

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Willits Food Bank update

To the Editor:

The food bank has successfully changed locations from the old spot on East San Francisco Street in Willits to the new at 344 Railroad Avenue. A few big and some small projects remain to be finished in order to complete the move. Our new location is wonderful and beautiful. Many thanks to Mike Griggs and family for making it possible.

Our recipient numbers remain high. We're serving four times the number of people that were being served during the pre-pandemic years, a huge increase. This increase requires more food and all of the support that goes with it, including workers and funds to keep the food bank running smoothly.

Please donate by bringing or mailing your check to 344 Railroad Avenue. Help us to keep feeding the hungry and providing winter motel nights to those without homes.

As my retirement approaches, the upcoming new director Kim Tippit is beginning to learn the job. We're teambuilding to ensure a smooth transition. Please stop in and meet her in mid-April. The office phone number remains 707-459-3333.

It has been my honor to serve and assist the needy population of the Willits area since 2019. I'm so grateful to have had such a team that made many successes possible.

Thanks to all who continue to donate and who share our vision of feeding hungry and food-insecure people in our community.

Your kindness and compassion are deeply appreciated.

Ruthanne Volz, executive director,
Willits Food Bank

'A Love Letter to Willits'

To the Editor:

I came to her in 1972.

Long ago Joni Mitchell sang: "Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone..." You only have to leave Willits, even for a short time, to realize it's part of the paradise that is northern California.

Part of that heavenly space is its people, and I met many before having to leave a couple of months ago after a fall at home.

During our lifetime we meet many different people for varied reasons. First, I worked as a teacher's aide at Brookside School. It tickles me to this day to say "hello" to Dale Barlow, a grown man now and clerk at Safeway. He was a second-grade student in that class. Schools provided my first set of friends.

In 1974 Brooktrails General Manager Ray Rockefeller stopped by our house to ask if I would consider coming to work for him at the water and sewer district. There I met not only staff but many of the customers in Brooktrails. Another set of friends.

In my retirement years I met a "crazy" lady. "Crazy" in the best sense of the word. Her name was Donna Stropes. She got me interested in silent auctions for Phoenix Hospice Garden Tours, Little Lake Fire Protection District, the Howard Foundation, and eventual construction of

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

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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.



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Mendo Mill celebrating 80 years in 2024

Submitted by Mendo Mill

Celebrating 80 incredible years of growth and community, Mendo Mill & Lumber Company proudly commemorates its journey that began in the Ukiah Valley in 1944 as a humble sawmill.

Over these eight decades, we've had the privilege of not just witnessing but actively participating in shaping the landscape of Mendocino and Lake counties. From our early days as a local lumber supplier to our evolution into a go-to home improvement destination, our commitment to serving and uplifting the communities we're part of has remained unwavering.

At the core of Mendo Mill's ethos is an unyielding dedication to our customers' needs. We're not just a store; we're your partners in construction, renovation, maintenance and building dreams. Our journey has been guided by the principle that being helpful isn't just a slogan – it's the heartbeat of our company.

We take pride in providing not just quality products but also expert advice, ensuring every project, big or small, is met with success. Our belief in community-driven initiatives has seen us collaborate and give back, reinforcing our role as not just a business but a vital thread in the fabric of the neighborhoods we serve.

As we celebrate this momentous milestone in 2024, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our customers, partners, and the incredible communities that have embraced and supported us. Here's to 80 years of growth, trust, and the privilege of being a part of your homes and lives. Together, let's continue to build lasting relationships and stronger communities for years to come.

Editor's Note: Mendo Mill will present anniversary events throughout their 80th year, including their 80th anniversary weekend, October 5 and 6, 2024.

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Thursday, March 28: Beef Stroganoff, Veggies, Roll

Friday, March 29: Turkey, Cranberry, Stuffing, Veggies, Roll

Monday, April 1: Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

Tuesday, April 2: Turkey Tetrazzini, Veggies, Roll

Wednesday, April 3: Jambalaya, Roll

Thursday, April 4: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Corn, Corn Bread

Friday, April 5: Hot Dog, Chili, Chips

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

Pancake Breakfast: every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am.

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Juliana at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

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

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

Look for climate credits on your April PG&E bill

Submitted by PG&E

In April, more than 5 million Pacific Gas and Electric Company customers will automatically receive the California Climate Credit on their energy bill.

