Sing 2," a noisy, melodic, color-filled fable about animals wanting to be seen as important enough To Be Seen At All. I enjoyed the flick. And really, it's a universal story.

Parents: It's a fine movie for the children. Age 6 and up. I went to the show, and I heard the kidlings laughing and squeaking at appropriate moments. The flick is about taking risks, knowing one's worth, and learning to love the struggle to succeed.

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



Sober Grad raffle basket winner Kara Garman smiles with her basket, full of prizes and treats.

Sober Grad announces raffle winner

Willits Sober Grad is pleased to announce the winner of our latest raffle basket! Congratulations Kara Garman, and thank you for

Below: Stylists Jessica and Paige work on two of the early clients. At bottom: Kyle Vandagriff of the Good Ol' Barbershop, works on his landlord, Matt Schlegel. At right: Adriana, Winter and Kyle attend to their clients. At far right: Winter Schlegel, spa owner, takes a photo with her good friend, Kyle Vandagriff of the Good Ol' Barbershop.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: Some of the Serenity crew: Adriana, Jessica, Ashlynn, Robin, Megan, Winter, Kyle, Paige, Sarah.

Below, left: Kaitlyn Manning enjoys getting her hair worked on by salon owner Winter Schlegel. Below, right: The Good Ol' Barbershop is full of old movie and music posters.

At bottom, left: Kyle Vandagriff concentrates on his craft as he cuts the hair of a client. At bottom, right: Ashlynn Dudley, marketing manager, and Sarah Stockley, salon manager, greet clients at the front desk.

New Year, New Location

Serenity Salon & Spa offers services that aim to beautify the body head to toe, while Good Ol' Barbershop focuses on hair and beards

The family is moving in. There's a new look, new owner, new cast of characters at the shopping strip on North Main Street, between Commercial and State streets. Two months ago, Matt Schlegel purchased the property and since then, its face and tenants have been changing. New to the facility is the Serenity Salon & Spa and the Good Ol' Barbershop, both owned by family and extended family of Schlegel.

Serenity Salon & Spa, under the ownership and direction of Winter Schlegel, is an expansion of her salon, which was originally situated in a different location on Main Street.

"We opened on January 3, with a grand opening party on New Year's Eve," explained Marketing Manager Ashlynn Dudley. "January 3 is a very meaningful day to the owner, Winter. It's the day her uncle passed away. Her other location of the salon had opened on the same date a couple years ago. It was Serenity Salon, but now we're a spa as well."

Everything about the new location, where the Willits Outlet store used to be, is designed to relax the mind, spirit and soul. Schlegel's dedication to her belief in Christianity and the aura of love pervades the creative environment. There are displays of positivity

in her signage and the manner in which customers are treated to the deft talents of the stylists, estheticians, and other artists.

Serenity Spa & Salon provides a "vast amount of services," according to Dudley. "To name a few, we have piercings, hair, waxing, facials, body contouring and sculpting, going to have tanning (currently finishing the room with a tanning bed) and sauna, lashes, manicures, pedicures, massage therapy, permanent makeup (microblading)."

"Personally, I've done hair for over 10 years," explained Schlegel. "I specialize as a colorist. My first salon was on the parking lot between Moon Lady and Buster's. After two years we outgrew the space because all the chairs were full and we weren't able to service all the customers who wanted us. I wanted to expand and offer a wider array of services."

"My goal is definitely the satisfaction of the customers. My number-one goal and the number-one rule is customer service, making sure that people feel and look amazing when they come in and especially when they leave. Also, I am a Christian and that is kind of my theme here. I feel it is important to me. We have a few little pieces to denote that. I want this to be a place where we are good to the clients and make it a place for all of us to grow too."

"I feel like we did really well in my last salon," she said, "and I'm excited to see what we can build here. I make sure that we have an experienced staff, good quality as humans as well as their special fields. I feel that's more important than putting out some jinky little symbols."

"We have 23 stylists, estheticians, colorists, etc.," Schlegel continued, "and we're not looking for any more at this point. There are still a few that have not started here yet. They're transitioning over, but starting next month we will be at full capacity of workers."

Below: Almost all of the stylists and estheticians of the Serenity Salon & Spa pose for a photo.



Photo courtesy of Serenity Salon and Spa

Sarah Stockley, manager of the facility, commented: "I absolutely love this place. I love Serenity. This place is so full of love. I get to be a part of the beautification of the human body. This is a nice place to come and work every day. It's full of joy. I get to see the clients when they come in and then when they leave - and the art. The stylists are very good at their art. For me to see it firsthand blows me away, the talent of the girls who Winter has here."

At the other end of the shopping strip is the Good Ol' Barbershop, a single-chair facility, staffed and owned by Kyle Vandagriff, who moved from his old location at the south end of Willits, where he was not getting enough foot traffic. He specializes in traditional hairstyles but can provide more flamboyant styles if requested. It is also a place to get one's beard trimmed expertly. The shop is filled with mostly '80s memorabilia: movie and music posters, lunch boxes, and World Wrestling Federation action figures. There is even an old-time "Good Ol' Candy" dispenser for those who would like some jelly beans with their haircut.

Schlegel and Vandagriff have been close friends since they attended beauty school in Ukiah together and are enjoying the chance to work in such proximity to each other. They feel that their businesses complement one another and look forward to a long and close working relationship.

Serenity Salon and Spa, located at 55 North Main Street, can be reached at 707-972-3044. Check them out on Instagram @serenitysalonca, or www.serenitysalonspa.org (currently being updated to be able to make appointments).

Good Ol' Barbershop, located at 85 North Main Street, can be reached at 707-962-7907. More info available on its Facebook page.

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OBITUARY |

Monique Samuels

Born in Paris in 1928 to her American father and French mother, Monique spent her early years in France, then emigrated to the United States with her family at the age of 6, eventually settling in San Francisco, her father's birthplace.

She did a little modeling in her early 20s, and then became an instructor at the House of Charm School where she had studied. She married Ken Samuels in 1951, a police officer in San Francisco. Even after moving to Redwood Valley in the 1970s, she continued to organize and run fashion shows for department stores in San Francisco.

They moved to Willits in 1987, and after Ken's, death Monique became a well-loved, witty cashier at Mendo Mill, where she worked for over 20 years. Her participation in the choir of Saint Anthony of Padua's Catholic Church was a dedicated commitment, which she kept into her 90s.

She is survived by her sister, Jackie Marr, and by her nieces Annette Jarvie Odegaard, Elizabeth Jarvie, Desiree Adair, and Renee Marr, and many great-nieces and great-nephews who loved her.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



OBITUARY |

Jean Robertson

Jean Robertson of Santa Rosa passed away at the age of 91. She was born July 13, 1930 to Ronydy Mayer and Norma Runnels Mayer in Makanda, Illinois. Jean was married to Waldo Robertson August 6, 1947 in Ukiah, California.

A resident of Willits for many years, Jean worked as a waitress and volunteered at the Willits Food Bank. She loved to garden, to read and enjoyed playing Scrabble.

Jean was predeceased by her husband Waldo Robertson and son Steven Robertson. She is survived by her daughters Norma Robertson in Santa Rosa, California and Wanda Evens in Woodland, California



There will be no services at this time. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

La Siciliana Restaurant

Extends a warm **THANK YOU** to the **WILLITS COMMUNITY** for supporting us through these changing times of COVID-19

We look forward to serving you in this New Year

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HARRISH SENIOR CENTER
SERVICING THE COMMUNITY

Barney St Martin
June 22, 1924 - December 26, 2021

Bernard ("Barney") St Martin, age 97 (born June 22, 1924), of Willits, California, passed away on Sunday, December 26, 2021, of natural causes.

