Online & Print Online & Print

Willits City Council meeting short and sweet

B.B. Kamoroff
Reporter
bb@willitsweekly.com

Like a 4-foot-tall beauty queen, the January 12 Willits City Council meeting was short and sweet. The council approved some routine payments, a red no-parking curb at the new firehouse, and ongoing minor street repairs. Not much else.

Things were as quiet as a deserted train station, waiting for the Midnight Special that doesn't run anymore.

Read the rest of **Council**

Over on Page 13

527 new casesin Tuesday's COVID case update

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mendocino County Public Health broke records with its post-three-day-weekend COVID dashboard update Tuesday, reporting 527 new cases of COVID-19 identified in Mendocino County since the last update on Friday, January 14.

There have been a total of 10,248 COVID cases reported by Public Health since the beginning of the pandemic in Mendocino County.

These case numbers, as Public Health Officer Andy Coren MD explains during

Read the rest of Cases

Over on Page 13

swat Team talks AWOL prisoner out of 'suicide by cop'

By Sgt. Miguel Vazquez for MCSO

On January 16, 2022 at approximately 8:19 am, California Highway Patrol officers requested assistance from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office regarding a pursuit in Laytonville.

While responding, Sheriff's Office Dispatch informed deputies the driver had stopped in the 100 block of Branscomb Road. Deputies were advised the driver was refusing to obey any verbal commands and was threatening "suicide by cop."

 $\begin{bmatrix} \text{Read the rest of } \\ \textbf{SWAT} \end{bmatrix}$

Over on Page 13



Above: Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County Administrative Director Jenny Hanzlik, right, and HSMIC maintenance man, Alex Aleman, smile with the adoptable, 4-month-old, mixed-breed pup, Storm, and a \$100 donation made in Betty White's honor on what would have been her 100th birthday, January 17. Below: Adoptable sweetie Queen Anne, the 1.5-year-old black-and-white cat who "runs the cattery," looks as amused as a cat can with the \$100 donation which will help purchase around 10 litter bags for her – and her cat subjects' – use. Hanzlik said that as of Wednesday morning, over \$10,000 has been raised for HSIMC from the #BettyWhiteChallenge.

For the Animals & Betty

Americans encouraged to donate to local animal shelters to honor the late Betty White for her 100th birthday



Below, left: Betty White hugs Pontiac, a golden retriever she acquired from Guide Dogs for the Blind in 2005.

Courtesy Betty White / Guide Dogs for the Blind

Below, right: Donations to HSIMC are 100 percent tax-deductible as the shelter runs as a non-profit. Receipts are provided to donors.

If there's one thing that we dare assume everyone in America can agree on at this point in time, is that on December 31, 2021, we all lost an amazing treasure: actress and activist Betty White.

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

White was beloved by millions for her sense of humor, acting talents, and love of animals.

After her passing on New Year's Eve last month, the internet offered a challenge to the nation to honor White on January 17, the date that would have been her 100th birthday: Donate to a local animal shelter, something White would have loved.

The #BettyWhiteChallenge was accepted all across the nation, and even in our own little corner of the country, too, with a \$100 donation made on Monday, January 17 to the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County ... one that hopefully inspires many others to also donate, too. (\$100 for White's 100th birthday? \$31 for the day she passed? \$15 for the number of chickens you own? \$168 for the number of episodes of "The Mary Tyler Moore

Read the rest of Betty White

Over on Page 10





Beautiful Bulbs Begin to Bloom

Just this week, the first few daffodils and narcissus started to break free from their buds and show their pretty petals in white and yellow. The nice amount of rain and sunshine surely motivated the bulbs, but hopefully that's not all the wet weather we get!





Willits Unified struggles with impacts

of COVID

Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

Like everything and everybody else, Willits Unified struggles to maintain functionality amidst the ever-changing COVID land-scape.

With Omicron surging, the January 12 Board of Trustees meeting reverted to an all-zoom format, and school board members received a snapshot of the current state of affairs.

Willits Teachers Association president Tessa Ford

Read the rest of WUSD

Over on Page 4

Brooktrails board talks water, access, CSA 3

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Community Services District Board of Directors met on January 11 via Zoom.

Director Tony Orth shared that he had recent interactions with the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in regard to the strategic planning process. "I asked that within the next five-year period, as soon as possible," he said, "to reactivate the Brooktrails second-access project now that there's identified federal and state funding programs becoming available; and with MCOG having made it one of six projects available for that - that we

Read the rest of **Brooktrails**

Over on Page 13

McGuire named State Senate Majority Leader

Submitted by the Office of State Sen. McGuire, Sacramento

Senator Mike McGuire (D-North Coast) was named Majority Leader of the California State Senate by Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins. This makes Senator McGuire the second-highest ranking member of the State Senate, and he will be working with the Senate President to lead the Senate in the months and years to come.

"With bold leadership

Read the rest of McGuire

Over on Page 4

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Together as a community

To the Editor:

When people see me in my scrubs, many emotively thank me for taking care of sick people. I accept that gratitude for myself and for my fellow nurses. We, like the teachers and other essential workers, have been at the frontlines of this pandemic, and are as exhausted as all of you are, but perhaps more so.

Being "essential" means our work is critical to the functioning of society. With many of us leaving the workforce due to and work even harder, which is not sustainable in the long run. When our essential workforce cannot keep up with the work, all of us suffer

Here are some ways that you can show us your gratitude. If you are in healthcare administration, please take care of your employees and contractors at a time when they are putting their lives at risk to keep working. When I was a nurse practitioner at a local clinic, I offered to fill in as an ICU nurse per diem early in the pandemic, but learned from my employer that I did not have a safety net for illness or disability other than the small and insufficient amount Carol O'Farrell will be cutting back her hours for a while and that the state provided.

The high cost of healthcare not covered by insurance for some, from healthcare providers to janitorial staff, adds to the already high level of stress from the potential risk of

If you are a local employer or supervisor, please provide the most protective measures that you can for your staff and customers, who are your neighbors. Err on the side of caution and do not allow anyone sick to enter your establishment. Give your employees the assurance that These drivers are often the only outside contact our clients they will be taken care of until they recover.

If you are a member of the public, inform yourself about the science, which is being updated frequently as we learn more about the disease. These new variants act a bit differently from the first ones, so many recommendations have changed.

Please get vaccinated, continue to wear a mask, sanitize your hands, and limit your time indoors with other people for the next few weeks until this wave passes. Do not mingle with others if you have symptoms, get tested, and isolate as needed.

Talk to your friends and families about these measures, but please do not shame anyone for not being vaccinated. Their decisions are usually founded on deep-seated fears and tightly held beliefs about some harm happening to them. We should seek to listen to them, understand and calm their fears, and continue to treat them with love and

Lastly, as we continue to physically distance, let us avoid socially isolating, which is hurting all of us. Call and check

'Strong and

Competent'

The Rules: LETTERS

once every four weeks.

in on your neighbors; hug your kids; wave and smile with your eyes when you're wearing a mask; be kind. We have to and are going to get through this together as a

Medie Jesena Parrott, Willits

Senior Center in need of volunteers

Our Willits Senior Center is in desperate need of volunteers. illness, trauma, or sheer exhaustion, others have to step in As a non-profit we depend on volunteers to help us with the many activities here at the center. These volunteers play an integral part in our ability to provide out-of-town doctor visits, Meals on Wheels, and outreach services. Volunteers are one-third of our workforce, which allows us to offer many services to our members and community.

> We are losing one of our most dedicated full-time volunteers in March. Dorcas Potter will be turning 90 and has decided that it's time to retire. She has volunteered in our thrift store since September of 2001. It's difficult to find that kind of dedication anymore.

> will only be coming in occasionally. Carol has been working four days a week for many years now, and we don't know what to do without her smiling face every morning. She is very loyal to our thrift store. The back room will miss both

> Our Meals on Wheels has used volunteers for years to help deliver meals to those who are in need and cannot cook for themselves. A hot meal is readily available five days a week with a green salad on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

> have during the day. We would be lost without the help of our Brooktrails drivers who deliver to those areas in Brooktrails that our truck does not deliver to. Until recent months we used volunteers to deliver meals to our clients in town and out in the valley as well.

> Frances Neumeyer is our housing (section 8) outreach worker and has been volunteering for us since 2016. Frances volunteers for us one day a week, usually Mondays, helping seniors on fixed incomes secure long-

> We are truly grateful to all those who volunteer for us here at the Senior Center and in our community. Without volunteers like those mentioned we could not keep our

The Senior Center is re-opening on January 17. We are following the current Mendocino County Public Health Orders, masks must be worn indoors unless you are eating, and you will be asked to provide proof of full vaccination.

> Deb Holcomb, administrative coordinator, Senior Center

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center's indoor dining room has reopened, as of 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,

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



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

Monday, January 24: Ground Beef Burrito, wet with **Red Sauce**

Tuesday, January 25: Turkey Burger

Tacos, Rice & Beans, Green Salad Wednesday, January 26: Chicken Enchiladas, Rice,

Thursday, January 27: Beef Stir Fry, Green Salad

Friday, January 28: Turkey, Stuffing w/Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, 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. Senior Center Thrift Shop: 459-2176

Museum tour postponed

Advisory about public gatherings.

The Behind the Scenes Tour series will begin the last Saturday of March and April.

Check our website for updates and registration information. The Mendocino County Museum will remain open during regular hours and looks forward

- Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency

The Behind the Scenes Tour at the Mendocino County Museum and Roots of Motive Power has been postponed. We will not offer the tour in January in an effort to fully comply with the new Public Health

Saturday, February 26. Tours will also be offered on



The goal of the program is to encourage local area college or career tech school graduates, who are active in the community,

The Rotary Club of Willits Student Debt Assistance Program (SDAP) was formed using local donations, in August 2020. In spring of 2021, Willits Rotary awarded 10 Willits area residents recipients have expressed their gratitude for the assistance and

Applications are available January 15, 2022, and the deadline for the completed applications is February 19, 2022.

Our club continues to welcome donations to this fund so we can continue to serve Willits area residents in need of student loan assistance. You can send checks, with a notation that they go to the "Willits SDAP account."

Rotary Club of Willits is an IRS 501(c) (3) charitable foundation. For applications, please send an email to:

To donate, please send checks to: Rotary Club of Willits, P.O. Box 787, Willits, CA 95490

(95490) residents for assistance to help pay down their student loan to stay in the Willits area. grants of \$300 per month for 12 months. Many of those have made headway in paying down their student debt.