Residential households with an active electric account will automatically receive an electric credit of \$55.17, an increase from last year's credit of \$38.39. Residential households with an active gas account will automatically receive a credit of \$85.46, an increase from the \$52.78 credit in 2023. That is a total credit of \$140.63 for customers receiving both gas and electric service from PG&E.

"This credit highlights our partnership with the state to champion environmental responsibility," said Vincent Davis, senior vice president, Customer Experience. "It encourages sustainable practices, moving our communities toward a brighter, greener future."

The California Climate Credit is part of the state's efforts to fight climate change and is distributed by PG&E to customers as directed by the California Public Utilities Commission. This credit is from the California Cap-and-Trade Program, which requires power plants, fuel providers, and large industrial facilities that emit greenhouse gases to buy carbon pollution allowances. The bill credit is designed to help utility customers during the transition to a low-carbon future.

Residential customers receive biannual electric credits during April and October, while natural gas

customers receive an annual credit in April. Eligible small business customers receive identical electric credits, distributed twice a year. Both sets of customers will receive the second electric credit in October. PG&E will also distribute over \$36 million to eligible industrial customers on behalf of the CPUC. Eligibility requirements and other details are online at <https://pge-eite.com/faq?>

In addition to the California Climate Credit, customers are encouraged to explore other ways to save energy, reduce costs on monthly bills, and contribute to building a sustainable future.

PG&E's assistance programs

If you're having trouble with your PG&E bills, check out PG&E's assistance programs for Income-eligible customers

California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE): offers a discount of 20% or more each month on energy bills.

Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA): offers a monthly discount of 18% on electricity bills for households with three or more people.

For more information on CARE or FERA, visit www.pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/financial-assistance/california-alternate-rates-for-energy-program.html

More help here:

Energy Savings Assistance (ESA): provides energy-saving improvements at no charge. Visit: <https://www.pge.com/en/save-energy-and-money.html>

save-energy-and-money/energy-saving-programs/energy-savings-assistance-program.html

Relief for Energy Assistance through Community Help (REACH): offers a one-time energy credit of up to \$1,000, doubling the previous amount of up to \$500 based on past due balances. This is to help with sudden hardship and to prevent service disconnections. Visit: www.pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/financial-assistance/relief-for-energy-assistance-through-community-help.html

Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP): a federally funded assistance program overseen by the state that offers a one-time payment to help low-income households pay for heating or cooling in their homes, provides emergency assistance in energy crises, and home weatherization. Visit www.pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/financial-assistance/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program.html.

PG&E's Energy Efficiency DIY Tool Kit

Did you know you can lower energy bills and save money with PG&E's Energy Efficiency DIY tool kit? With a \$200 investment in energy-efficient materials, customers can save nearly \$1,000 each year. Visit: www.pge.com/en/save-energy-and-money/energy-usage-and-tips/residential-energy-savings-tips/summer-energy-savings-tips.html

For more ways to manage your monthly bills, visit: www.pge.com/en/save-energy-and-money.html



Farmers Convergence

Food growers and distributors of Mendocino and Lake counties discuss successful methods for producing and selling their crops

Food security is one of the top issues in much of the world. Mendocino County, although generally green and lush with vegetation, has its own set of challenges in the production of food. Ever-increasing droughts, over-burdening regulations, the dominance of corporate farming, and challenges of distribution are some of the factors facing the family-based farms in Mendocino and Lake counties.

It is for the above reasons that the ninth annual North Coast Farmers Convergence took place at Ridgewood Ranch in the Golden Rule Dining Hall and Chapel on Tuesday, March 19, lasting all day and encompassing all aspects of local farming.

About 100 of the area's farmers, distributors, and food-service personnel gathered to meet and greet and to learn techniques for growing in a sustainable manner from other farmers who have been successful in their efforts. It was in the sharing of knowledge that the community of agriculturists joined together to create a free flowing of ideas and suggestions. Although they are, on some level, competitors, the farmers knew that their overcoming of

challenges relied on the group knowledge, a sharing of techniques and methodology. According to Michael Foley, co-owner of Green Uprising Farm and manager of Willits Farmers Market: "The purpose of this gathering is to inspire and inform local food producers and providers in Mendocino and Lake counties. We do this, mainly, through giving farmers an opportunity to speak about their own experiences and their own choices. The farmers always help each other. The farmers are the most cooperative among themselves. They check in with each other."