Barney was born on a 250-acre dairy farm in Donnelly, Minnesota, son of Erenie and Gertrude St Martin. He was the last born of ten children, one sibling had died at birth. His mother passed away when he was eighteen months old. Barney and two sisters went to live with an aunt, who actually was a new widow and had only been married for 5 days. Three other siblings went to live with a grandmother and the three oldest stayed with the father to help with the farm.

At age nineteen, Barney came to California to work at the Kaiser Shipyards in the War effort. In a show of patriotism, he soon volunteered for the Merchant Marines. Following the War, he returned to Minnesota where he met his life's mate, Dolores ("Dee") Simota. They married on October 22, 1946. After the wedding, he brought her back to California. He worked as a carpenter in El Sobrante and as a cabinetmaker in Point Arena for a short period. In 1947 he secured a position as millwright at Gualala sawmill. In 1952 he relocated to Guerneville at the Cazadero mill. In 1956 he moved to Fort Bragg where he worked as millwright for Kelly and A. J. Gray. In 1959 he learned that a bowling alley was being built in Willits. He accepted a position as house mechanic at the new Miracle Bowl. In 1961, Barney accepted his last professional position as production supervisor at Remco Hydraulics; retiring in July of 1989. His wife of forty-three years, "Dee", Passed away in February 1989, just months before Barney retired. Once retired, he kept busy with volunteer services with the Willits Lions Club and the American Legion (AL). Barney was well known for his cooking of the fork-tender corned beef for the annual AL St Patrick's Day dinner. Barney enjoyed raising The Flag for the AL at the annual Fourth-of-July rodeos. Barney volunteered to drive Senior Citizens to doctor appointments in Lakeport, Ukiah, and even to the Bay Area.

Barney and Dee raised three children: Dwayne St Martin (Pam) of Willits, Stephanie Tufts (Tom) of Myrtle Point, Oregon and Mark St Martin, deceased (Vicki of Willits). Grandchildren Erin (Tufts) Wilson (Brian), Kelly (Tufts) James (Paul), Jeremy Huey (Janell) and Josh Huey. Great Grandchildren: Lynden and Henley Wilson, Jack and Max James, Donovan Huey, Telisa Tolbert, Kristin (Huey) Doremus (Eli) and, also, Great-Great Grandchildren Piercen and Caleb.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations to go to American Legion Post 174, P. O. Box 836, Willits, CA 95490; Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits, CA 95490 or St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 61 W. San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490

A celebration of Barney's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

Curious Phoenix

Phoenix is sweet and loves to play with toys. This 3-year-old kitty is curious about her surroundings and likes to explore. Although she is very happy and loving with adults, she would do best in a home with no young children.

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



Phoenix

Playful Pono

Pono is a very energetic, athletic and playful cattle dog / shepherd-mix dog who loves to chase a ball! This 5-year-old is tremendously smart and very quick to learn, excellent on a leash, fantastic with other dogs, and friendly when out in neutral places. He should not live with other dogs. He has some significant trust issues, so he is very protective of his house, people and property when it comes to anyone not in his inner circle. The ideal household would be with active, dog-focused adults who have large-dog experience. He is sweet and affectionate, with a lot of love to give. Pono is kid-friendly out and about but cannot be a family dog with kids in the home, due to his over-protective tendencies.



Pono

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

Sweet Stormy

"When Stormy's people find her and she moves onto the next phase in her life, someone's gonna miss her," is what this sweet girl's foster home had to say! Stormy's foster home doesn't have many negative things to say about her. She is crate-trained, potty-trained, and dog-social! She is a little high energy and would probably like a big yard (she loves to run) but she's full of lovin'! Stormy is just under 2 years old and is one of the happiest girls around. She will greet you with a wiggle butt and kisses to match. Apply today at www.mendohumanesociety.com.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Great news! We are opened back up, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday 1 pm to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday 11 am to 3 pm. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



Stormy

LEGAL NOTICES

WW368

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Unmet Transit Needs

Monday, February 7, 2022, the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) will meet at 1:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, by remote teleconference pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, and consider the following item.

MCOG will consider needs for public transportation services that would benefit a significant number of people and are not currently provided. This hearing applies to transportation service needs for fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. In addition to new public testimony, MCOG will hear needs reported to Mendocino Transit Authority during the past year, and findings of MCOG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council. Issues may include but are not limited to: 1) transit services for the elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income or economically disadvantaged persons; 2) adequacy of both private and public transportation services; and 3) service improvements needed to meet expected travel demand.

All interested persons may present testimony at this hearing. For more information on how to participate in the teleconference call or to submit written testimony in advance, contact the MCOG office at 707-463-1859 or visit www.mendocinocog.org/meetings.

Janet M. Orth
MCOG Deputy Director & CFO

Publication Date: January 13, 2022

LEGAL NOTICES

WW371

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

1. Notice is hereby given that the Governing Board of the Willits Unified School District ("District"), of the County of Mendocino, State of California, will receive sealed bids for the WILLITS UNIFIED WINDOWS REPLACEMENT - BAECHEL GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT ("Project") up to, but not later than, **4:00 pm, on February 25, 2022** and will thereafter publicly open and read aloud the bids. All bids shall be received at the Willits Unified School District Office, 1277 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490.

2. Each bid shall be completed on the Bid Proposal Form included in the Contract Documents, and must conform and be fully responsive to this invitation, the plans and specifications and all other Contract Documents. Copies of the Contract Documents are available for examination at the office of the Architect, Alameda Architecture, 555 S. Main Street, Suite 2, Sebastopol CA, County of Sonoma, California, and may be obtained by licensed contractors upon payment of a nonrefundable deposit of one hundred and seventy five (\$175) per set.

3. Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, a cashier's or certified check, or a bidder's bond executed by a surety licensed to do business in the State of California as a surety, made payable to the District, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the maximum amount of the bid. The check or bid bond shall be given as a guarantee that the bidder to whom the contract is awarded will execute the Contract Documents and will provide the required payment and performance bonds and insurance certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the award of the contract.

4. The successful bidder shall comply with the provisions of the Labor Code pertaining to payment of the generally prevailing rate of wages and apprenticeships or other training programs. The Department of Industrial Relations has made available the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which the work is to be performed for each craft, classification or type of worker needed to execute the contract, including employer payments for health and welfare, pension, vacation, apprenticeship and similar purposes. Copies of these prevailing rates are available to any interested party upon request and are online at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR>. The Contractor and all subcontractors shall pay not less than the specified rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract. It is the Contractor's responsibility to determine any rate change.

5. The schedule of per diem wages is based upon a working day of eight hours. The rate for holiday and overtime work shall be at least time and one half.

6. The substitution of appropriate securities in lieu of retention amounts from progress payments in accordance with Public Contract Code §22300 is permitted.

7. Pursuant to Public Contract Code §4104, each bid shall include the name and location of the place of business of each subcontractor who shall perform work or service or fabricate or install work for the contractor in excess of one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) of the bid price. The bid shall describe the type of the work to be performed by each listed subcontractor.

8. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening for bids except as provided by Public Contract Code §55100 et seq. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding.

9. Minority, women, and disabled veteran contractors are encouraged to submit bids. This bid is / is not subject to Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise requirements.

10. The project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the California Department of Industrial Relations. In accordance with SB 854, all bidders, contractors and subcontractors working at the site shall be duly registered with the Department of Industrial Relations at time of bid opening and at all relevant times. Proof of registration shall be provided as to all such contractors prior to the commencement of any work.