Weekly

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

voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to

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.

of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of

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

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

Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographress /

maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047 Mathew Caine, photographer / calendar editor / features writer /

mathew@willitsweekly.com Forrest Glyer, 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

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Above: Shalee Johnson has several areas set up within the studio for different light and moods. At top, left: A woman poses for a boudoir shot at Impressions Studio. At top, right: Shalee Johnson shows one of her many options for delivery of the photos. At right: Impressions Studio's boudoir area is set up for a photo shoot. At right, below: A young girl poses for a fairy photo in the redwoods.

Positive Self-Visualization

Photographer Shalee Johnson improves her subjects' self-image by capturing their inner and outer beauty at her new Impressions Studio

For Shalee Johnson, photography is a business, an art, and a passion. After having received a camera as a gift just a few years ago, Johnson began to see the world through a fresh perspective of emotions and patterns, and saw a path to make real change in the manner in which people see themselves and the world around them.

Her new Impressions Studio was born of necessity and love of the art, when she lost her good-paying job in the cannabis industry. With her life at a crossroads, she decided to dive deep into the visual world and upsize her studio. She wanted to create a sustaining business out of her personal construct of how she could improve the lives of women and families through the process of positive self-visualization.

Johnson, true to that vision, does not do any type of photography where she does not believe that she can fully express herself or add to the well-being of her subjects. To that end, she specializes in boudoir photography in which she and the subject laugh, pose and create images that express the essential inner and outer beauty, sometimes hidden, within all of her clients. She also works with children and families, creating dynamic scenes of

"I started doing photography officially in 2016 as a business," Johnson recounts. "My mother-in-law bought me a camera. I'd walk around the forest in different places, finding 'letters,' like making the letter 'E' out of a fence line. I'd take pictures of those and then put them together to make people's last names.

"I started doing portrait photography in 2016," she said. "I started with the fairy pictures with my kids. I posted them and then had people saying that they wanted fairy pictures. Then I thought that I could make something out of this and my fairy pictures have evolved and improved."

Sometimes life and fate lead one down roads that work out to enhance Read the rest of one's life and create a path to personal

Impressions

















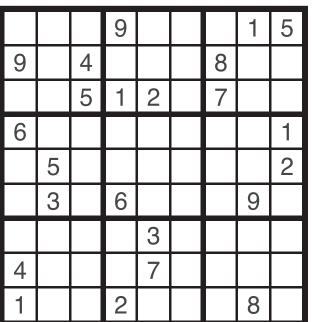
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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

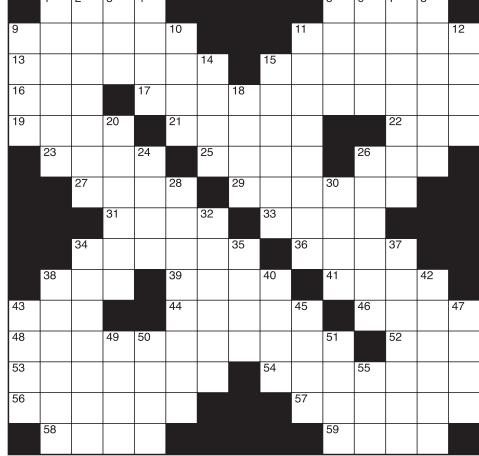


HOW TO SUDOKU

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

V B D F C L N K C H R O N I C Y H D Y N CSGMSFRPH

ANNUAL EXAMINATION HYDRATE PREVENTATIVE CANINE **FELINE** INCONTINENCE SHAMPOO **CHRONIC FLEAS MATTING** SHOCK THERAPY **CLEANING** GAIT NAILS **CLIPPERS GROOMING** TICKS NUTRITION **CONGENITAL** HIP DYSPLASIA **OBEDIENCE WELLNESS**



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Breathe noisily
- 5. __ Nui, Easter Island
- 9. Reddish browns 11. Simple shoes
- 13. Produce alcohol illegally
- 15. Home to famed golf
- tournament 16. Tax collector
- 17. Famous people
- 19. Urban area
- 21. Units of syllable weight
- 22. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- 23. Dismounted
- 25. Actor Damon
- 26. Vietnamese offensive 27. Retail term
- 29. Netted
- 31. Partner to carrots 33. Witnesses
- 34. Caulked
- 36. Satisfy
- 38. R&B performer __ Lo 39. Monetary units
- of Macao 41. Give advice, explain

- 43. Possesses 44. Turn back 46. Gentlemen
- 48. One who fertilizes 52. Italian monk title

enterprises

11. Monies given in support

12. Fashion accessory

15. Becomes less intense

18. Geological times

26. Male reproductive

24. Monetary unit

organs

28. Earnings

30. Close by

32. Small integers

34. Fixed in place

35. Used to treat

37. Large, imposing

38. A rooflike shelter

40. Stiff, hairlike structure

43. To show disapproval

49. __ Clapton, musician

50. Dangerous illegal drug

45. Body of traditions

building

42. Print errors

47. Without

51. Infrequent

55. Sound unit

Parkinson's disease

10. A way to be

14. Steal

20. Hooray!

- (prefix) 53. Parties
- 54. Type of horse 56. Cuts in half
- 57. Raises 58. Expresses contempt or disgust
- 59. Ancient Italian-Greek

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Illinois city 2. One of the original disciples chosen by
- Christ 3. Young form of a louse
- 4. Type of powder 5. Finger millet 6. Share a common boundary
- 7. Assumed as a fact 8. Provide clear evidence of 9. Invests in little

For example: Sudoku puzzles are "There's no fulltime PE teacher still Teachers at Blosser are getting at most one hour of prep time a week, which is not sufficient to develop lesson plans. "Sherwood teachers are cleaning because of custodial shortages.

"Due to custodial shortages [at Brookside], the rooms are not being cleaned at night. Baechtel Grove reports custodian shortages. The rooms, the floors, and the tables are not being cleaned daily as we need them to be.

was first up, and her snapshot was bleak -

"The staff shortages are impacting every

department, and it's been really hard on

everybody ... not just hard, impossible,"

"Sanhedrin is in need of a working copy machine. At Brookside, they have not had a copier for three months. At Blosser, we have no copier at present. We have not had a copier for several months because it's been broken more often than not. And the district office copier has been down. So teachers at all the sites are really struggling."

With respect to the copier woes, Superintendent Joe Aldridge said: "We are as frustrated as everyone else. We started the process at the beginning of the school year ... calling and trying to get things fixed.

"They're like any other industry," he explained. "They're very overwhelmed with the repairs and getting machines to us."

Despite one ruffled feather. Ford's dismal portrait was mostly met with words of praise California School Employees Association

president Dan Green was the one not "I don't think we should put down the custodians," he said. "We have custodians from one site doing two sites every night.

They've agreed to help out. "We got folks in grounds doing maintenance work. We got people all over the place helping with driving," he continued. "We're putting it together and making it work, and I don't think it's time we should be bashing, badgering anybody for

"That's completely out of line and wrong. We're doing the best we can with what we've got.... We didn't make the problem."

not doing their job.

Trying "to find something good to end with," Green said he did "really appreciate the fact that everybody is helping out to make this work."

Supervisor Aldridge and board members uniformly expressed understanding and appreciation.

"I understand, Tessa. We're not bashing. appreciate that," trustee Alex Bowlds responded. "I appreciate Dan's comments about everybody trying to pull together and do everything they can to make this stuff work.... Thank you for what you're doing. I know it's difficult. You are appreciated though sometimes it may not seem so to

"I repeat what Alex says," said trustee Jeanne King. "I deeply appreciate the effort all the staff throughout the district is making.... Everybody's been going the extra mile to keep students in school.... Willits Unified should applaud itself."

In addition to thanking "all our staff for doing a herculean effort," board president Robert Chavez called for more, citing an article he read "from back East ... [about] nationwide teacher burnout concerns

"This is an unprecedented event," he said. "We're having numbers of teachers expenditures."

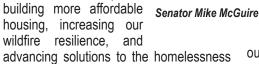
The rest of McGuire

along with the ingenuity and hard work with Pro Tem Atkins and the State Senate Californians are known for, the Golden to ensure our best days are still ahead," State is poised to emerge from this Senator McGuire said.

pandemic stronger, Senator McGuire said in his office's January 19 announcement. "That's why I am so incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work with our exceptional Senate leader, Pro Tem Toni Atkins. With Senator Atkins in the lead, we're bringing forward one of America's strongest climate action plans, building more affordable housing, increasing our

crisis – and that's just the beginning.

but I'm more energized than ever to work



pandemic. Even through

never gave in. Together, we will never quit fighting for the future of the North Coast "Yes, we're living in challenging times,

reaching burnout points.... Some have from things not working to work not getting reached it.

"There's a lot of pressure being put on teachers, [and] ... if there's anything we could take off their plates, we need to do that; any support we can give, we need to do that. They need relief.'

Kind words aside, Aldridge described a dismal current state of affairs.

"Today was certainly the height of things, I think, as far as staff absences," he said. "We're probably at least 10 percent of our staff who are absent either quarantining or

"Staffing has been a challenge, but at this time we're able to make it work," he said. Which was not true the next day, January 13.

On that day, in a letter sent home with students and posted on Facebook, Aldridge informed the Willits Unified community that "after careful consideration, we have decided to close school tomorrow.... This missed day will be made up on Friday, March 18, 2022,"

In a follow-up letter the next day about school safety, Aldridge assured the community that "staff [was] working today to ensure that we are ready for students to return on Tuesday ... providing screening on arrival to school, air filtration, and increased air flow in classrooms."

The letter contained information on testing availability at all schools, issues of consent, and assurances of notification of exposure in the classroom, as well as a suggestion to vaccinate "your child ... [which has been] shown to reduce the severity of illness.

Students returned to the classroom on Tuesday, January 18, with guidelines for those testing positive and masking requirements presumably unchanged.

We "currently require students or staff who test positive to provide a negative test and return to school on days 6 through 10," Aldridge told the board at the meeting.

"After 10 days the person could return with no test and no fever present. And during days 6 through 10, they are required to wear a high-quality N95 type or surgical type mask ... available in each school

Masking is still required at all times indoors and outdoors, with the outdoor requirement to end February 1, although trustee Paula Nunez expressed some concerns about making any changes.