At the opening of the programs, one of the organizers of the event, Lucy Bartholomew of the Blue Zones Project and resident of Ridgewood Ranch, made reference to the Pomo ancestors who first inhabited and learned to live in a symbiotic relationship with the land: "I want to recognize all of the local producers who grew the food we are going to eat. Today's convergence takes place throughout the traditional territories and homelands of the Pomo people, whose history has been sullied by displacement,

Read the rest of **Farmers** *Over on page 9*



Ridgewood Ranch resident and Farmers Convergence speaker Ruthie King shows her variety of fleeces.

At right: Michiel Rueb of Mulligan Gardens in Laytonville runs a forum on "A Farm is What You Make of It," along with Tam Adams, Ellen Bartholomew, and Caroline Radice. At far right: The Farmer Wellness Yoga Session and sound healing is provided by Flourish & Flow of Willits.

FARMERS INSURANCE

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16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490
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Easter Sunrise Service

Easter Sunrise Service returns to Sherwood Road overlooking Willits this year!

Community Sunrise Service at the Cross on Sherwood Road Easter morning (March 31) at 6:45 a.m.

Everyone is invited to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with singing, prayer, and a Bible message. Bring a camp chair if you'd like to sit, and dress warmly.

Following the service, a hot breakfast will be served in Bruce and Linda's Barn. In the event of rain, service will be held in Bruce and Linda's Barn.

BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

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The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Bicoastal Media is a vote-based contest for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are finalized and make up the official Best of Lake and Mendocino voting ballot. The audience can then vote on one choice in each category. Voters are allowed to nominate without limits and once the voting period has begun, one vote per category per 24-hour period is allowed. Listing in this publication and/or award is not a guarantee of future investment success. This recognition should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor by any client. No compensation was provided directly or indirectly by the recipient for participation or in connection with obtaining or using the third-party rating or award.

HAPPY EASTER

BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

We Will Be Closed Sunday Have a Wonderful Holiday

SPARETIME STORE HOURS

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

Mon - Sat
9 am - 6 pm

Sunday
Closed

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
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

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

Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:30 p.m.

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
• A University for Soul
• Spiritual Living Courses
• Spiritual Discussions
• ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
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 Bandannadam
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at
707-459-2252
https://stanthonywillits.org/
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
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
Church Service
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

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

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort where all are welcome
Pastor Rosemary Landry
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@willitsumc.org
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willitsumc

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

What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, March 28

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the winter season Thursday afternoons at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, March 29

Senior Center Easter Bake Sale: Lots of baked goodies at the annual Senior Center Easter Bake sale, Friday, March 29 from 8:30 am until sold out. Come visit us! **Happy Easter!** Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 707-459-6826

Skunk Train's Easter Express: The Skunk Train's Easter Express is departing from the Willits Depot on Friday, March 29 (10:30 am, 1:30 pm), Saturday, March 30 (10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 4:30 pm), and Easter Sunday, March 31 (10:30 am, 1:30 pm). This delightful 2-hour excursion through Tunnel #2 promises a host of treats, special Easter egg surprises, and cherished moments for all ages. Tickets for this special family-friendly event are \$64.95, with infants in lap riding for free and dogs welcome for an additional fee of \$10.95. To book your tickets, visit www.skunktrain.com/easter-express/. More info about Mendocino Railway and the Skunk Train visit www.skunktrain.com or call (707) 964-6371.

Book Lovers Discussion Group: Meets monthly at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, on Friday March 29 this month, 12 to 1 pm. Discuss books, authors and genres, and why you love books! All adults welcome. Info: www.mendolib.org or 459-5908.

BGMS Bake Sale: Baechtel Grove Middle School and the BGMS PTO present a bake sale benefit for the 8th grade End of the Year Trip. Friday, March 29th 2:00pm-6:00pm
Location: Willits Safeway parking lot, in front of the old ER energy building

the Willits Safeway parking lot, in front of the old ER energy building.

Clay Hawkins Duo at Shanachie: "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart" by slide guitarist and songwriter Clay Hawkins and longtime co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass.