11. Each bidder shall possess at the time the bid is awarded the following classification(s) of California State Contractor's license: **B- General Contractor**.

12. Not used.

13. Bidders' Conference. Prospective bidders are invited and strongly encouraged to attend a bidders' conference that will be held at Baechtel Grove Middle School, 1150 Magnolia Avenue, Willits, CA on February 1, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. for the purpose of acquainting all prospective bidders with the Contract Documents and the Project site. Following the bidders' conference a tour will be held. Bidders must examine and judge for themselves the location, surroundings, physical condition and nature of any work to be done. Submission of a bid shall be construed as conclusive evidence that the bidder has made such an examination.

WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Signed by: Terry McEntee, Director of Maintenance
Operations and Transportation
Dated: January 2022
Publication Dates: January 13, January 20, 2022

LEGAL NOTICES

WW369

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

1. Notice is hereby given that the Governing Board of the Willits Unified School District ("District"), of the County of Mendocino, State of California, will receive sealed bids for the WILLITS UNIFIED WINDOWS REPLACEMENT - BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT ("Project") up to, but not later than, **3:30 pm, on February 25, 2022** and will thereafter publicly open and read aloud the bids. All bids shall be received at the Willits Unified School District Office, 1277 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490.

2. Each bid shall be completed on the Bid Proposal Form included in the Contract Documents, and must conform and be fully responsive to this invitation, the plans and specifications and all other Contract Documents. Copies of the Contract Documents are available for examination at the office of the Architect, Alameda Architecture, 555 S. Main Street, Suite 2, Sebastopol CA, County of Sonoma, California, and may be obtained by licensed contractors upon payment of a nonrefundable deposit of one hundred and seventy five (\$175) per set.

3. Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, a cashier's or certified check, or a bidder's bond executed by a surety licensed to do business in the State of California as a surety, made payable to the District, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the maximum amount of the bid. The check or bid bond shall be given as a guarantee that the bidder to whom the contract is awarded will execute the Contract Documents and will provide the required payment and performance bonds and insurance certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the award of the contract.

4. The successful bidder shall comply with the provisions of the Labor Code pertaining to payment of the generally prevailing rate of wages and apprenticeships or other training programs. The Department of Industrial Relations has made available the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which the work is to be performed for each craft, classification or type of worker needed to execute the contract, including employer payments for health and welfare, pension, vacation, apprenticeship and similar purposes. Copies of these prevailing rates are available to any interested party upon request and are online at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR>. The Contractor and all subcontractors shall pay not less than the specified rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract. It is the Contractor's responsibility to determine any rate change.

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12. Not used.

13. Bidders' Conference. Prospective bidders are invited and strongly encouraged to attend a bidders' conference that will be held at Brookside Elementary School, 20 Spruce St. Willits, CA on February 1, 2022 at 2:45 p.m. for the purpose of acquainting all prospective bidders with the Contract Documents and the Project site. Following the bidders' conference a tour will be held. Bidders must examine and judge for themselves the location, surroundings, physical condition and nature of any work to be done. Submission of a bid shall be construed as conclusive evidence that the bidder has made such an examination.

WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Signed by: Terry McEntee, Director of Maintenance
Operations and Transportation
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WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Signed by: Terry McEntee, Director of Maintenance
Operations and Transportation
Dated: January 2022
Publication Dates: January 13, January 20, 2022

CLASSIFIEDS

Computer Help

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

Freezer Empty? We can help!

Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual package orders) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.

Handy People Services

Remedial property cleanup. House Cleaning & Repairs. Trash Removal, Recycling, Dump Runs, Deliveries & Hot Shot. 972-4070

Help Wanted

Thrift Store Merchandise Processor/Stocker. \$14.50 Hour Full Time (40 hours weekly). Send resume, including 3 references to willseniorcenter.com or pick up application at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd. or call Richard Baker at 459-6826 for more information. Must be able to lift furniture and have valid CA driver's license.

Help Wanted

North Coast Opportunities Early Head Start Child Development Program Recruiting for Willits: Associate Teacher (Floater) I-II, EHS Classroom: \$14.58 - \$16.65/hr DOE. Bilingual preferred. Eligible for bilingual pay differential. For full job description details & required application form www.ncoinc.org/about-us/jobs or 707-467-3200. Open until filled. EOE

Help Wanted

Wellness Center in Willits seeks individuals committed to working with vulnerable populations. Human service care managers and mental health rehab specialists receive supervision and training. sydney@manzanitaservices.org or call 707-391-9688.

Help Wanted

Seeking people to change lives, find solutions to housing/homeless issues for community members. If interested in working in Outreach or Housing Navigation in Willits, contact sydney@manzanitaservices.org or call 707-391-9688.

Help Wanted

Medical Scribe Needed. Full-time, onsite in Willits, self-motivated, organized, and professional medical scribe with experience in orthopedics, Spanish speaking. Starting at \$18/hour. Please send resume/questions to Daisy at MaesTopNotchNotes@gmail.com.

Help Wanted

Wellness Center-Willits seeks individuals wanting to make difference in lives of others and build careers in human services. Care Managers, Street Outreach, Housing and Rehab Specialists. sydney@manzanitaservices.org or call 707-391-9688.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

Want to support Willits Weekly?

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SEPT 3 - FEB 13

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Supes commit to Evergreen 100% renewable electricity

By **Suzanne Pletcher, for Sonoma Clean Power**

In lockstep with its August resolution to invest \$2 million to help shrink Mendocino County's carbon footprint, the board of supervisors voted unanimously on December 7 to adopt a second resolution that will put that investment to work.

Among other actions, the December 7 resolution commits the county to pay a premium for Evergreen electricity produced by 100% renewable energy from the county's default, non-profit utility, Sonoma Clean Power.

The Evergreen electricity is generated from local geothermal and solar resources, with some battery backup to ensure that people who charge their electric cars at night will use renewable energy 24/7.

"We've cut our carbon emissions in half just by switching from PG&E to SCP four years ago, and since then they've cleaned up their fueling sources even more," said Supervisor Dan Gjerde. "Tuesday's vote helped with one of our first steps, which is to upgrade to 100% renewable electricity."

Evergreen electricity will cost 10.5% more, estimated Geof Syphers, SCP's chief executive officer. But in remarks to the board, Janelle Rau, deputy county CEO who oversees county facilities, said the \$30,000 premium to purchase Evergreen can be absorbed primarily by the county's general fund. That fraction of the county's average annual \$1.5 million utility bill is relatively minor, she explained, because the county's largest buildings – administration and social services – are within the Ukiah city limits and aren't eligible for Evergreen service. Ukiah maintains its own electric utility, and Gjerde said that Ukiah is expected to announce a program like Evergreen early in 2022.

Once that happens, the County of Mendocino will have the opportunity to purchase electricity from 100 percent renewable energy sources for all its buildings in the city and throughout the county.

"We will have the opportunity to achieve essentially a zero carbon footprint from our electrical grid supplying county buildings," said Gjerde. "At that point, about four-fifths of the county's carbon footprint will come from our fleet."

Deputy CEO Rau told the board the county has "close to 400 vehicles just in passenger and SUV, not heavy equipment." The board's resolution gave her team the go-ahead to develop a plan to install public electric vehicle charging stations at county facilities and convert the passenger fleet to plug-in and all-electric vehicles.