"I personally don't really think that making a deadline for wearing or not wearing [masks] is that good of an idea when the ... peaking seems to come and go so constantly," she said. "I would just like that we maintain as much masking as we can, since that's all I hear about or the news from most all news outlets; that [masks are going to] keep us the safest until everyone's so vaccinated or this issue

Lest you think it's all bad news and there's nothing else happening, there were bright spots and news of ongoing work that has nothing to do with disease.

For example, there were multiple mentions of the reading initiative in the lower grades proving successful.

And the board unanimously approved a proposal to fund a "maintenance and operations assessment," which will "build a comprehensive facilities master plan and give us the opportunity to really prioritize the next bond draw," said Aldridge.

"Being responsible for spending the public's money, we want to make sure that we have our priority list for those

From Page 1

For the last three

years, Senator McGuire has served as Assistant Majority Leader. "I am so incredibly

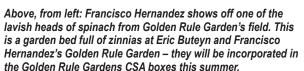
grateful for the opportunity to serve in this new role. And, my top priority will always be the North Coast. We have been through so much together over the last several years - multiple wildfires, floods, extreme drought and this

our darkest days, we never gave up and we and the Golden State," Senator McGuire









Photos by Renata Abbade

Keith and Jess Michalak pose by their Flow Through Reactor worm bed that makes some of the compost for the Golden Rule Garden - notice that the bottom shelf has been pulled out to expose the rough compost. At left: While this is Buttercup's winter garden, it still has color with healthy, seasonal crops they narvest for themselves as well as the Golden Rule community





Bountiful Box

Sign up now for the Golden Rule Gardens CSA subscription to get 30 weeks of organic veggies, fruits and flowers starting in May

Buttercup Compost Lab's Keith and Jess Michalak Reactor." He gives credit to Dan at Michigan Soil Works, recently joined up with Eric Buteyn and Francisco Hernandez's Golden Rule Garden to offer a Golden Rule Gardens community-supported agriculture subscription. The boxes will be available in May but those interested need to sign up now.

Willits Weekly stopped by on Sunday to get the scoop from the Michalaks. Unfortunately, Buteyn and Hernandez weren't available for the interview.

Ree Slocum

Both gardens are located on Ridgewood Ranch with Buttercup in the lowlands and Golden Rule Garden located higher up in the former garden of John Jeavons' Ecology Action.

The expansion makes it possible for the Golden Rule Gardens CSA to offer more volume and variety. "Instead of offering 40 CSAs, we're switching to 45 to 50 CSAs that will be available. We're also growing food for the community here on Ridgewood Ranch and we're making sure there's a surplus to donate every week to the various outlets you can donate food to in Mendocino County," shared Keith.

Both gardens use sustainable and organic gardening and farming practices. They share the Golden Rule property with the School of Adaptive Agriculture and the New Agrarian Collective, trading resources and information.

The produce in both Buttercup Compost Lab and Golden Rule Garden is grown with organic compost and fertilizers. "Both farms make all their own compost and potting soil and use open-pollinated, organic and biodynamic seeds,"

The Michalaks have been farming their 1.5-acre field for about four years, almost exclusively by hand with five implements. "We work at a hand scale so we're not utilizing any fossil fuels like a tractor or anything like that. What I like is: here we are growing all this food and we honestly use five tools." explained Jess. The only powered machine is a small Tilther that tills the compost into the first inch of soil, making their work lives much-less labor intensive. The Tilther is run by a battery-charged drill that's used as the motor. The battery is charged by a small solar panel. "So we are perfectly off grid," she said with a satisfied smile.

Keith explained what the large, white container was in a protected shed: "It's a fancy-smanshie worm bed. This large, contained worm system is called a 'Flow Through

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the company that made the bin and donated one to the Michalaks. "I told him what we were doing here and he was

The Reactor bin works by the couple feeding material, like leaves, into the top. The Red Wiggler worm species only feeds on the top and the finished product is at the bottom. There's a large mesh screen at the bottom and a blade that, when pulled, scrapes off the finished compost. That is screened again to separate any gravel or other material with the final product being a lush, dark, fluffy fertilizer ready to incorporate into garden beds or the Golden Rule Garden.

The Golden Rule Garden is large and in their fields they grow crops like corn, winter squash and beans. Those

look forward to some herbs like chamomile, rosemary, garlic, and a small weekly flower bouquet. People love those so much! There's fruit in season like apples; big, juicy blackberries; dried and fresh persimmons. This year's CSA will provide melons, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, and all the standard favorites like salad greens, kale, broccoli, carrots and more. There should be a good diversity of

Jess said the CSA will start the first week in May and will go for 30 weeks, just after Thanksgiving.

One of their weekly CSAs can feed anywhere between one to four people "... depending on how many veggies you eat!" They include an every-other-week CSA option that's perfect for single folks or people growing their own limited gardens. The boxes will be ready for pickup at

happy to support a project like ours."

What can subscribers look forward to in the seasonal

Golden Rule Gardens CSA?

seasonal veggies will be included in the CSA box. Listed by the Michalaks are more offerings: "People can

the farm stand located in the Seabiscuit Barn right after the cattle guard on

To sign up for the Golden Rule Gardens CSA subscription, contact Keith Michalak at keithmichalak@ gmail.com or call 248-249-





right: Keith Michalak shows off a handful of Buttercup's luscious compost. Above: Jess and Keith Michalak with their son, Louis, in the garden at Buttercup Compost Lab last summer.



Lawn & Garden Equipment Generators

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School of Adaptive Agriculture offers virtual workshop series

Submitted by the School of Adaptive Agriculture

The School of Adaptive Agriculture, based at Ridgewood Ranch in Willits, has announced a new virtual workshop series of classes this winter and spring, with the first class happening on Sunday, January 23. The series focuses on specific topics useful to the community at large, including courses on herbal health care, mycology, soil regeneration, livestock management, and many other farming-optimization skills.

All classes in the virtual workshop series will be taught via Zoom, and are priced very affordably to be accessible Classes will be taught live, with lots of interaction instructors, and participants will also get a recording of the class for future and repeat viewing.

"Of course we'd rather meet inperson with everyone, building community face to face, but this is a good way to stay connected and offer educational resources and opportunities, which is our mission," said SAA Director Michael Foley. An author and farmer at Green Uprising Farm, Foley is teaching two classes in the series: "Jumping the Regulatory Hurdles" and "Bookkeeping and Taxes for Small Farms and Businesses."

Longtime SAA volunteer Takashi Yogi a retired medical-electronics engineer. is teaching a class called "Organizing for Easy Living," which is appropriate not just for farmers but for anyone who could use a little help getting their spaces and minds de-cluttered. "I strongly believe in the mission of the SAA to support sustainable agriculture," says Yogi, who calls the SAA "a daring experiment."

The experiment has evolved over the years, especially since COVID hit. Like nearly all businesses, the SAA has had to pivot repeatedly over the past two years, suspending in-person education while finding ways to continue to connect to the community.

international

Need to

update, remove

or add a

phone number?

willitsphonebook@gmail.com

Deadline for ads & changes

is February 10

Send an email to:

and get your business included this year!

willitsphonebook@gmail.com

soroptimists

"In some ways, the pandemic has created opportunities for more connection, especially outside our direct community. since online platforms are so commonly used now," says SAA Marketing and Outreach Coordinator Renata Abbade.

There are about 20 workshops being offered through the series. Other topics include "Introduction to Natural Building," taught by Amanda Fischer of Muddy Hands;

"Medicinal Mycology: Spore to Harvest" and "Medicinal Healing taught by Michael Cole of Optimistic Orchard: "Perennials Economic Adaptive **Ecological** Resilience" taught by Heidi Herrmann Strong Arm Farm; and "Cultural Competency Agriculture," taught by Kanyon "Coyote Woman" Sayers-Roods and Anna Hope

The SAA strives to equip future farmers, gardeners, ranchers, herbalists, and homesteaders with the best practices available so humanity can continue to meet its basic needs in responsible and sustainable ways. This virtual workshop series is the newest approach to meeting that goal; the SAA also has a residential training program and internship program conducts farm tours and farmer-to-farmer exchanges, and offers technical assistance to farmers and ranchers.

The SAA team looks forward to supporting the local and broader community of farmers and enthusiasts for years to come. Everyone's future depends on adaptive and creative solutions from farmers, ranchers, gardeners, healers and educators who are constantly learning.

The virtual workshop series is made possible with the support provided by COVID-19 Nonprofit Relief Fund The Community Foundation of Mendocino County. To learn more and to register for the classes, visit https:// schoolofadaptiveagriculture.org/virtualworkshop-series.



Above: Brad and Jill Walton, with their daughter, Holli Woodhouse, drive their antique 1920s automobile during last year's celebration of Edie Ceccarelli's 113th birthday. Below: Colorful birthday wishes are shown on many of the cars last year.







Exchanging Ideas

Leadership Mendocino students visit Willits

to learn about local finance, business

and manufacturing concerns

Where in Mendocino County can a high school principal, a tribal leader, a cannabis manager, a head

of pharmacology, and various other established and upcoming leaders get together, learn about all things

Mendocino, spend hours exchanging ideas, and generally enhance their abilities to improve the lives of the

residents of the county? The 28th class of the program known as Leadership Mendocino is halfway through

a game led by ex-county sheriff Tom Allman. They viewed presentations by various leadership consultants,

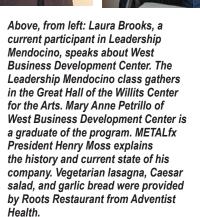
trainers, and past attendees, sampled local wines, and learned what to expect in the coming months during

Meeting once a month, they would be travelling to such places as Point Arena to learn about natural

its exploration of many of the aspects of life, government, challenges and joys of living

The program began with a retreat in Philo on September 17 and 18, where they

spent a couple of days getting to know each other and memorizing names, thanks to



At left: The whole group of 27 participants poses for a group shot at the opening retreat in Philo. At right, top: Sasha Thomas-Nuruddin, manager of the Willits Center for the Arts, tells the group of the history of the WCA. At right: Chris Baldo showed this four-cylinder marine engine, recently recovered from Noyo Harbor.







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CLOSE THE LOOP







Edie to turn 114

Come celebrate Willits' Supercentenarian Edie Ceccarelli on February 5 with drive by parade

Make sure to decorate your car and come drive by the home of Willits' eldest resident, Edie Ceccarelli, on her 114th birthday, Saturday, February 5. The parade will run from 1:30 to 2 pm in the Haehl Creek subdivision, and by the Holy Spirit Residential Care Home located at 414 Grove Street. See the route on the ad on page 12 or call the Howard Foundation at 459-2777 for more information.