Friday, March 29 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, March 30 Skunk Train's Easter Express: The Skunk Train's Easter Express is departing from the Willits Depot today, Saturday, March 30 at 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, and 4:30 pm. This delightful 2-hour excursion through Tunnel #2 promises a host of treats, special Easter egg surprises, and cherished moments for all ages. See Friday, March 29 listing for details.

Easter Vendors Fair: Mendocino Crafts presents the Easter Vendors Fair, Saturday, March 30, 11 am to 5 pm, at 280 East Commercial Street, Willits. Food by Annie's Street Tacos.

Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: A local Mendocino County jam band, "sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community. We're the Cosmic Family Band and so are you." Saturday, March 30 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunrise Service at the Sherwood Cross: Easter Sunrise Service returns to Sherwood Road overlooking Willits this year! Community Sunrise Service at the Cross on Sherwood Road Easter morning, March 31, at 6:45 am. Everyone is invited to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with singing, prayer, and a Bible message. Bring a camp chair if you'd like to sit, and dress warmly. Following the service, a hot breakfast will be served in Bruce and Linda's Barn. In the event of rain, service will be held in Bruce and Linda's Barn.

Proudly sponsoring the Willits Weekly calendar section



Willits Chamber of Commerce
Est. 1926
www.Willits.org
info@willits.org
707.459.7910
299 East Commercial Street | Willits, CA

Skunk Train's Easter Express: The Skunk Train's Easter Express is departing from the Willits Depot today, Easter Sunday, March 31 at 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, and 4:30 pm. This delightful 2-hour excursion through Tunnel #2 promises a host of treats, special Easter egg surprises, and cherished moments for all ages. See Friday, March 29 listing for details.

Easter Play Day & Egg Hunt: Come join us for an RSVP-only Egg Hunt & Play Day on Sunday, March 31, at 1 pm. Egg Hunt (K-1st grade) and Spoon Race (all ages). Please bring a dozen dyed or filled plastic Easter eggs. Call or text Sarah Owsiany at 707-841-1530. "Come hop on a horse, no experience necessary." \$20 (\$15 plus \$5 donation to Friends of Sherwood School.

Monday, April 1

Benefit for 'The Pond Club': A benefit to support The Pond Club, the elders' swimming and aerobic program in Willits. Live music by the Joe Craven Trio - Joe Craven, Hattie Craven and Jordan Feinstein, plus the Farmers Market Band. A Cosmic Pickle Production. "Fun for the whole family, costumes, flippers, snorkels, and just have a good time." Monday, April 1 at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street. Doors open 5 pm; show from 6 to 9:45 pm. \$20; kids 12 and under FREE. Sound by Ancestor Radio. Food by Turtle Island Tacos and the Fairall's Farm blue food truck. Beer and wine by Northspur Brewing and Frey Vineyards. Advance tickets at Flying Dog Pizza and J.D. Redhouse.

MENDO CRAFTS PRESENTS
EASTER VENDORS
SATURDAY MARCH 30 2024
11 AM - 5 PM
280 E. COMMERCIAL ST., WILLITS, CA 95490
Food by Annie's Street Tacos
Vendors IMAGINATION STATION

Wednesday, April 3

Willits Song Circle: Every first Wednesday, this month April 3, from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Methodist Church, School and Pine streets. Led by Don Willis and Madge Strong, but anyone can lead (or request) a song. All genres of songs, rounds, popular songs, folk songs, simple part songs - anything that can be learned easily. Open to all. Instruments welcome. Free, donations accepted for the use of the hall. Info: dwillis@mcn.org or mstrong@willitsonline.com.

Thursday, April 4

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the winter season Thursday afternoons at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, April 5

'Art Under Twenty' opens at WCA: The 25th anniversary exhibit of student art from Willits High School, plus Willits Charter School and Potter Valley High School, is featured at Willits Center for the Arts in April. Show opens Friday, April 5, with opening reception scheduled for Friday, April 12, 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Gallery hours at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, are Friday through Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.

PlayDay egg hunt
EGG HUNT (K-1ST)
SPOON RACE (ALL AGES)
RSVP only:
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
\$20
(\$15 + \$5 donation to Friends of Sherwood School)

First Saturday Family Fun at the Museum: Join us at the Mendocino County Museum for FREE admission on First Saturday Spring Family Fun Days, starting Saturday, April 6, 1 to 3 pm, at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits. In addition to family-friendly activities inspired by our exhibit "In the Field: Exploring Botany in Mendocino County," hands-on activity stations and a Wildflower Scavenger Hunt available daily.