Energy audit shows savings

Some county buildings are overdue for upgrades and repairs, Rau reported after her facilities team led consultants from energy engineering and financial consulting firm Willdan on a walk-through energy audit of county buildings. Carolyn Kiesner, Willdan senior program director, presented a list of needed facility upgrades, their cost, and the number of years the energy savings will take to pay back the investment.

The low-hanging fruit was a lighting retrofit to swap fluorescent lights in county buildings with long-lasting LEDs. The switch would provide staff with superior lighting, reduced maintenance cost, and "tremendous savings" in electricity use, said Kiesner, an estimated \$60,000 annually.

Adding solar was the next largest contribution to energy and cost savings.

Solar-powered libraries

The resolution gave Rau's team the go-ahead to develop solar and backup battery energy systems at the Willits and Fort Bragg libraries that will produce a total 300 kilowatts. The solar-powered libraries will support community "resiliency" and remain open for public use during power outages. The \$500,000 earmarked for the project comes from PG&E settlement funds.

The county resolution calls for an additional 700 kilowatts of solar power at nine county carport and rooftop sites. The total one megawatt of electricity generated by the county's planned solar installations is equivalent to the annual electricity use of 164 homes, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association.

"There's a great deal of effort in long-term planning but we also have critical short-term facility upgrade needs," Rau told the supervisors, noting that half the county's heating and air conditioning systems are 20 years or older.

"Staff will prioritize those projects that have the ability to reduce our carbon footprint as well," she said. "We want to get projects done." Insulated roofing, heating and air conditioning retrofits, and replacement of old single-pane windows were listed.

Board Chair Gjerde noted after the meeting that the county is fortunate that PG&E settlement and federal stimulus money will fund the initial \$2 million in energy efficiency upgrades that advance the net zero carbon resolution and bring Mendocino County in line with the California state goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2045.

Rau was directed to bring the board shovel-ready retrofit projects with price estimates.

MCHC director educates Capitol leaders on the need to expand Behavioral Health Services

Submitted by **MCHC Health Centers**

Ben Anderson, licensed clinical social worker, and Behavioral Health director of MCHC Health Centers, was asked to serve as a behavioral health workforce champion, on a panel of experts providing vital information to Capitol leaders. Senator Wiener, chair of the California Senate Mental Health Caucus, and his colleagues were in attendance.

The topics for discussion were the role that community health centers play in the delivery of mental health services, ways in which we can improve the delivery of care, and the best paths forward to overcome access and equity challenges. We are grateful that our state leaders are involving community health centers in this important discussion that will impact the well-being of our rural community.

Anderson joined other health care leaders in thanking Capitol legislators for their efforts that have allowed health centers like MCHC to serve our community in non-traditional ways, such as conducting therapy sessions by telephone or telehealth during the pandemic (an emergency statute was passed); and for then extending these flexibilities beyond the declared emergency.

Continuing these flexibilities will help ensure that patients who are unable to make it to the clinic for in-person visits, will be able to talk to their therapist over the telephone or via a video visit.

"I appreciate that our state's leaders are reaching out to rural health centers to understand the unique challenges that come with living in an area with limited internet and cell phone coverage, and no mass transit," Anderson said. "Some of our patients drive one hour, each way, just to get to their appointment, and patients residing in Lake County or Covelo must traverse dangerous roads. Others, without a vehicle or money for gas, may walk a mile or more to get to the nearest bus stop. If you have chronic pain or are feeling sick, you are not likely to make this walk, instead, you are likely to just not get the care you need."

This is not only an issue of access but of equity. Why should low-income patients have less access to mental health treatment? Community members without transportation, high-speed internet, and/or computers should still receive care. Additionally, we have some patients with compromised immune systems, who risk becoming seriously ill every time they go into a public area and are exposed to bacteria and viruses.

Health care leaders assertively advocated for the continuation of additional flexibilities that have been allowed during the declared emergency. One such flexibility is the ability for health

centers to utilize the services of mental health providers that have obtained a master's degree and are registered with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences, but who have not yet accrued the full 3,200 hours of experience, under the supervision of a licensed provider, to be eligible to take the licensing exams. Outpatient Specialty Mental Health services have had this option in the past, however, community health centers have not, until the COVID emergency.

It is our hope that these flexibilities will continue beyond the declared emergency and help curtail the shortage of trained therapists to meet the higher demand that California is currently experiencing.

In addition to participating on the panel, Anderson recently began co-chairing the Behavioral Health Peer Network with the California Primary Care Association and, together with experts from health centers all over the state, will be looking at how we can better structure our model of care to help individuals and families deal with the stresses these last few years have brought. As we reflect on this past year, we see how vitally important advocating for these changes is.

Our team of therapists has been working with community members experiencing PTSD, depression, anxiety, substance use, domestic violence, etc., and we know that these struggles will continue past the time when COVID is no longer on the front pages. As we look at how our patients have utilized behavioral health services in this past year, mostly via phone or telehealth, we see several key trends: More of our community members wanted to talk to a therapist, and more patients who scheduled an appointment, kept it!

MCHC's CEO Scott McFarland speaks to the impact of these efforts: "Community health centers are central to the delivery of health care in our nation, serving over 30 million patients, in over 12,000 communities across the country. Therefore, we must represent our community's needs and educate legislators on how the care model needs to be expanded. Having one of our clinical leaders at the forefront of this effort will help drive the message and guide the future of how behavioral health services are delivered, in a way that builds equity and access. I so appreciate the leadership and expertise that Ben Anderson brings, not only to our health center but also to local and state leaders."

MCHC Health Centers includes Hillside Health Center and Dora Street Health Center in Ukiah, Little Lake Health Center in Willits, and Lakeview Health Center in Lakeport. Learn more at www.mchcinc.org.

Mendocino County Library 'closes the books' on late fines

Submitted by **the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency**

The Mendocino County Public Library will no longer charge late fines on books and other circulating materials, eliminating a barrier to access and ensuring that all Mendocino County residents have free, equitable, and open access to knowledge and opportunity.

The Mendocino County Library joins other large and small public library systems across the country to turn the page on late fines. This change is a part of a national institutional movement, guided by the recommendations of the American Library Association, to increase free public access to library services. Existing fines for overdue items will be forgiven to ensure that everyone can start the New Year fine free! Fees for lost or damaged items will remain on the user's account.

"I'm so happy that we were able to get approval from the board of supervisors to change this policy. We expect community usage as well as good will to increase without the stigma of debt hanging over those who need our services the

most," stated Deb Fader Samson, Cultural Services Agency director.

Going fine-free does not mean that patrons will not have to bring library materials back to the library. Items will still have due dates and materials, will still need to be returned. Please remember that library materials can be renewed up to two times, if there are no other people waiting to check out the item. However, if an item is not returned, or is returned damaged, patrons will still be charged replacement costs.

The Mendocino County Library felt it was imperative to create an environment that feels welcoming rather than punitive for all our borrowers. Studies in libraries that have eliminated fines show that there has been no impact on return rates and in fact, the elimination of fines increases the use of library materials.

For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency at 234-2873.

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14 guns, ammo seized at Covelo home

By **Sgt. James L. Wells for MCSO**

On December 12, 2021, at about 11:09 pm, a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with expired registration on Airport Road at Howard Street in Covelo, California.

The deputy contacted the driver and registered owner, Leonard Whipple III, 20, of Covelo and four juveniles in the vehicle.

The deputy conducted a records check on all the individuals and discovered a 16-year-old juvenile male occupant from Ukiah had a felony warrant for his arrest.

The deputy smelled burnt marijuana, saw burnt marijuana cigarettes, and noticed bud marijuana inside the vehicle.