Below: Edie Ceccereli, the 113-year-old birthday girl, smiles for the camera in 2021. At right, top: Saprina Rodriguez's Imagination Station kindergarten class comes to say "Happy Birthday" in 2021 At right: A woman walks by holding a handmade sign last year.





Coming Next Week:

THE KING'S MAN



Mathew Caine

(2022)

(R) 1 hr 54 mins

Fri.:

6:00 & 8:30pm

Sat./Sun.:

Eric Hart asks forest manager at Mendocino Redwood Company. At left: Dan Kozloff of Mendocino Theatre Company leads Jason Morse and Holly Madrigal in a session of theater

(PG13) 2 hrs 28 mins

Fri.:

4:25 & 7:30pm

Sat./Sun.:

1:20, 4:25, & 7:30pm

Mon.-Thurs.:

Over on Page 13

Far left: Participant



00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm Mon.-Thurs.: 6:00 & 8:30pm

4:25 & 7:30pm Tightwad Tuesday Title for Jan. 25th is in Red. All tickets at \$6!

SPIDER-MAN:

NO WAY HOME



Teresa Robertson Spencer Brewer **Esther Siegal**





OPENING Friday Jan. 7, 2022



STORY

PG13) 2 hrs 36 mins

4:00 & 7:15pm

Sat./Sun.:

12:45, 4:00 & 7:15pm

Mon.-Thurs.:

4:00 & 7:15pm

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY **PRE-SALE ONLY**

> To-Go Pulled Pork Sandwich Lunch

Contact Willits Senior Class Members to Buy Tickets

Pre-Sale Tickets \$15 per lunch \$50 family 4 pack

Sunday, February 13th Noon - 2 pm **WHS Ag Farm** Tickets available at Scoops & Cat's Meow

Pick Up



Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits. Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment

to see if you qualify. 707-459-6826





Pingson Land

It's time for the 2022

Phone book!

Closed Sunday



Current Job Openings:

Accountant

Air Pollution Control Officer Application Developer/Analyst I/II Auditor

Cartographer/Planner -Cannabis Program

Chief Planner - Cannabis Program Chief Planner - Fort Bragg Chief Planner - Ukiah

Cook **Corrections Deputy** Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV Deputy Probation Officer II Deputy Public Defender II/III/IV Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II **Environmental Compliance Specialist** Environmental Health Specialist I/II

> **Equipment Superintendent** Heavy Equipment Mechanic **Human Resources Director** Office Services Supervisor -Cannabis Program

Planner I/II - Cannabis Program Planning Technician I -Cannabis Program

Road Maintenance Worker III Senior Application Developer/Analyst Senior Planner- Cannabis Program Senior Program Manager Senior Program Manager - Nursing Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D

Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C Substance Abuse Program and Services Manager

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:

www.governmentjobs.com/careers/ mendocinoca

EOE



Soroptimist International of Willits prepares the 2022

Willits Community Telephone Directory

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

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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON MARCH 8, 2022 TO **ESTABLISH WATER FEES FOR MONTHLY WATER USE**

OVERAGES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022 The Brooktrails Township Community Services District **Board of Directors will Consider Ordinance 164** Establishing Fees for Water Service - Water Use Overages

The Brooktrails Township Community Services District has adopted a monthly water usage cap of 9,000 gallons per month per connection under Ordinance 159, approved by the Board of Directors May 22, 2018, to protect and preserve limited surface water supplies for the health and safety of its water customers. The Public Hearing will consider Ordinance 164, establishing a fee and due process for water customers who repeatedly exceed the monthly usage cap.

The proposed new water fee will be considered at a public hearing on March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Brooktrails Community Center located at 24850 Birch Street, Willits. The fee amount has been determined to be the amount necessary to offset costs to procure additional water

Questions can be directed to the District during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and by telephone at 707-459-2494. /s/ Tamara Alaniz, Secretary to the Board of Directors Publication Dates: January 20, 27, 2022

WW373

GET READY

willits High, Sanhedrin High & Willits Charter Senior Formal photos January 19, 20 & 21, 2022

with photography by

maureen Jennison

www.mphotographress.com | 707-972-7047

WW372

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON MARCH 8, 2022 TO ESTABLISH WATER FEES FOR WATER THEFT, **EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022**

The Brooktrails Township Community Services District **Board of Directors will Consider Ordinance 163** Establishing Fees for Water Service - Water Theft

The California State Senate has determined that water theft is a punishable offense and have authorized water districts to establish a fee for water theft as defined in Senate Bill 427 and codified in Government Code §53069.45(d). The public hearing will consider Ordinance 163, establishing a fee and due process for occurrences of water theft.

The proposed new water fees will be considered at a public hearing on March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Brooktrails Community Center located at 24850 Birch Street, Willits. The fee amounts have been determined to be the amount necessary to offset costs to find, investigate, prevent and address water theft.

Questions can be directed to the District during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and by telephone at 707-459-2494.

/s/ Tamara Alaniz, Secretary to the Board of Directors Publication Dates: January 20, 27, 2022

LEGAL NOTICES LEGAL NOTICES

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 - BAECHTEL 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, Alameida Architecture, 555 S. Main Street, Suite 2, Sebastopol CA, County o Sonoma, California, and may be obtained by licensed contractors upon payment of a nonrefundable deposit of one hundred and seventy five (\$175) per set.
- 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, madepayable 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.
- 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. 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.
- 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 contactor 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.
- 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 §§5100 et seq. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding
- Minority, women, and disabled veteran contractors are encouraged to submit bids. This bid is _ / is not X 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
- 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**.
- 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 Transporation

Dated: January 2022 Publication Dates: January 13, January 20, 2022

LEGAL NOTICES LEGAL NOTICES

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.

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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 Transporation Dated: January 2022

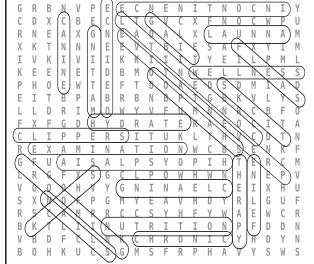
Publication Dates: January 13, January 20, 2022

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Willits Weekly | January 20, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

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mo. 707-354-2473.

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, madepayable 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.

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HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT ("Project") up to, but not later than

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S. Main Street, Suite 2, Sebastopol CA, County o

of one hundred and seventy five (\$175) per set.

Sonoma, California, and may be obtained by licensed

contractors upon payment of a nonrefundable deposit

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, Alameida Architecture, 555

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WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Signed by: Terry McEntee, Director of Maintenance Operations and Transporation Dated: January 2022

Publication Dates: January 13, January 20, 2022

Marc Komer An Affordable

I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction

3	2	7	9	8	6	4	1	5	
9	1	4	7	5	3	8	2	6	
8	6	5	1	2	4	7	3	9	
6	4	8	5	9	2	3	7	1	
7	5	9	3	1	8	6	4	2	
2	3	1	6	4	7	5	9	8	
5	8	2	4	3	9	1	6	7	
4	9	6	8	7	1	2	5	3	
1	7	3	2	6	5	9	8	4	

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pedics, Spanish speak-

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ing to make difference

in lives of others and

build careers in human

services. Care Manag-

ers, Street Outreach

Specialists. sydney@

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community

oaknvine.net/tp"

or call 707-391-9688.

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gmail.com.

zanitaservices.org

call 707-391-9688.

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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.

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> Willits Food Bank Open

more info.

for a signup form and

Child Development Program Recruiting for Wil-Willits Community Serlits: Associate Teacher (Floater) I-II, EHS Classvices & Food Bank conroom; \$14.58 - \$16.65/ tinues to distribute food, following COVID-19 hr DOE. Bilingual Preferred, Eligible for bisafety provisions, to hungry families and inlingual pay differential. For full job description dividuals in the Willits details & required appliarea, with an increase cation form www.ncoinc. in numbers served. The org/about-us/jobs or front office at 229 E San 707-467-3200. Francisco Ave is closed until filled. EOE to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on

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@manzanitaser-

vices.org or call 707-

391-9688.

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

Help Wanted

Ads are just \$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

Wednesdays and Fri-

days from 1 to 4:30 pm.

Info: 459-3333; financial

donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San

Francisco, Willits CA

95490.



Pg. 8 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Willits Weekly | January 20, 2022

Kris Walker

Kristen Doris Walker first blessed the world with her presence on February 4, 1958; she was soon adopted by Katharine and Houston Roberts, growing up in Huntington Beach, California alongside her adopted brother, Clarke.

Kris was a unique, altruistic, incredible whirlwind of a woman from a young age, and lived a life full of adventure, chasing anything that set her soul on fire. She worked countless different jobs, honing skills and gaining knowledge, spreading her wings as wide as they would stretch. But above all else, her one self-proclaimed lifelong career was that of Ambassador of Smiles and Good Will, working for a Higher

In her mid-30s she experienced what she always said was her proudest accomplishment and greatest blessing, when she gave birth to her only child, Katelyn. With "Mom" now the most prominent title of her resume. Kris set her sails on the best life she could manifest for her and her daughter, which she accomplished greatly.

Moving to the small town of Willits. Kris was able to dedicate herself to teaching and nurturing the youth of our community, being the caretaker and lover of her own little piece of nature's beauty, blossoming into the classy but sassy "Pub Mom" at Shanachie's, and of course, the most amazing role model, guide, muse, teacher, and parent a child could ask for.

The rest of **Betty White**

From Page 1

Show"? \$180 for the number of episodes of "The Golden Girls"? \$2,009 for the year the hilarious movie "The Proposal" was released? \$1,922 for the year White was born? \$100,000 for the number of laughs when she hosted "Saturday Night Live" in May of 2021, or \$1,000,000 because, well, sliced bread is the best thing since Betty White: White was born in 1922, sliced bread invented in 1928.

Those interested in working with the dogs get to also meet with the dog behavior HSIMC, located at 9700 Uva Drive team to go over the management and in Redwood Valley, between Willits and consistency rules to ensure safety and Ukiah, operates 100 percent on donations happiness for dog and volunteer. Walks by community members and businesses. and socializations are then available to be Donations like these allow the center to completed at the schedule of the volunteer, continue to save around 1,000 animals per during the shelter's open business hours. year and help to cover day-to-day costs and annual operation expenses. "This is the first week we have opened

What will \$100 do for the shelter? HSIMC administrative director Jenny Hanzlik offered several ways the shelter will be able to spend use this donation:

"Well, \$100 will cover two neuters or one spay," explained Hanzlik. "It will also get about five bags of dog food; eight bags of cat food; eight poop scoopers; 10 cat litter bags; three multi-packs of squeaker toys pay for about 1/12 of a kennel; will cover the intake of 10 new animals, and also buy about 10 tubs of laundry soap.'