First Saturday Family Fun Days feature a workshop on Making Thru 'n' Grow Seed Balls to grow your own wildflowers. Program and Museum attendance are free for our First Saturday Free Admission Days. Also Saturday, May 4, and Saturday, June 1. All ages are welcome. Info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov, or 707-234-6365.

Skunk Train's Whiskey Train: Departing from the Willits Depot, the first-ever Skunk Train Whiskey Trains are set for Saturdays, April 6 and May 25 from 5 to 7 pm. "An evening filled with laughter, fine whiskey, and jaw-dropping views along the enchanting Willits line." Featuring four tastings of Charbay Distillery's finest boutique premium whiskeys, proudly crafted right here in the heart of Mendocino County. Plus keepsake tasting glass, delicious charcuterie plate for all. Visit www.skunktrain.com/whiskey-train to buy tickets, \$119 adults only (enter your zip code for a hefty local discount).

2nd annual Spring Fling in Laytonville: Laytonville

A benefit to save Our Daily Bread, April 21

Willits Daily Bread has been serving the hungry four days a week for over 25 years, no questions asked. The program is running low on funds due to the cancellation in recent years (thanks to COVID) of their annual Sip Some Soup fundraiser. The Cosmic Family Band will be giving an uplifting family-friendly concert on Sunday, April 21, 3 to 5 pm, to raise funds for Our Daily Bread. St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial streets. Admission by donation.

Holy Week/Easter services at Saint Francis in the Redwoods

Submitted by Betsy Bruneau, St. Francis Episcopal Church

Our services this year at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, at the corner of Commercial and Main Streets in Willits, are listed below. Everyone is welcome and the church is completely wheelchair accessible. We have masks available for those who wish to wear them. The Sunday service is available on zoom; for instructions call 707-272-0177.

Maudy Thursday, March 28, 6 pm: We remember the last supper and Jesus's mandate to his disciples to love one another as he has loved them.

Good Friday, March 29: Prayers at noon; the church will be open for private prayer, including the Stations of the Cross, and meditation until 3 pm.

Holy Saturday, March 30, 10 am: A short service of prayers.

The Easter Vigil, March 30, 6 pm: This service is usually held at midnight, but here in Willits where people often live out of town, we do it much earlier. It lasts about an hour and a half and includes kindling new fire and lighting a special candle, several readings, prayers, and songs, Holy Communion, and the first proclamation of Easter.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 10 am: Our regular service and joyful celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, followed by an egg hunt for children and a potluck lunch.

Holy Week at St. John's

St. John's Lutheran Church of Willits invites you to join us for our Holy Week Celebrations, as we commemorate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We welcome the whole family to come worship with us. Good Friday: March 29 at 5 pm; and Easter Sunday with Breakfast: March 31 at 9 am and our Easter Celebration Service to follow. 24 Mill Creek Drive.

Long Valley Lioness Club presents the 2nd annual Spring Fling benefit for Laytonville High School students, Saturday, April 6 at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue. Featuring a guitar-slinger extravaganza, with Blue Luke and the Indiana Slim Blues Band. With Wildfire Dancers, Silent Auction, Tarot by Tara. \$20. Advance tickets at Weathertop Nursery. Doors open 7 pm; show starts at 8 pm. Plus All You Can Eat Crawfish Boil, by Sho Nuff & Dylan and Amanda Eichler, \$20 extra.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.
Info: www.mendolib.org or 459-5908.

Story Time: Tuesday through Friday each week, 10:30 to 11 am. "Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in the children's area of the library."

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe". Topics will range and will be announced ahead of time.

LEGO Club: Tuesdays, now 4 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

Willits Walk and Talk: Join the Willits Branch Library staff for a 20- to 30-minute walk around the neighborhood. Come enjoy a little bit of exercise as well as some pleasant conversation. All ages are welcome. Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am; meet at the front entrance to the library, 390 East Commercial

Open Lab / Study Hall: Don't have a decent place to study? Come to the Willits Branch Library's meeting room every Wednesday from 3 to 5 pm for the new Open Lab / Study Hall. The library has plenty of helpful resources including public Wi-Fi, computers with internet and word processing capabilities, and databases to aid you with your research, plus friendly and helpful staff ready to point you in the right direction.