The deputy conducted a search of the vehicle and found over 10 small zip lock bags containing like amounts of bud marijuana, along with 31 similar unused bags and larger bags containing bud marijuana. The deputy believed this to be consistent with the transportation for sale of marijuana.

Whipple III was cited and released for 11360 HS (transportation for sale of marijuana). The 16-year-old juvenile male was arrested and transported to the Mendocino County Juvenile Hall.

On January 1, 2022 at about 4 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies along with California Department of Fish & Wildlife wardens went to a residence in the 400 block of Hatchet Mountain Boulevard in Covelo to serve a search warrant related to the traffic stop.

The deputies contacted Teresa Bettega, 37, of Covelo, in front of the location and advised her of the search warrant. Bettega at first was compliant and was going to let the deputies into the residence, but for some unknown reason began blocking the door and was physically resistant.

Bettega was placed into handcuffs and detained in a patrol car. Deputies entered the residence and found a 13-year-old juvenile inside.

Deputies located 14 firearms, along with ammunition, high-capacity magazines, and drugs inside the residence. Most of the firearms were located in Leonard Whipple III's bedroom.

Deputies noticed none of the firearms were secured (to prevent individuals from access), and most were loaded and accessible to the juveniles that lived at the location. This included two loaded firearms and ammunition in the 13-year-old juvenile's bedroom.

Some of the firearms had characteristics of being classified as an assault weapon in California and there were two unlawful short barreled shotguns.

The rest of **Accident** | **Gear** | *From Page 1*

dark-colored clothing. His identity is being withheld pending notifications to the next of kin.

Party 2, a 39-year-old man from Windsor, was driving a 2013 Subaru southbound, in the No. 2 lane of traffic. The right front of the Subaru struck the pedestrian, causing him to be thrown down a dirt embankment.

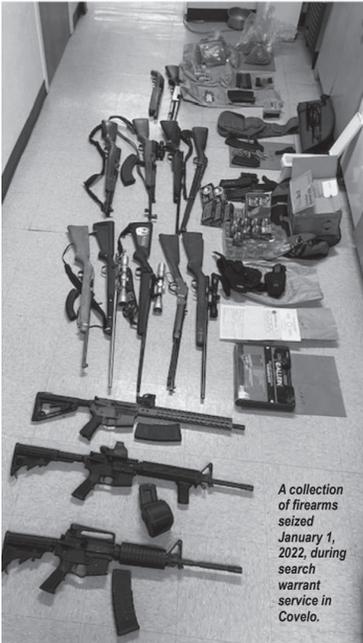
The driver immediately stopped at the scene and called 911, the press release reports.

He then searched the area and located the pedestrian, directing arriving emergency personnel to Party 1's location. Party 1 sustained fatal injuries as the result of the collision.

At this time, alcohol and/or drugs do not appear to be a factor in this collision. The cause of this collision is still under investigation.

Any persons with information pertaining to this incident are asked to contact the Ukiah CHP Office at 707-467-4420.

Below: A photo of the stolen Willits Youth Football trailer and the suspect vehicle, taken from security cameras.



Bettega was arrested for resisting deputies with violence (69 PC) and child endangerment (273a(A) PC). Bettega was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where she was to be held in lieu of \$50,000.00 bail.

During the investigation, deputies located evidence to show Leonard Whipple Jr., 39, of Covelo, had also been associated with the firearms located. Deputies confirmed Leonard Whipple Jr. was prohibited by law from owning or possessing firearms and ammunition.

Deputies attempted to locate Whipple III and Whipple Jr. with negative results.

After the search warrant and investigation was concluded, a Mendocino County Superior Court Judge issued arrest warrants for both Whipple Jr. and Whipple III in connection with the search warrant service.

Crimes from this incident include 30605(A) PC (Unlawful Possession of Assault Weapon), 33215 PC (Unlawful Possession of Short Barreled Firearm), 30305(A)(1) PC (Unlawful Possession of Ammunition by Prohibited Person), 11359 HS (Unlawful Possession of Marijuana for sale), and 11360 HS (Transportation of Marijuana)

The rest of **Accident** | **Gear** | *From Page 1*

distributed to the community and other law enforcement agencies.

On January 7, tips from the community suggested a possible location of the equipment on a rural dirt road inside Mendocino County. Officers from CALFIRE and the Department of Fish and Wildlife assisted the Willits Police Department with checking the location given. Upon arrival a majority of the equipment was recovered and subsequently returned to Willits Youth Football.

At this time the investigation is still active as the suspects and the remainder of the equipment have yet to be located. Any further information can be given to Willits Police Department at 707-459-6122 and referred to Officer Bennett.

Additional information

On December 30, 2021, WPD put out a BOLO (be on the lookout) bulletin for the suspect vehicle used in the theft, "a lowered 2003-2006 Chevrolet Silverado with matte black/primer paint on front and navy blue paint on cab and rear bed."

The BOLO continues: "The trailer was taken from Baechtel Grove Middle School in Willits on December 23, 2021, at about 8 am. Stored inside the trailer were multiple items of youth football equipment; approximately 100 helmets, shoulder pads, and school football jerseys in white/green/gold coloring."

The stolen trailer was described as "a white 2012 Interstate van trailer ... single axle. The trailer has a yellow logo on the side of 'Cougars' across a block letter 'W.'"

On January 8, Willits Youth Football & Cheer thanked on their Facebook page: "Thank you to all who helped

The rest of **WPD** | *From Page 4*

of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive and issued a warning.

7:40 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

8:38 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

December 28



Jared Reed Thomason of Covelo.

2:57 pm: **THOMASON, Jared Reed** (35) of Covelo was contacted in the 400 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), 20002 VC (Hit and Run), 2800.2 VC (Reckless Evading of an Officer), 12500 (A) VC (Driving without a License), and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher, and failure to provide information at an accident.

December 29

7:43 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:43 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

5:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Alder Court.

9:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

December 30

11:56 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of South Main Street and West Highway 20.

December 31

10:28 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

6:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 900 block of South Main Street.

7:25 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

January 1

3:20 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

3:41 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

6:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

The rest of **Advises** | *From Page 1*

much more rapidly than during previous surges, while hospitals are nearing full capacity.

For these reasons, Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Andrew Coren advises that:

I. Gatherings, especially those including individuals at higher risk, should be kept to 12 people or less. Higher risk individuals include pregnant women, the elderly, and those with underlying medical conditions (obesity, diabetes, kidney, heart conditions and compromised immune systems, and others).

The best practice is to screen attendees for recent exposure, symptoms, and fever, and restrict to those people who are current in their vaccine and preferably tested negative within the last one to three days. Maintain 6 feet of social distance and have gatherings outside for the best ventilation. Minimize eating and drinking with indoor gatherings.

II. Large gatherings (over 50 indoors or over 100 outdoors) where social distancing of 6 feet or more cannot be maintained, should be avoided, postponed, or canceled. This does not apply to attendance at regular school classes, work, courthouses, places of worship, cafeterias, or any venue that is open to public circulation as part of its regular operations such as shopping malls, stores, and museums.

III. Wear a mask that is a well-fitted medical grade or N95 type over mouth and nose.

IV. Get vaccinated and boosted. Vaccination is the best protection against severe COVID infection and hospitalization. The unvaccinated in California are 10 times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID than the fully vaccinated. Vaccines are available for everyone age 5 and older, while boosters are available for everyone age 12 and older.