While monetary donations are always important, donations of time can also make a huge difference in the lives of the animals at the shelter, as well as keeping up with the tasks at hand to run the operation.

"We have a volunteer orientation meeting coming up on January 30 that starts at 11 am," explained Hanzlik. "We need dog walkers, cat socializers, and laundry

The world suffered an unexpected and indescribable loss, when in the early hours of December 25, 2021, Christmas morning, Kris' soul was set free after suffering a major stroke a few hours earlier. She is survived by her daughter, Kate, her boyfriend, Liam, and her dog, Shiloh.

The "Celebration of Life" for Kris will be held on Sunday, February 6, 2022 beginning at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Willits (66 East Commercial Street) at 4 pm for about an hour, and will then be carried forth into the evening with a "Memorial Soiree" at Shanachie's Pub in Willits (50 South Main Street, must be 21+).

All are encouraged to come, bring photos, stories and music, and - even alongside tears - don't forget to bring a smile.

The general orientation lasts about 30

minutes, and then a dog-specific orientation

follows for about another 30 to 45 minutes.

Attending the orientations sets you up

to start volunteering that day, with folks

usually deciding to start in the "cattery" or

back up with our regular office hours,"

said Hanzlik. "During the holidays and

pandemic, we were open by appointment

only. We're thrilled to be back on our

schedule and appreciate everyone

respecting and understanding our masking

The Humane Society of Inland Mendocino

County is open Wednesday through Friday

from 1 to 5 pm and on Saturday and Sunday

Hanzlik said that as of Wednesday

Anyone wishing to learn more about

volunteering, anyone interested in adopting

an animal, or anyone wanting more

information is welcome to stop by the

shelter during open hours, call the office

line at 707-485-0123, or email info@hsimc.

gardens

morning, over \$10,000 has been raised for

HSIMC from the #BettyWhiteChallenge.

cat housing quarters.

and distancing rules."

from 11 am to 3 pm.

SIGN UP NOW FOR OUR WEEKLY CSA

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ABUNDANT SELECTION OF BIODYNAMIC FRUITS.

VEGETABLES, FLOWERS, HERBS + PRODUCTS

As part of her photographic passion, Johnson does personal projects which have been shown in galleries. Her "Rainbow Baby" series was for women who have had children following a miscarriage and her "Shine the Light" project exposes the hidden pain behind physically challenged

and professional success. "I lost my job

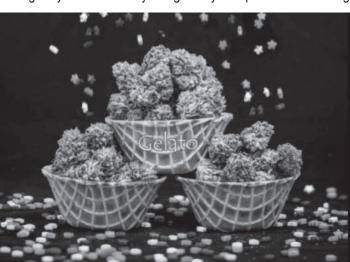
who had endometriosis really bad. She was in so much pain and there is nothing anyone can do for her. We did a photo shoot for her and had a makeup artist come in and put bruising on her stomach, as all of her pain is internal. As soon as she saw the bruising makeup on her stomach she just busted into tears. She said, 'this is the first time I could actually see my pain.' The photo shoot was heartbreaking but now she advocates for the disease and shares them all over the world. I just did one recently with a little girl with cerebral palsy," she added.

Johnson doesn't just produce digital images of her boudoir shoots. She creates books and portfolios for her subjects to share, packages for a complete

Impressions Studio is a creative blend of

taking place on Thursday, January 27, from

impressionsstudio.org.



At left: Shalee Johnson spent four industry. Below, left: A shoot by Shalee Johnson. Photos by

will offer pole athletics classes and photography





COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Scream'

The Story: Over the red rainbow gore-a-thon Remake No. Five of the original (sort-ofclassic) "Scream." a most-popular 1996 slasher-fest. It seems a (male, or maybe female)



Dan Essman

psycho killer in a hooded black cape is on a murder spree. His-maybe-Her maniacal face is concealed by a bonewhite ghost mask. This gender-non-specific killer wields a shiny butcher knife and stabs, slices, slashes and stomps

> Who among this whiny group of teen neurotics is the killer? It's a jump scar guessing game-to-the-death for the characters. And some lose. Courteney Cox, Neve Campbell

> > SCREAM

and David Arguette, returning actors from the first movie, sauce up the thrills. So check out this new flick you fun-devils. Feel free to scream to your

My Thoughts: Fear Porn. Revenge Porn. We love these exploitation flicks for the thrill of jump scars and the titillating brutal bloody murders. What we the audience want is to see the completely evil killer get what's coming to him. We want to see the killer receive the same terror, torture and dismemberment that he, the killer forced on his innocent victims. We want to see the gloating killer suffer. And we want to

And ultimately, we want to see this world cleansed of Evil. That's the ultimate psychological promise of fear porn/revenge porn. Aristotle named the feeling of this promise Catharsis (but in Greek of course).

Parents: No, do not bring your children to see this movie. Are you kidding?

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

Howard Memorial suspends visiting due to latest COVID wave

On Friday, Adventist Health Howard Memorial announced on its Facebook page it would again be suspending visitation to the local hospital due to COVID. The post read:

Our county has recently been heavily impacted by a wave of positive COVID-19 cases. While we remain vigilant in our hospital the seriousness of the Omicron variant and the increase in positive cases are impacting our communities.

We are continuously responding to patient needs and are well equipped with protocols, supplies and compassionate

In an effort to mitigate the spread and create a safe environment for patients and staff, we are suspending visitation at this time. Exceptions will be made for a visitor accompanying a child needing care, assisting someone with a disability/cognitive impairment, or end-of-life

Once the positivity rates subside, visitors will again be permitted. Visitors will be required by the State of California to show proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within the last 72 hours.

For those needing outpatient services such as labs imaging or clinic visits, we ask that you please wear a surgical grade mask that covers your nose and mouth rather than a cloth mask. This provides you and those around you with better protection. We ask the same of patients who present themselves to the Emergency Department to use proper personal protection. Meanwhile COVID-19 vaccine booster shots continue to be available in the community at local clinics and pharmacies.

Together, we can all be a force for good by demonstrating patience and compassion towards each other as we go through the continuation of the pandemic. We thank you for your help in keeping our patients, staff and community

CEO Carmel Angelo to retire in March

Submitted by County of Mendocino

After 14 years of service with Mendocino County, Chief Executive Officer Carmel Angelo has announced she will retire on March 19, 2022.

CEO Angelo served the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors for the past 12 years in her current role While working with current and past county boards of supervisors, Angelo helped navigate and manage the many unexpected issues that faced county government in addition to supporting the day-to-day essential services the County of Mendocino provides to its residents.

After working 12 years for San Diego County, Angelo joined Mendocino County in 2007 as Director of Health and Human Services. Later in 2009, she served the Executive Office as Assistant CEO. In 2010, the board of supervisors appointed Angelo as CEO to fill the position vacated by the sudden retirement of then-CEO Tom Mitchell, making Angelo the first female CEO for the County of Mendocino.

Angelo's role as CEO came at a time of great uncertainty for many counties, including rural counties like Mendocino, when the fiscal crisis hit, affecting local government budgets throughout the state. Her background in fiscal discipline supported her work with individual county departments to help the county remain stable throughout her first few years in the Executive Office.

This first major challenge would prove helpful as she guided the organization through future challenges including multiple disastrous fire and flood events and their recovery work to the unprecedented pandemic of the past

Though her work in local government began with the more urban population of San Diego County, Angelo's heart moved towards advocating for rural counties. "The budgets are smaller, the needs are greater, and cost of doing business is almost the same as a larger county. Fighting for the needs of a rural county has been a cause that will always be important to me," Angelo said, reflecting on her decade-plus experience in Mendocino County.

Not only was Angelo instrumental with keeping county government moving forward with the various county board of supervisors over the years, she also would collaborate with other neighboring counties. In 2015, she was directed by the board of supervisors to bring together nearby counties who were also juggling with forthcoming legal cannabis legislation. In 2015, with Mendocino County hosting, Mendocino and other surrounding counties produced a statewide policy on proposed legislation which would give voice to the region's cannabis cultivating counties in Sacramento.

In addition to her role as CEO, Angelo served in a number of statewide leadership roles including the California Association of County Executives (CACE), where she served as the organization's President. Also, she served on the Executive Committee of California Association of Counties' (CSAC) Woman's Leadership Forum, in addition to earning her CSAC Senior Executive Credential and becoming a CSAC Institute Fellow. In 2017, she received the Distinguished Service Award from CACE.

The following year, she received the 2018 President's Award from Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) due to her rural advocacy. For her years in leadership roles at CSAC, she received the 2019 CSAC Circle of Service Award and most recently received the 2021 CACE President's Award.



Mendocino County must address potential extinction of legal growers

Submitted by Hannah L. Nelson, attorney. and the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance

Recently, Mendocino County cannabis cultivation permit applicants were given a short window to resubmit their application and all supporting materials. The "portal" had been delayed from its intended opening multiple times, but finally opened on August 2 and closed on November 2.

It was intended to streamline the process and finally straighten out the county's records for each applicant, after many years of program management under different leadership losing files and long delays in processing

Unfortunately, the monumental efforts of the new Mendocino Cannabis Program have once again failed to streamline the process, and it has once again stalled out. Chronic understaffing and poorly thought-through actions have not resulted in positive outcomes.

While the MCP works tirelessly to rectify problems (some self-inflicted, and some due to outside forces), there has been NO clear or consistent communication or guidance

Instead, they have been sent notices that their applications are incomplete and that there is no current way to correct the deficiencies or errors – some of which are simply incorrect determinations by staff reviewers and are told that they may be denied as a result. This is despite the fact that reviews are not conducted pursuant to consistent or clear guidelines, there were insufficient instructions given, the limitations of the portal technology, and other challenges

While there is no question that MCP needs and deserves full staffing, legitimate questions remain:

• Why hasn't MCP staffed up since being directed and funded by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors?

 Why did MCP not establish and publish clear standards, guidelines and educational materials that would give applicants and staff clear and consistent basis for the portal submission requirements?

• Why have the applicants not been told when they will be able to correct any noticed deficiencies and, more than that, what is the process of clearing up mistakes by staff or any unclear comments by staff regarding items they deemed deficient?

· Why do different reviewers review the same files and come to different determinations?