Calming Coloring at the Library: Thursdays, from 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library, an hour of quiet with coloring pages. Supplies provided. All ages welcome.

Chess for Teens: On Fridays, from 4 to 6:30 pm. Teens, ages 12-18 are invited; all skill levels welcome. Library staff will be there to help beginners and those who want to learn. Light refreshments provided.

Tech Help: Now every Saturday from 11 am to 12 pm: Is your computer on the fritz? Want to install a new app? Bring your tech questions and get help from the library's tech savvy volunteer

Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library, from 1 to 4:30 pm. "All skill levels welcome!"

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

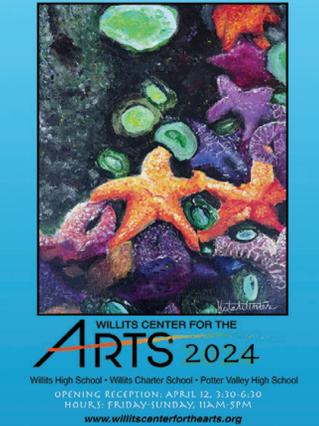
Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

Saturday Scramble: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B. Bring any instrument you can play and sign up to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. "Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!"

Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm - welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!"

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Shanachie Pub presents its popular Open Mic Night every Wednesday, featuring an eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can be entered for the lottery. Lottery determines order from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20 pm

ART UNDER 20



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS 2024
Willits High School - Willits Charter School - Potter Valley High School
OPENING RECEPTION: APRIL 12, 3:30 - 6:30
HOURS: FRIDAY, SUNDAY, 10 AM - 5 PM
www.willitscenterforthearts.org

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire'

The Story: The latest offspring of the "Ghostbusters" franchise is built around familiar tropes: a mysterious object, an ancient evil, a demonic god with a funny name, in this case "Garraka." (It's a matter of traditional Hollywood wisdom that melodramatic bad guys have a "k" in their names.)

For reasons unknown or unfathomable, Garraka wants to destroy the world as we know it - with ice. So, there's

Garraka (pronounce it like you're clearing your throat) who is powerful and evil. But are we worried? Not really. The ghostbusters are indomitable.

My Thoughts: When I hear the word ghostbusters, my automatic response is "Who ya gonna call?" We all know it's not a question. It's programming. It's an invocation of the 1984 "Ghostbusters" masterpiece. It's a word that triggers a familiar-as-crackerjack upbeat musical intro, and is buoyant with nostalgia.

This flick gives us pretty much all the original cast members: Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray, Annie Potts, Ernie Hudson and William Atherton. All of them have small though significant roles. For this flick, there are no surprises, and see the movie knowing that there are "no surprises." Still, a good time will be had by all. By the way, and not really a spoiler, the filmmaker admirably quotes Robert Frost's poem "Fire and Ice" at the beginning. Huzzahs! for that.

Parents: Ghostbuster movies are designed to strip ghosties and uglies of their power to terrify. That noted, little children might be scared. You know your own.

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

Please support our biggest fundraiser of the year!!
WILLITS SOBER GRAD
Tri-Tip Dinner

FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH
4-6 PM, WHS AG FARM

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT:
101 TRAILER & RV MONKEY WRENCH
or call
Karen Thiel, WHS (707)459-7700 ext. 1504
Carrie Lambert, WSG (707)671-6173
Dinner Includes:
Complete meal for 4!
Marinated & Grilled Tri-Tip, Baked Potatoes, Green Salad, Emmental Bread, Cookies from Kenny's Pies, and a Beautiful Rose Donated by Flowers by Annette.

EARTH DAY UKIAH
SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH
10 AM - 2 PM
TODD GROVE PARK

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Presents
ART TALKS
A look at the greatest painters and sculptors of Neoclassicism.
Friday, April 12, 6:30 PM.
Presented by Gary Martin, M.A.
71 E. Commercial Street
Willits, CA 95490
For more information:
www.willitscenterforthearts.org

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyotheatre.com
Happy Easter!

GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE
- In 2D -
(PG13) 1 hr 55 mins
Fri./Sat.: 2:30pm
Sun.-Thurs.: 1:30
- In 3D -
(PG13) 1 hr 55 mins
Fri./Sat.: 5:15 & 8:00pm
Sun.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 7:00pm
Movie Times for March 29 thru April 4
Masks Optional

KUNG FU PANDA 4
(PG) 1 hr 34 mins
Fri./Sat.: 3:15, 5:30 & 7:45pm
Sun.-Thurs.: 2:15, 4:30 & 6:45pm

GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE
(PG13) 1 hr 55 mins
Fri./Sat.: 3:00, 5:45 & 8:30pm
Sun.-Thurs.: 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30pm
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners
Tightwad Tuesday Title for April 2 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!



Above: Fort Ord Race participants gather for a photo: from left, Abigail Sherf (Willits), Aurora Beebe (Willits), Bronach Bowles (Willits), Emiliano (Fort Bragg), Julian (Fort Bragg), Max (Fort Bragg), Coach Mike Berna (in back), Winston Wethafer (Ukiah), Leonardo (Fort Bragg). Not pictured here, but participated: Rudra Knoles (Ukiah), Ry James (Ukiah, previously raced with NICA in Texas).

At right: Abigail Sherf, Bronach Bowles and Aurora Beebe smile post-race at the Mendo Comp tent.

Mendocino youth mountain-bike team competes in first race

Submitted by Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles for NICA

The National Interscholastic Cycling Association supports youth mountain-biking programs across 31 states, serving over 25,000 student athletes and 14,000 coaches. The Mendocino Composite was started about 10 years ago on the coast. At the start of this season, with coordination between head coach Myke Berna and Adam Sherf, the team has grown and now includes an official Inland Team composed of students from Ukiah and Willits. Additional inland coaches include Adam Winokur, Chris Beebe, Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles, and Steven James, for a group of 10 high school and middle school athletes.

On March 2, Mendo Comp participated in their first race of the season at the Fort Ord Day Camp Cycling Area. The day started with a consistent downpour that made for a muddy and difficult ride for the early high school races. As the day progressed, the rain stopped and the sun broke through the clouds, giving racers drier trails, allowing faster and more competitive riding.

The Inland Team high school athletes completed three 3.8-mile laps. Abigail Sherf had finished her race in sunshine, but the first 2.5 laps were rain soaked and mudslick, forcing her to navigate corners where several riders' bikes slid out from

under them and crashes were narrowly missed, leading to race organizers putting up caution signs.

Although these racers didn't podium, they made impressive passes and rode aggressively throughout and came away knowing what they want to work on and how they want to race next. Of these four racers, this was the first-ever race for both Sherf and Rudra Knoles.

The Inland Team DEVO riders, middle-school-aged athletes who are developing skills for racing, includes sixth graders Aurora Beebe and Bronach Bowles, who participated in their first-ever race. They both placed, with Beebe taking third on the podium and Bowles, fifth. The racers took advantage of terrain, overtaking or pulling away from riders past key turns and on straightaways, never letting up. They both had fun and were excited to get rewarded for the hard work they put in over the competitive two 2.6-mile laps on what was primarily packed dune sand.

The next race will take place in Exchequer on April 6.

Read the rest of **Bikes** Over on page 9



Above, from left: Bronach Bowles, on lap one of two, feels the pressure of the racer behind her but doesn't let her pass. Abigail Sherf crosses the finish line in the Fort Ord Race. Aurora Beebe, on lap two of two, pushes through the last corner to the finish line at a race held in Fort Ord.



Photo by Lisa Norman



Above, from left: Aurora Beebe rides through lap one of two, looking determined, a half-minute ahead of the next racer. Bronach Bowles, on lap two of two, pushes through the last corner to the finish line at the Fort Ord Day Camp Cycling Area. Abigail Sherf is on lap two of three, navigating mud-slick on a tight downhill turn in the Fort Ord Day Camp Cycling Area.

Photos by Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles

LEGAL NOTICES

WW476

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2024-F0086
The following person or persons are doing business as Backroad Security, 7659 Hwy 29, Kelseyville, CA 95451.
Mailing address: PO Box 1516, Lakeport CA 95453.
Registered owners: Richard Lynn Russell, 7659 Hwy 29, Kelseyville, CA 95451; John Keith Schiessl, 26750 N Hwy 101, Willits CA 95490; and Patrick Bruce Lawrance, 167 Wall Street, Fort Bragg CA 95437.