If you have questions about COVID vaccines or boosters, speak with your doctor or call Public Health at 707-472-2759. To find the nearest vaccine clinic or testing site in your area, please visit the Public Health website at: www.mendocinocounty.org/covidvaccine



Above: a close-up of the different types of rocks the family has collected over time. Above, right: Christina Tipp's family gathers for a photo at their homestead property; from left, Colleen and Mike Sichley (Tipp's parents), Christina, Kyle and Ronin Tipp.



Photos by Ree Slocum

Passion for Rocks

Christina Tipp has a passion for geology and has worked hard to become the only certified engineering geologist working in the county

Not every child can get excited about something like rocks and decide they want to be a geologist when they grow up. Christina Tipp's family often took trips to the Mojave Desert where the landscape was completely exposed. They explored rocky washes, hillsides, mines, and even a place where geodes were formed. She was fascinated by the pretty rocks, and by age 14 she had been collecting and studying them and their environments. She was completely certain and announced to everyone that she was going to be a geologist.

Tipp now has 14 years of professional geologic work behind her and she's still fascinated by and enthusiastic about her career. It's culminated in two degrees and as many licenses. She has a bachelor's in geology with work experience, followed by a Master of Science in geology a few years later.

Her passion working in geology propelled her to get her California Professional Geologist license. "It qualifies you for different fields of geology. Things like: hydrology, engineering geology, environmental. There are so many types now. It's pretty cool," she told. She took the test after working with a licensed professional geologist.

With that license she worked as a geotechnical engineer for a few more years. "That's more dealing with the ground," she said, "foundations, landslides, earthquakes. All sorts of geological hazards that could affect people trying to build homes or other issues that may affect clients' projects."

Those experiences included hours of work with a licensed certified engineering geologist in a previous job. "So I wanted to take [my certification] to the next level. I was already in that field and liked it!" In order to take the exam for certification, she had to have logged hours.

Tipp took the test to become a certified engineering geologist just after she was hired at SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologists, Inc., which has an office in Willits. "They were super happy about [me getting that certification]," she told. "I'm the only geologist in the office here. Most of the other engineering geologists are located in Eureka."

"I was super happy to be an asset to the local SHN in Little Lake and Mendocino County but also to have these other

Read the rest of **Rocks** *Over on Page 13*



Above: Some of the favorite geodes Tipp has collected. Below: Christina Tipp was the geologist working on landslides in Del Norte County. They had to helicopter in the drill rigs to the remote area. From September to January, the drilling crew and Tipp had to hike to the site daily.



Photo courtesy of SHN

The rest of **Rocks** *From Page 12*

geologists and technical engineers to learn from. I do a lot of the Mendocino work but if there's crossover and I have a question, I know I have mentors to ask," she smiled.

SHN has seven offices, some in Northern California and other administrative centers in Southern Oregon. The company offers a wide range of professional services, including planners, biologists, all types of engineers – civil, structural, geotechnical, environmental, and more. They also have a surveying program.

Tipp does a lot of travel for work and enjoys the unique challenges and collaborative opportunities. She told of a project she's been working on north of here in Humboldt County: "We have a job exploring, drilling, engineering and designing for installing some bridges and huge culverts right next to the triple junction up at Petrolia. This site is one-of-a-kind. It's near active faults – that's why it's a triple junction. Seismically there are earthquakes galore. It's in a flood zone because of the Mad River. It's also in a tsunami hazard zone because it's close to the coast and it's at the base of a mountain with debris flows and landslides!" Tipp said incredulously and then added, "and liquefaction ... all of it! It has every geologic hazard you could have. I'd never had a job site like that until I moved up here. I love it!"

Tipp is also a mother to Ronin, a very energetic and precocious 4-year-old. When Tipp, her husband Kyle, and their son moved up here from the Bay Area, they were taking a risk since neither parent had a job yet. She had applied at SHN but they'd said they weren't hiring.

So, the parents had a pact: "Whoever is offered a job first goes to work first." Tipp said, "We were honestly OK with going to work at Costco because we weren't sure there'd be a job for either of us. I definitely didn't think I'd get a geology job in a small rural town. So, we were set on working at that nice Costco in Ukiah."

Just as they were moving to Willits, Tipp heard from a friend at SHN, "We're really busy. Why don't you send your resume after all and send it through to the director?"

It felt like a miracle to Tipp. "I got the job first! Engineering geology. Good company. Lots of good people to learn from. I have some good mentors and experienced people to talk to about projects. They know the geology and issues all over Oregon and California. Our directors have done work all over the world!"

It's been a few years now and Tipp's work continues to excite and challenge her. She, Kyle and Ronin have extensive support from her retired parents, Mike and Colleen Sichley, who partnered with them in purchasing the home and property. They're also co-parenting Ronin when they're not traveling and adventuring in their motorhome. This frees Kyle to work on the property with Mike and help neighbors with their projects. It works beautifully for everyone.

SHN Consulting Engineers and Geologists is located at 335 South Main Street. To learn more about SHN, visit www.shn-engr.com or their Facebook page, or call 459-4518 or 459-1884.

Kendall officially filed his conflict of interest

The rest of **Repeal** *From Page 1*

districts in the county, Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams will be the new board chair for 2022, and First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty will be vice chair.

The board adopted a legislative platform for 2022 which it said would "serve as Mendocino County's priorities and focus areas for Federal and State legislative advocacy."

These priorities included "disaster prevention, recovery, resiliency and mitigation; COVID-19 response and recovery; natural resources; economic and community development; health and human services; public safety; and cannabis.

For the last item at the meeting, the board voted to repeal the latest cannabis facilities ordinance passed in May of 2021, and the supervisors asked the Planning & Building Department to return with a "work plan" for implementing what they could from the ordinance after additional environmental review had been completed.

The facilities ordinance, No. 4491, had included many amendments which outlined ways to allow more "canna tourism" types of activities in the county such as tours, tastings and lodgings at farm properties, farmers markets and other events.

The ordinance had passed unanimously last year, and Williams said that it was "being repealed for a technical reason related to the record of environmental consideration."

While it wasn't mentioned at the meeting, the Willits Environmental Center filed a lawsuit aimed at the county's cannabis facilities ordinance last year in July.

In an interview with KZYX in that month, WEC co-founder David Drell claimed that the county had tried to skirt around California Environmental Quality Act regulations despite significant environmental impacts which could be caused by the new tourism activities.

As directed by the supervisors at the January 4 meeting, the county's Planning & Building staff will also be looking into what parts they can possibly separate out of the cannabis facilities ordinance and move forward with based on rules and regulations already in place.

This made its way into the motion passed after a suggestion by Third District Supervisor John Haschak.

"Planning & Building could make a list of activities that would be allowable in a different format," suggested Haschak, "and then we would have more of an idea about what exactly needed to be changed, or what is being left out if we just don't have the ordinance.... It seems like if we know what we can do in another way, then we've limited the scope of what we really need to deal with with this facilities ordinance."

The motion from Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren then passed unanimously to repeal the ordinance and have a work plan presented to the board at a later meeting.

The Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, which represents many local cannabis cultivators, said they were disappointed the ordinance was being repealed.

"The repeal of Ordinance No. 4491 amending Cannabis Facilities regulations in the county is unfortunate," the group said in a statement, "as there were many items within it that would have supported enhanced opportunities for local economic development and cannabis tourism in Mendocino."

"MCA recommends that the board re-engage in a Facilities Ordinance development process that includes input from local stakeholder and a full environmental review to ensure that the final product is both legally crafted and considerate of our diverse community."

In other board related news, there was a decision made in the California Superior Court case regarding the dispute between Sheriff Matt Kendall and the County of Mendocino about budget overages and Information Technology infrastructure issues in the Sheriff's Office that has been ongoing since July of 2021.