• What will the appeal process be if applicants are

We have asked these questions in various ways over the past several months, and have not received any clear

Will Mendocino County answer these questions and address these issues now, in public, or will the answers and solutions only come from and be forced through existing and future litigation?

This is not the same old gripe about the inefficiencies of county government, which is quite common here in Mendocino. The sad fact is that concurrent factors combine with these local problems to create what amounts to an

existential crisis for most of these small local tax-paying

The recent cannabis market crash, exorbitant local and state cultivation taxes, the looming deadline for state provisional licenses, the shifted CEQA burden, drought fire and COVID all are contributing to make this an EXTINCTION-LEVEL EVENT.

On top of this, the county has failed to properly supervise the outside contractor that is responsible for rolling out the Equity Grant funds to the qualified grantees and has not insisted that other county departments that are necessarily involved in that process were coordinated with from the

As a result, time-limited approved funding from the state is in very real jeopardy of having to be returned and intended recipients that might have been saved from shuttering may not receive this desperately needed relief in time to save their businesses.

Mendocino County was also granted \$17.5 million in a local jurisdiction grant, which will likely also suffer from the same bureaucratic entropy as the Local Equity Program and as a result, may not get to the intended beneficiaries in the form of real services or grants in time to be meaningful in addressing the huge challenges they face TODAY.

These businesses are going to be lost permanently if something is not done.

Where is the accountability of the county?

It is time to stop blaming the applicants and instead work in partnership with them and other stakeholders to save this necessary component of our community and local

Every applicant has volunteered to be regulated and stepped forward into the abyss. No one thought it would be as torturous of a process (neither the county nor the applicants) as it has been and continues to be. Every one of these tax-paying businesses is tracked and traced at the state level. Accountability of state license holders is no longer the issue, it is now the county.

Visit https://mendocannabis.com/2022/01/12/hannah--nelson-and-mendocino-cannabis-alliance-statementof-issues-related-to-the-crisis-facing-mendocino-countycannabis-businesses/ for a more thorough and detailed explanation of the issues touched on above.

Hannah L. Nelson is a local attorney with extensive experience in cannabis issues, policy, and compliance at the local and state level. Info: https://hannahnelson.net/ or annahnelson@hannahnelson.net

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance serves and promotes Mendocino County's world-renowned cannabis cultivators and businesses through sustainable economic development, education and public policy initiatives. Info https://mendocannabis.com/ or info@mendocannabis.com

Together they have consistently offered free, pragmatic assistance to the county to help resolve these and a myriad of other issues. Their requests to provide "fixes" to proposed regulations in the county by vetting them for practical implications prior to implementation have

MCSA shines during State Cup soccer

Submitted by Mendocino County Soccer Academy

Mendocino County Soccer Academy's (MCSA) 2010 Boys recently brought home NorCal Premier Soccer's State Cup - Silver Division in a dramatic final game decided by penalty kicks. This is the third State Cup title for MCSA, and the victory served as an exclamation point on a recordbreaking year for the club.

The team consists of boys born in 2010 and 2011 from across the county. Six players hail from Willits, including the entire starting defense of Salvio Senerchia, Anthony Stillwell, Quinn Schadeck, and Manuel Guerra. The other local players include Alexis Villegas and Baltazar Aguilar, and young Baltazar put home the title-clinching goal!

This resilient young group plays in NorCal Premier, which features teams from much bigger communities in Sonoma, Marin and Napa counties.

Head Coach Hector Toscano, a Fort Bragg High and UC Davis graduate, explains: "NorCal offers multiple levels within league: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Along with Coach Pepe, our players and families, we decided to go with a major challenge by playing in the Gold Division after playing in Bronze in previous seasons, which meant the competition for each match would be incredibly high. We felt that putting this group in an environment where they would pushed to be their very best consistently was the right thing for their development," he says.

"Don't get me wrong, we took our lumps in league play," laughs Coach Toscano. "We were outmatched and on the wrong side of many lopsided games. However, the boys are resilient fighters. They showed up to practice every day with an attitude of getting better, and it paid off."

In addition to league play which consists of home games in Ukiah and road games on the weekends, the boys participated in NorCal's State Cup. This competition features preliminary games played throughout the fall with both home and away games and capped by knockout rounds at the Ripon Sports Complex in the Central Valley.

"Our tough league play helped the boys understand how important it is to be mentally, emotionally and physically prepared in order to succeed," says Coach Hector. "During State Cup, we were placed in the silver division, which allowed us to face a more balanced level of competition. The boys applied what they learned and put together an amazing run of victories culminating in a championship that

we won during a thrilling penalty kick shoot-out."

The steely determination of this team is most impressive. Team huddles featured tears, passion, and an unbreakable trust in each other and the process. After the title-winning game, emotions overflowed as players and fans rushed the field to celebrate a title from a small rural team competing against the largest and best clubs across the region.

Ian Fitzpatrick is a coach and administrator for MCSA He explains: "After a tumultuous two years managing the impacts of COVID-19, we were excited about a return to play in 2021. And we returned with a bang by growing the club to over 900 players across various programs throughout the county."

"We strive to provide opportunities for kids of all ages, interests, and playing experiences. Our Grassroots Academy is for beginners with a focus on skill development. our Developmental Soccer League is a countywide league for those players who want to play on a team and keep travel to a minimum, and then there are our Select Teams which compete in NorCal Premier," explains Fitzpatrick.

He concludes: "We're particularly proud of this 2010 boys team as many of the players have progressed through our player development pathway and have participated in all three of those programs. MCSA provides a platform for these players to grow as players and people and helps get them seen. In the coming years, these players will have opportunities to participate in college-showcase tournaments which can open doors otherwise unseen."

Assistant Coach Pepe Hernandez earned his college degree from William Jessup University via a soccer scholarship. He summed it up best: "We had a rough start to both league and State Cup, but we finished as champions. It was due to the players' resiliency, determination, consistency, work ethic, attitude, character and commitment. All of which helped them improve each practice and game. The result is a well-earned championship! What's more, these boys know this is only the beginning. I can't wait for the continued journey with these wonderful young men!"

To learn more about MCSA and opportunities for your child, please join the club's community town hall Monday, January 24, via Zoom at 7 pm. Learn more and register by visiting MendocinoSoccer.com or emailing Coach Fitzpatrick at Ian@MendocinoSoccer.com.

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PLEASE CONTACT: KEITH MICHALAK

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on a Monday and Tuesday I started doing research and instituting new prices I found on the boudoir pages I was following," Johnson continued. "I took a course and bought some pricing guides. Wednesday, this studio space opened up. Thursday, I got my first booking. This is the path I need to be taking, I guess.

Impressions

Her studio, at 25 West Mendocino Street, is full of props, materials, and fun backgrounds, things to play with to make her clients feel comfortable and relaxed and allow Johnson to have a starting point in her ability to bring out the playful, beautiful humans within.

"I've been doing the boudoir photography for about five years," Johnson told. "I thought it looked kind of fun. I had a girl who was willing to model for me. We had so much fun during the shoot and afterwards she just felt so much better about herself. I thought that I just made her feel so empowered that I wanted to do more. I started following a lot of boudoir pages because I liked that feeling of empowering

women. I knew that I wanted to do this." As part of the boudoir photo sessions, Johnson offers hair and makeup services from two local artists. "Sara Basaldua does the makeup and Krista Schafer does hair. She comes over from Luscious Day Spa," explained Johnson. She additionally offers the use of a full closet of prop clothing which

gets fully sanitized after each session.

"It originally started with my doing a fairy

From Page 3 photo shoot for a single mom." shared Johnson, "and she said her other child, her son, was terminal with cystic fibrosis. It made me want to do a photo shoot with just him. I wanted to raise awareness of this because I had no idea this was a thing. That's where 'Shine the Light' project came from, to shine a light and bring awareness on this. I put him in a Superman cape with his gastro-tube with him, feeding himself through the tube. It was just such a powerful picture. "I had a girl from Laytonville contact me

photographic experience.

The grand opening celebration will be 3 to 6:30 pm at the studio.

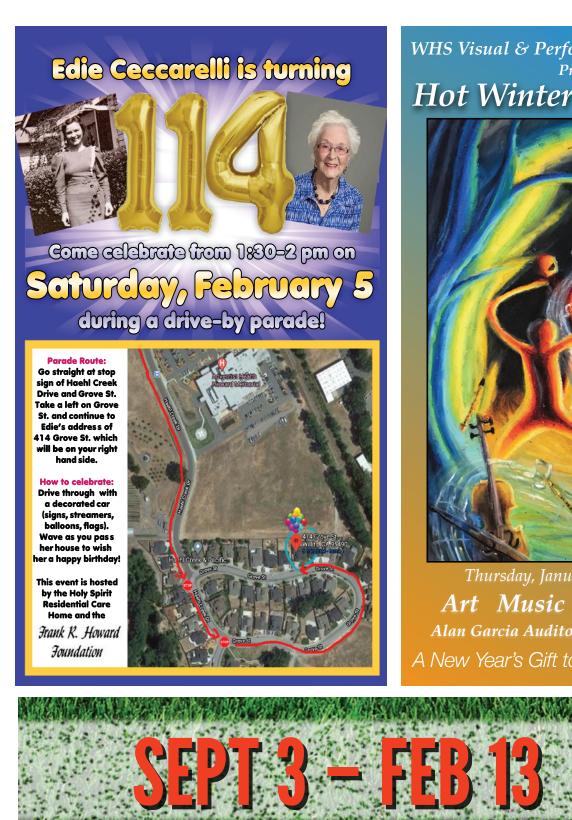
To find out more about Impressions Studio, call 707-354-4744, or visit www. instagram.com/Impressionsstudio, www. instagram.com/boudoirbyshalee, or www.

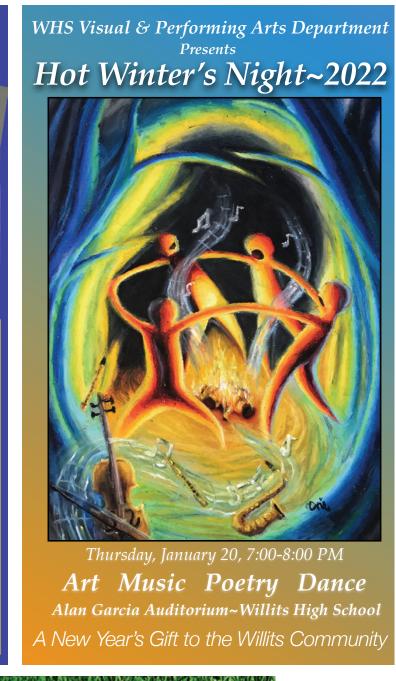
> years in the cannabis mother-to-be poses in a maternity photo

> > Impressions Studio



art, business and love.





'Hot Winter's Night' livestreams on January 20

Submitted by Willits High School

Greetings, friends: You are cordially invited to attend our 19th annual "Hot Winter's Night" extravaganza - a New Year's Gift to the Willits community - by

The Hot Winter's Night visual and performing arts event is set for January 20, from 7 to 8 pm, at Willits High School.

Due to the current COVID situation, we are asking only parents and guardians of our performing and visual arts students to join us (with their masks) on campus in the Alan Garcia Auditorium for a lovely evening of Art, Music, Dance, Poetry & Drama with friends and family.

We will livestream our show over the Willits High School Facebook page for the greater Willits

For further information, call Carolyn Bakewell at 459.7700 X 1533 or email carolynbakewell@ willitsunified.com or Daniel Cech at 459.7700 X 1536 or email danielcech@willitsunified.com

'Musical Merry Making' poster by WHS artist Arie Ochs

I was probably in the fourth grade when I was bored in class and decided to doodle - this is how I first got involved in art. My drive to continue to do art was influenced by a girl in my class whose art was way better than mine.

I felt really envious since my art was pretty horrible at that point. But I didn't hate her, I was inspired to be her. I would practice during class, when I got home, at any chance I got.

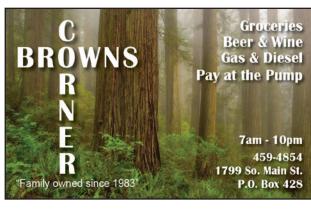
It's ironic, seeing how as a kid, I thought an art profession was cheap. As I grew as an artist, however, I became aware of how much dedication art takes, along with how much

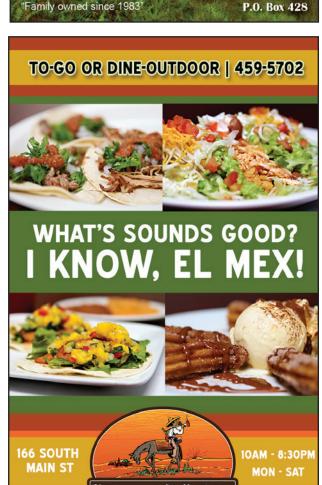
My piece "Musical Merry Making" [on the 2022 "Hot Winter's Night" poster] was inspired by Henri Matisse's "La

I thought the fluidity of the women dancing perfectly encapsulated the free-spirited feeling I wanted to give my piece. The figures dance around a warm fire while singing songs and enjoying themselves. I hope everyone feels as warm and free as they are.

- Arie Ochs







Willits Weekly | January 20, 2022

Restaurant El Mexicano

Leadership

and thus the people.

doing to contribute."

One of the major benefits of the

program, an NCO-sponsored project

run for the last three years by former

graduate and former mayor of Willits

Holly Madrigal, is the ability to network,

to make lasting contacts, and to be

"The best part of this program."

in working with different partners

throughout the community to better the

Jessi Alvarado, a business owner

and community leader in Covelo wrote,

"I have not only learned so much about

different businesses, places and

idea existed, but I've EXPERIENCED

Tim Henry, principal of Laytonville

High School has enjoyed his

collaborations: "This program is a real

eye-opener. For someone like myself,

who lives in a small rural community, to

be able to collaborate and make new

connections with other county leaders,

is really valuable. I've had a lot of eye-

opening exposures to other people

trying to make things happen in this

community. It's really effective in terms

of taking you out of your comfort zone

that you're used to on a day-to-day

basis and to be able to take more of a

10,000-foot view and to look at what's

important, and then to step back in and

make connections in whatever vou're

doing in your leadership or work roles."

The Willits Business and

Manufacturing and Finance Day

began at the Willits Center for the Arts

with talks by Third District Supervisor

John Haschak, who spoke briefly

about his experiences and concerns

as supervisor. Next up was Mary Anne

Petrillo of West Business Development

Center, a small business advisory

group that provides free consulting

services. One of the attendees, Laura

Brooks, who also works for the West

Sasha Thomas-Nuruddin, manager

of the Willits Center for the Arts,

explained the history of the WCA. Laura

Liberty of Factory Pipe and Henry

Moss of METALfx gave an overview of

local manufacturing. Robert Gernert of

Economic Development and Financing

Corporation and Pat Neighbors of

Vocality Community Credit Union

The class then moved to the

Commonwealth Garden at Adventist

Health and heard from Manager

Mellisa Bouley on the history, care

and maintenance of the garden.

Roots of Motive Power was next,

where the participants were shown

the amazing machinery and history.

The day ended at the innovative

Willits business Northspur Brewery for

some refreshments and the election of

county supervisors from the group who

will participate in a mock supervisorial

session next month at Government

By the end of the class in May, the

attendees expect to have a much

deeper understanding of all aspects

of the workings and challenges of

Mendocino County and have the

knowledge and contacts to effect real

and lasting change for the betterment

of all of the residents by solving

problems, discovering solutions, and

For further information about

Leadership Mendocino, visit https://

www.ncoinc.org/programs/leadership-

implementing programs.

and Non-Profit Day in Ukiah.

spoke on financing small businesses.

Center, added to the discussion.

services that we provide.

performance of their life's goals.

From Page 7

need to remove any barriers and have the joining a board of directors, creating a non-profit, teaching some of the skills BOS make a motion to move the project forward so that it can move forward. learned during the year, or any project they can envision to benefit the county

Brooktrails

Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea announced: "The Willits Area Cyclists have scheduled the first workday of the new year for Sunday, January 30. Work will be done on the Fond Lily Trail." Any volunteers who would like to participate may email wactrails@gmail.com to sign up.

From Page 1

General Manager Tamara Alaniz said, able to use these contacts in the "We surpassed last year's rain total on December 29!" Orth said his gauge measured a total of 43 inches.

shared Laura Brooks of West Business Supervisor John Haschak was in Development Center, "is finding out attendance and reported: "There will be that there are so many incredible an ad hoc meeting of the Drought Task things happening and so many people Force scheduled on February 10. Also, the that care in the community and the additional money for the fire department, county, getting to meet them, and \$45,000 from the PG&E settlement fund, going in depth on what it is they're has come through – a good thing for the Brooktrails Fire Department."

Each student, being unique and Haschak discussed the option of having coming from different areas of an election of property owners to see if leadership, has a different personal they'll agree on a special extra assessment take on the program. "It's been an for roads and road repairs: "And, regarding incredible experience that you can live County Service Area 3, 'CSA3': We are in a place your whole life and be in addressing the maintenance and repair your 40s and discover so many things of the Firco Road and the Willits Creek that have been right here that you Trail right now. Sometime, in the future, we never knew about. In my work life," are going to create a webpage and letters explained Kristin Bogner of Redwood are going to go out to all of the property Community Services, "I have made owners in the Sherwood area, including many relationships that will benefit Brooktrails and subdivisions to the north. me as an employee and our agency "Basically, and I don't want to be held

to any numbers," said Haschak, "but we are looking at about \$25 per year assessment for developed parcels, and for undeveloped parcels, maybe about \$4 per year. We think the initial repairs to those roads will be about \$110,000, and ongoing maintenance is about \$45,000 to \$50,000 happenings in the county that I had no per year.

> We are trying to create this fund, and this will be presented in a workshop to the BOS on March 1, and at that point, we will finalize the engineers report. The engineers report is basically saying, 'This is what you're going to need to do those projects and maintain those emergencyaccess routes.' There are 1.547 developed parcels, and there's close to 6.000 undeveloped parcels.

> "Theoretically," continued Haschak, "the board will authorize the mailing of ballots to be mailed out in late March to early April, and in May we will have a public hearing and will count the ballots and possible approval from the board of the assessment. We want to get it onto the next year's tax roll, and we need to get that to the assessor in June. Sometime in February we are hoping to have a meeting at the Brooktrails Community Center."

> The board then addressed the consent calendar items and approved the final January 11 accounts payable in the

> Next up, the board discussed the agenda item: Water Theft Penalty Fee -Pending Ordinance 163. Alaniz reported that there had been an uptick in water thefts and, after a brief discussion, the board recommended that the Brooktrails staff move forward to advertise the public hearing and bring Ordinance 163 back for a first reading at the second meeting in

> The Water-Use Cap Overage Penalty Fee - Pending Ordinance 164 was then discussed and Alaniz explained the process at length. Alaniz stated that she'd like to have the board provide direction regarding the different proposed options for the penalty fee. After reviewing the proposed options, the board decided to proceed with Option 3.

> The proposed process: \$1,000 penalty fee plus overage at the current water-use rates times 10.

- 1,000 gallons over = \$1,045.37 fee
- 2,000 gallons over = \$1,090.74 fee • 3,000 gallons over = \$1,136.11 fee
- 4,000 gallons over = \$1,181.48 fee
- 5,000 gallons over = \$1,226.85 fee,

From the staff report: On the one hand, a uniform fine would be cleaner to implement and would reduce the risk of human error in application of penalty fees. Considering the varied water-use overage amounts and potential impacts from those overages from one pressure zone to another, the above Option 3 directly relates to the specific offense and escalates with increased non-compliance. After receiving the board's direction, the staff can implement it by July 1, 2022.

The staff is now directed to advertise the public hearing notice and bring Ordinance 164 back for a first reading on February 22, 2022 and consideration for adoption by the board on March 8, 2022.

The rest of Council

and

The council was officially

introduced to the new Willits

Finance Director Manuel

that has been vacant

except for temporary hold-

down-the-fort backup for

many months. Orozco, a

1993 Willits High School

graduate, has a degree in

economics from University

of California Santa Barbara.

in finance and government,

including 11 years as an

manager for Mendocino

he was the accounting

supervisor for the City of

Orozco said that he is

just starting to dig into the

labvrinthian city budget,

whose mysteries are slowly

being revealed to his trained

eye. "We have a good, solid

budget now," is Orozco's

initial optimistic diagnosis,

though he cautioned that

he is just getting started

and "needs to assess the

situation." They say that the

optimist sees the doughnut,

but the pessimist sees the

A cheerful outgoing man,

Orozco's positive outlook is

definitely on the side of the

doughnut (or not wanting

to exclude our gluten-free

brothers and sisters, maybe

a rice cake, which has no

pessimistic holes to trouble

Local treasure, hidden

in plain sight. This first

the year is when council

members decide which of

the many city, county and

regional committees they

would like to be part of.