Kendall has been asking for the county to provide outside legal counsel to him on the matter since he felt there was a conflict of interest with county counsel representing him.

On December 30, Judge Ann Moorman signed a court order siding with Kendall about his right to be provided outside counsel on matters pertaining to IT issues, but rejected that there was a conflict of interest on using county counsel for the budget issues.

The dispute between Kendall and the county really escalated last year after Kendall took particular offense to comments made by supervisors at a board meeting indicating he could possibly be held financially responsible for going over budget in the Sheriff's Office for any "non-emergency" expenses not allocated by the county.

He countered at a July 20, 2021 meeting saying, "holding me personally liable for overages in a budget which was structurally underfunded, well that sounds a little bit more like extortion than government function to me."

He also disagreed with plans to consolidate the sheriff's IT center into the county's, and with other budget and staffing issues there.

Kendall officially filed his conflict of interest

request for outside legal counsel on July 30, and since then there have been several board meeting items about the issue, as well as hearings, interviews and "voluminous briefing supported by various declarations on the issues raised" by both sides, according to Moorman.

For the IT infrastructure issues, Moorman stated that "the sheriff must be provided independent counsel on this issue as an ethical wall cannot be erected that would allow continued representation by county counsel."

For general disagreements regarding the county's budget allocation for the Sheriff's Office, Moorman's decision was that county counsel should be sufficient to represent Kendall.

"This conclusion is buttressed by the lack of evidence showing county counsel has much, if any, involvement in budgetary process or the specific budgetary recommendations to the BOS," she stated.

Judge Moorman seemed to struggle the most with the heated debate about Kendall and the Sheriff's Office going over budget, and whether the county should be legally required to provide Kendall with outside counsel on the matter.

She cited two different conflicting government code sections which could potentially guide the decision in different directions in her statement before eventually deciding that the request from Kendall was essentially too broad.

"At a minimum, a specific need or specific expenditure must be identified before this court would be in a position to find a conflict of interest such that would require the BOS to retain separate counsel for the sheriff," said Moorman.

The judge also ruled against the need for the county to provide the specific law firm requested repeatedly by Kendall – the Law Offices of Duncan James.

The county has stated they opposed hiring Duncan James due to the high rates charged by the firm and potential conflicts of interest with Kendall.

While agreeing with the county on some matters, Moorman did occasionally criticize the board and some county staff in her statement saying that they had been inconsistent while stating their positions during the process.

She also talked about a move by the board to try and contract with a law office they had selected in November to represent Kendall while the issue of whether he could be represented by Duncan James had not yet been determined.

"Without permission of the court, nor notice to the court or to Sheriff Kendall and while this action was still pending, the BOS had decided to contract with a certain law firm to represent the sheriff on the very issues that were the subject of this proceeding," said Moorman. "This action was in express defiance of the existing proceeding and interpreted by the court as an effort to circumvent the court process."

In other sheriff-related news, the board approved at the January 4 meeting a project to create a "Mendocino County Fallen Peace Officers Memorial" to be placed at the sheriff's Ukiah office.

The memorial will be made of granite and consist of one base piece and three large upright panels with the names of nine county peace officers who have been killed in the line of duty.

The contract with Bell Memorial to make the monument is for \$95,000, which Undersheriff Darren Brewster said would come from the District Attorney's Office and asset forfeiture funds.

He said that the \$25,000 for installation may be able to come from those sources as well.

Another item passed by the supervisors on January 4 was to rescind the pay raise in a contract for County Counsel Christian Curtis through 2024, originally approved by the supervisors at their December 14 meeting.

According to Chair Williams, this move was made due to a Brown Act complaint filed after the contract was approved.

The contract, which would pay \$192,136 annually to Curtis plus benefits, was initially approved in the December 14 Consent Calendar early on in the meeting, then brought back later that day with an explanation by then Board Chair Dan Gjerde of an apparent procedural mistake. Gjerde then read through some of the details of the contract, and the board approved it separately.

However, Mark Scaramella of the Anderson Valley Advertiser later filed a Brown Act Violation complaint, which he has detailed in multiple articles in that publication.

He cited what he saw as many procedural mistakes by the board, questioned the ethics of the amount of the pay raise in general, and said that such a county contract increase should first be put onto an agenda as a proposed item more clearly open to public discussion.

According to Transparent California, in 2020 Curtis made \$151,615 in "regular pay", and \$215,835 in "total pay & benefits".

At the January 4 meeting, in a confusing twist, the board again re-passed the December 14 Consent Calendar, then voted to pull the item which included the Curtis Contract, and then

approved a third vote to rescind the contract.

While no specific plan or date was made regarding putting the pay increase for Curtis back on the agenda in the future, Williams did say he agreed with it in principle.

"While I do support County Counsel being compensated as such, and I understand that his [current] wages are based on his position prior to his appointment as County Counsel, I think it's best for the county that in an abundance of caution, we have a clean record," he said.

Regarding the Legislative Platform approved by the supervisors, for each of the priorities listed, there were numerous goals and strategies, some of which were described in a presentation at the meeting by Deputy County CEO Judy Morris.

For cannabis, Morris said that many of the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance's recommendations had been worked into the platform following a public meeting with the General Government Committee on December 13.

Chair Williams, who is on that committee along with Mulheren, agreed with Morris's assessment, estimating that about 80% of MCAs recommendations made it into the platform.

Later during the prevention, Paul Yoder, a lobbyist working with the county at the state level, said that "we heard a rumor this morning that some of the folks in the [cannabis] industry may find an author and try to get the [cannabis] taxes suspended until 2028."

Yoder said that given the time of the "legislative cycle," the large state surplus – which he estimated would come out to \$30 to \$60 billion for the year, and the recent passing of the federal infrastructure bill, he was hopeful that some good things could get accomplished at the state level in the first half of this year which could help the county.

As an example, he said that the state Senate Bill 307 sponsored by State Senator Mike McGuire, which has to do with the Great Redwood Trail project, passed a key committee vote that day – January 4 – and should be moving forward.

"That bill is now out of the policy committee in the [state] senate, and [McGuire] expects to get it off the senate floor by the end of January and meet the deadline for bills getting out of their house of origin in time to keep moving in the second year," said Yoder.

SB 307, which has to do with railroad authorities relinquishing control of certain properties planned to be used for the trail, specifically mentions Willits, saying:

"This bill would prohibit the use of state monies to initiate or operate rail service on the authority's rail rights-of-way north of the City of Willits or for a project that is designed to rehabilitate, modernize, maintain, or repair an existing operation or facility, including a rail terminal, a railyard, a rail facility, and rail infrastructure, on the authority's rail rights-of-way north of the City of Willits.... This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the authority's rail rights-of-way north of the City of Willits and the County of Humboldt."

The rest of **Dillon** *From Page 1*

area off Highway 101 in a field. Sheriff's Office Violent Crime and Crime Scene detectives were called out to the scene.

"Detectives are actively working on this case." A January 11 update had more details:

"Violent Crimes detectives are working diligently on this case, which is being treated as a suspicious death.

"The person who died is Amber Dillon, 33, Willits. She was found in open space off Highway 101 between the Highway 128 exit in Cloverdale and the Geysers Road exit in Mendocino County. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

"We understand there is a lot of public interest on this case and speculations are being shared on social media. Our #1 priority is to find out how and why Ms. Dillon died, bringing her justice and providing closure for her family.

"Detectives are working around the clock on this case. We will share additional information when we can."