The regular city council

meeting is just one of the

meetings and conferences

requiring councilmember

participation, essential to

make sure Willits is not left

out of county decisions and

Kanne sits on the County

Museum Advisory Board,

whose focus is guiding and

promoting our meritorious

county museum, located

next to the library on East

itching to discovered by

the world out there. The

museum has a wealth of

displays about all aspects of

Mendocino County history:

From the pioneers who

came here to the natives

who were already here.

stagecoaches to the iron

horses: thundering steam

locomotives that hauled

settlers, signposts from

long-gone Main Street Willits

storefronts. The cannon

from the wreck of the Frolic.

And brass lanterns from the

Those ancient lanterns

no longer shine a light to

guide intrepid travelers and

late-night freight trains, but

visitors to the museum will

find their way well illuminated

by a new guide, museum

Just promoted from

curator, and eager to show

curious people curious

artifacts from a bygone

era, Mattson and the staff

museum welcome visitors

Fridays 10 am to 5 pm

and weekends noon to 4

pm. Admission is free for

anyone with a Mendocino

County library card, and

for everyone on the first

Saturday of the month.

Otherwise, admission is \$4

for adults, \$1 for kids over 6,

or \$7 for the entire family.

Wednesdays

director Karen Mattson.

lumber. Seabiscuit,

days before electricity.

visitors and hauled out

the horse-drawn

Commercial Street,

distribution of funds.

Councilmember

city council meeting

recently,

County. Most

Rohnert Park.

He has 20 years' experience

From Page 1 his updates, the last of which was January 7, don't include the growing number of home tests people are using to self-Hometown boy makes

Schools around the county are cancelling bus routes, due to bus drivers being out sick, including Willits Unified School District. WUSD canceled school on Friday, January 14, due to too many staff and students out sick. Orozco, filling a position

Free at-home COVID tests

Public Health also sent out a January 19 press release, with details about the 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests that every home in the U.S. is eligible to order. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days.

The tests available for order:

Are rapid antigen at-home tests, not PCR

Are also referred to as self-tests or over-the-counter (OTC)

 Give results within 30 minutes (no lab drop-off required) To order the tests please visit https://www.covidtests.gov/

If you test positive, the Public Health press release advises, it is important to isolate for 10 days from the day of the test or the day of your first symptom. You may end isolation after 5 days if you test negative and have no symptoms on the 5th

Call Public Health with any questions, or support needed for COVID isolation, at: 707-472-2759. Visit www. mendocinocounty.ora/covid19 for more info.

Numbers by local region

As updated on January 14, 2022, Mendocino County Public Health's "Active Cases by ZIP Code" box reports 129 current active cases in the 95490 (Willits area) zip code. Covelo reports 49 active cases in the 95428 zip code. Laytonville reports 11 active cases in the 95454 zip code.

Fort Bragg reports 62 current cases in the 95437 zip code. Ukiah reports 372 cases in the 95482 zip code. Redwood Valley reports 37 cases in the 95470 zip code, and Potter Valley reports 11 cases, in zip code 95469.

As of the January 14 post-holiday update, Public Health's dashboard reports the North County region (Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville, Covelo, Dos Rios, Leggett, and Piercy) with 159 current isolation cases, among an approximate population of

There were 520 isolation cases in the Ukiah area region (Ukiah, Talmage, Calpella, Redwood Valley, and Potter Valley), with an approximate population of 38,134.

In that same update there were 60 isolation cases in the North Coast region (Caspar, Fort Bragg, Cleone, Newport, Westport, and Rockport), with a total approximate population of 16,148. In the South County region (Comptche, Philo, Boonville, Yorkville, and Hopland), there were 33 isolation cases, among a total approximate population of 6,904

In the South Coast region (Mendocino, Little River, Albion, Elk, Manchester, Point Arena, Anchor Bay, and Gualala), there were 26 isolation cases, among a total approximate population

SWAT | From Page 1

Deputies arrived on scene and identified the driver as Christopher Brockway, 33, from Albion, California, known from previous law enforcement contacts.

Brockway was recently booked into the Mendocino Count Jail on charges of felon in possession of a firearm, forgery possession of stolen property, conspiracy and identity theft.

Brockway had recently been granted a short-term release pass from custody by a Mendocino County Superior Court

Brockway was ordered to surrender himself back to the Mendocino County Jail on January 15, 2022 by 8 pm, and he failed to do so. This resulted in Brockway being wanted for

An original responding deputy who was a crisis negotiator with the Mendocino County Regional SWAT Team arrived on scene and began speaking with Brockway in an attempt to get him to surrender peacefully.

Due to the "suicide by cop" statements, Mendocino County Behavioral Health was contacted and asked to send a crisis worker to the scene. Behavioral Health was unable to send a crisis worker to the scene, so the SWAT Team crisis negotiator continued communications with Brockway

Based on previous history with Brockway and his recent firearm-related arrest, the Mendocino County Regional SWAT Team was summoned to the scene. Many of the team members were off-duty and were called out to respond to the situation.

Verbal negotiations with Brockway continued for approximately three hours, asking for his peaceful surrender.

Brockway eventually exited his vehicle, however he continued to refuse to obey verbal commands

Brockway attempted to walk back towards his vehicle where a knife was observed on the ground.

Based on the above circumstances, SWAT Team members deployed a 40mm less-lethal foam baton round, which struck Brockway in the upper leg.

At this time Sheriff's K9 "BO" was deployed, and the canine bit Brockway in the arm, allowing SWAT Team members to quickly approach and safely place Brockway under arrest.

Brockway was later transported to a local hospital for medical examination /treatment and was determined to have a minor injury from the canine bite

Brockway was ultimately arrested for Escape from Custody (4532 PC) and Resisting Arrest (148(a)(1) PC). Charges will also be filed with the District Attorney's Office by the California Highway Patrol for potential charges related to the pursuit

Brockway was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$90,000 bail.



For complete rules and details

please visit the Players Club.

ambling a problem?

Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

At the kiosk...

Earn 500 Points Each Week

luesdays 1pm - Saturdays 11pm

Pick the winning teams of the

Sunday and Monday games.

night game for tie breaker.

Guess total score of the Monday

Top 5 picks each week will win

5100 - \$1,000 FREE PLAY!

SHERWOOD

WWW.SVRCASINO.COM

Upcoming Women's Circle at the Grange

Submitted by Claudia Wenning

We will look into processing the last two year's events to let go of overwhelm, and find what makes sense to move forward in a new direction – together!

The offer is a private group session program for women, in a very small circle.

After pausing group sessions the last two years for obvious reasons, it matters now!

This is a bi-weekly program of four sessions, a local, affordable approach to address overwhelm. We will observe all health department guidelines.

Starting January 29, 2022, 11:30 am, at "Quantum Level Health Studio" at the Little Lake Grange in Willits. The additional dates are: February 12, February 26, and March 12, 2022.

Please call ASAP, a few places are still available: Claudia Wenning, www. claudiawenning.com, 707-371-6103

SPIRITUAL

PATHWAYS

Agape

Bible Church 290 S. Lenore Ave.

Willits, CA 95490

Where love is first

and the Bible is central.

Sunday Services:

10:00 a.m. - Worship 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, ČA 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 Bandanadam 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 Bruneau

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



Independent Victor

Victor is an energetic pup (4 years old) who needs to be in an adultonly home with zero kids around. He has not had much experience in the world; he was found tied up outside a shelter and was very skinny and malnourished. He is slowly learning the ways of the world, but requires a lot of patience

and understanding. He resource-guards his food and treats and will get physical if threatened. He needs owners who are super experienced with dogs who have some behavioral issues. Victor is happy to see you but seems to be extremely independent and will do what he wants to do. He needs a guiet household with a good-size backyard where he can roam and hang out in the sun.

To learn more about Victor 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.

Darling Dazzle

Everyone needs a little Dazzle in their life! Lacking some? Well, we've got the perfect girl for you! This sweet girl in just under a year and was a transfer from our friends at animal control. This sweetie deserves to find her forever place in this big crazy world! Is that with you? If you said "yes," we want to talk with



you! Submit an application today at www.mendohumanesociety.

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.

Sociable Hubert

Hubert is a friendly young guy (4 months old) who likes to snuggle with his brother, as well as explore his surroundings. He gets along well with other cats and would most likely do well in a home with children.

For more info about Hubert 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-

Sober Grad's Super Bowl Sunday Lunch

Willits Sober Grad presents a Super Bowl Sunday pre-sale only to-go Pulled Pork

Lunch includes a pulled pork sandwich by Scoops, coleslaw, chips and a cookie!

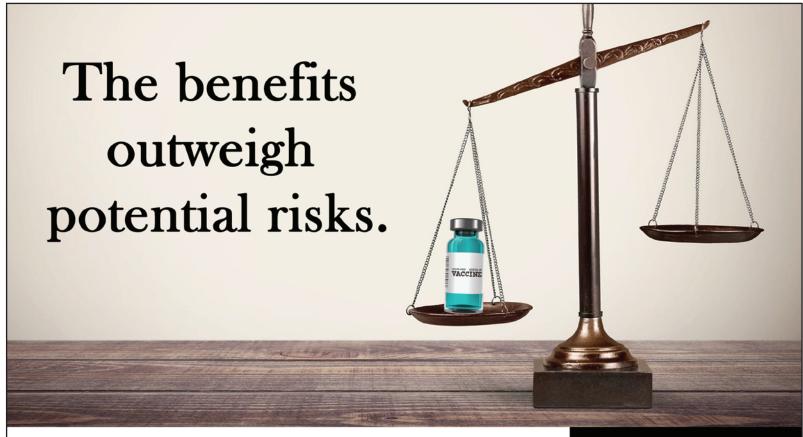
Contact Willits Senior Class members to buy tickets, or tickets available at Scoop's and Cat's Meow. Pre-sale tickets only: \$15 per lunch; \$50 family 4 pack.

Pick up lunch on Sunday, February 13, noon to 2 pm, Willits High School Ag Farm, behind WHS at 299 North Main Street.



www.claudiawenning.com





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

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Street, Willits

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

96% of physicians vaccinated Easy | Just Go Effective | Worth It VACCINATIONS HELP US HELP YOU HELP OTHERS

Prepared by Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic Translated by Nuestra Alianza 11/12/2021

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

april@willitsweekly.com

459-0554