For more updates, when released, visit "Sonoma Sheriff" on Facebook.

The rest of **Retire** *From Page 1*

release was received before presstime.

Angelo has been CEO since being promoted by the board of supervisors in February 2010 from her deputy CEO position. She was expected to retire later in 2022.

According to the interview by MendoFever's Matt LaFever, Angelo attributed her decision to leave early to getting news on Monday last week about another illness in her family. "On Tuesday during the [January 4] board of supervisors meeting," the interview quoted Angelo, "I was trying to work with the supervisors and getting texts from my family. That night, I decided I couldn't do this anymore." She concluded: "It's time to put my family first."

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church
290 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
707-303-5456
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jernigan
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
• Sound of Soul events
• Membership Discourses
• Spiritual Discussions
• ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

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

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

St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Brunneau

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
707-459-5714
Saturdays: Meeting place
at church located at
399 W. Mendocino Avenue
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
<https://willitsca.adventistchurch.org>
All are welcome!

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

If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
aprilt@willitsweekly.com



Date/Time	Location	Vaccine Availability	Other Information
Mondays & Wednesdays 12:30pm - 4:15pm	Public Health 474 East Valley St, Willits	All adult vaccines available	Sign up at Myturn.ca.gov Or Walk-ups welcome 472-2759
M-F 9am -11:30am 1:30pm-4:30 pm Sat 9am-3pm	Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic 1245 S. Main Street, Willits	Adult & Child Pfizer and Moderna	Best to make an appointment. Do not need to be a patient. 459-6861
M-F 9am -11:45am 12:45pm-3 pm	Little Lake Health Center 45 Hazel Street, Willits	Adult & Child Pfizer and Moderna	Best to make an appointment. Do not need to be a patient. 459-9600
M & F 2 pm - 4:30 pm	Adventist Health Redwood Medical Clinic 3 Marcela Drive Suite C, Willits	All Adult vaccines and Child Pfizer available	Appointments required. 1 st and 2 nd doses do not need to be patients. Boosters are for patients only. 459-6115
M-F 10am -12:45 pm 2 pm - 7 pm Sat 9 am -1 pm 2-5 pm Sun 10 am - 1pm 2-5 pm	Safeway Pharmacy 845 S. Main Street Willits	Adult Pfizer & Moderna	Walk ups welcome on weekdays for 1 st & 2 nd doses. Appointments required for boosters and on weekends. 456-1790
M-F 9am -8 pm Weekend 10 am - 6pm	Rite Aid Pharmacy 1730 S. Main Street, Willits	Adult Pfizer & Moderna	Appointments Preferred. 459-0554

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Optimism and Whimsy

Animal paintings and fantastical sculptures and collages on display at Willits Center for the Arts through January

Submitted by Willits Center for the Arts

Willits Center for the Arts presents Teresa Robertson's paintings along with Esther Siegal's and Spencer Brewer's wonderful sculptures. The show, which runs through January, promises to delight all ages.

A deep love for animals is reflected in Robertson's artwork. Her favorite animal subjects are horses and dogs and she likes to include a dash of humor into her art. Robertson told us, "Creating gives me a great deal of satisfaction."

Brewer and Siegal will present their complex sculptures and collages that will both delight and amuse you.

Siegal told us, "I love the alchemy of creating interesting combinations of objects in the studio for their new and 'perfect home.'" Her work is enchanting. "I work in stages, starting with a flurry of ideas and arrangements. I often have two or three pieces started, moving from one to the other. Inspiration may come from visual resources, feedback, and browsing through our collection of 'stuff' in our barn art studio."

"My need for harmony, love of horses, and interest in psychotherapy are some of my themes and motivators. As a glass-half-full person, you will often see whimsy, optimism and lightness in my art," shared Siegal.

Spencer Brewer is a DSE ("Dangerously Serial Entrepreneur") who creates "High Whimsy" – fantastical pieces of sculptures out of vintage or unusual objects, inspiring viewers with a sense of delight, surprise and wonder. His passion has been as an accomplished composer / pianist as well as a piano technician, working on over 20,000 pianos. Working on pianos, crank phonographs, tube-era electronics, and old player mechanisms has been an inspiring lens into how well-crafted mechanisms were made. This all translated into Spencer's skills re-crafting vintage objects into sculptures.

Make sure to check out Simone Designs in the jewelry case as well!

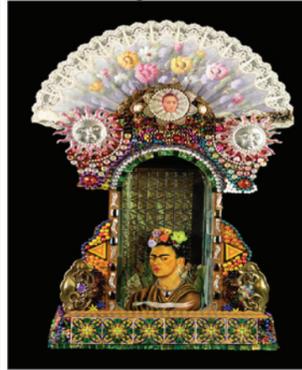
The WCA is located at 71 East Commercial Street (next to the Noyo Theatre). The show will be open Friday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS Presents



Teresa Robertson

Esther Siegal

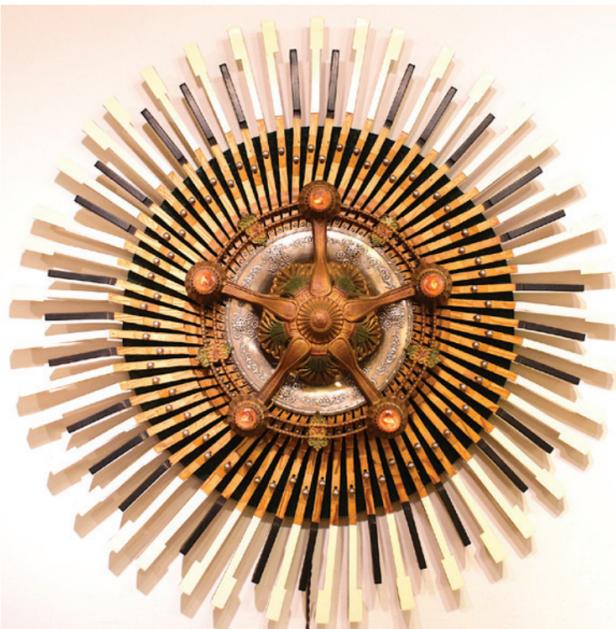


Spencer Brewer



OPENING Friday Jan. 7, 2022

Below, from left: A whimsical collage by Esther Siegal. "Keys of Life" by Spencer Brewer. Horse painting by Teresa Robertson.

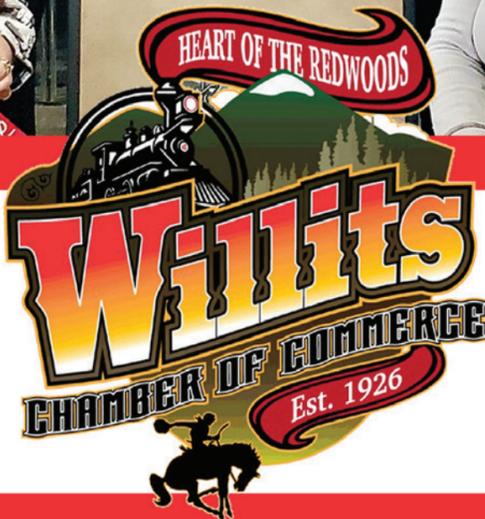


THANK YOU, WILLITS

from the Willits Chamber of Commerce for supporting retail and service industries as well as volunteer organizations during the 2021 holiday season!
They look forward to your continued support in 2022 and beyond to keep Willits alive and thriving!



Shopping and staying local makes an amazing difference to our Willits community!



Keeping money in the community helps make funds available for sponsorships, donations and more!