This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

FBN Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 2, 2024. /s/ John K. Schiessl
Publication dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

WW476

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name

2020-F0501
The person or persons listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name: Backroad Security, 7659 Hwy 29, Kelseyville, CA 95451; Lake County.
The FBN was filed in Mendocino County on October 5, 2020. File Number 2020-F0501.

Registered owners: Richard Lynn Russell, 7659 Hwy 29, Kelseyville, CA 95451; Randall Leslie Vann, 88910 Mina Road, Covelo CA 95428; and John Keith Schiessl, 26750 N Hwy 101, Willits CA 95490.

This business was conducted by a General Partnership. FBN Statement of Abandonment was filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 28, 2024. /s/ John K. Schiessl
Publication dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

WW477

NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed under the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and Provisions of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell by competitive bidding online at storageauctions.com starting April 1st, 2024 @ 7 AM ending April 9th @ 10 AM the following said property stored at Cougars Closet II Mini Storage 317 Robert Drive Willits, CA 95490 County of Mendocino State of California.

Jeffery Martin A-8; Danielle Fistoe B-33, C-29
Lori Bayard, D-35; Falon Lynch, D-29
Lorna Allen, E-7; Thomas Williams, G-5
Kelly Sinclair, G-13; Kelly Sinclair, E-28
Michelle Mann, G-17; Nila Carlsen, I-12
Katrina Deluca, F-13; Ed Vikart

The goods are described as miscellaneous household items & boxes, (contents unknown), clothes, furniture, tools and miscellaneous articles. Purchases must be paid for and picked up within 72 Hours of winning bid by credit/debit or cash.

All purchased items sold as-is where-is and must be removed within 72 hours of sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

Dated this 21st Day of March 2024 and 28th day of March 2024 by Cougars Closet II Mini-Storage 707-259-0159

Publication Dates: March 21 and March 28, 2024



Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Animal Protection Officer I**
\$38,771 - \$44,907
 - Corrections Deputy**
\$55,369 - \$67,308
 - Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV**
\$97,260 - \$162,718
 - Deputy Probation Officer I/II**
\$51,937 - \$69,617
 - Deputy Sheriff-Coroner**
\$75,878 - \$93,142
 - Eligibility Specialist Supervisor**
\$60,840 - \$73,944
 - Legal Secretary I/II**
\$38,563 - \$54,392
 - Library Assistant - Fort Bragg**
\$37,398 - \$39,270
 - Mental Health Clinician I/II**
\$60,340 - \$84,843
 - Program Specialist II**
\$56,721 - \$68,931
 - Screener**
\$40,144 - \$48,796
 - Staff Assistant II**
\$37,315 - \$41,121
 - Supervising Public Health Nurse**
\$110,822 - \$134,721
- For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
EOE

The rest of **Farmers** From page 3

genocide, and death at the hand of colonizers.

"We acknowledge and revere the heritage of generations of original inhabitants," said Bartholomew, "of what is now Ridgewood Ranch and their descendants' continued legacy. We strive for our work to sustain cultural resilience by seeking guidance from traditional practices and contemporary leaders. We recognize these ancestral grounds that we work, learn, and play upon and honor the strength of indigenous people.

"Mendocino County," Bartholomew continued, "has been supportive of microscale farming and growing food in living soil that has high nutritional value. This is one of the first counties to regulate pesticide usage. Now our local food system is one of the cleanest in the country. It's due to things like this, and the legacy of the 'back-to-the-land movement,' and the influence of locals who are passionate, and the continuing efforts that are demonstrated today.

After a tasty and healthy breakfast, the convergence began its program with talks by Bartholomew, Ruthie King, Foley, and Mendocino Food Hub head Haerah Baird, who introduced a panel of four local farmers: Caymin Ackerman of Big Mesa Farm, Krissy Scommegna of Boonville Barn

LEGAL NOTICES

WW474

Order to Show Cause - Change of Name

I, Kylan DuFriend L. Simpson, residing at 59 Alameda Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, am proposing to change my name to Pinky Xohara Simpson.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

My court hearing date will be 4/5/24 at The Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Hon. Ann C. Moorman Judge, Superior Court of Mendocino County

My case number is 24CV00179.

Publication dates: March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2024

The rest of **Bikes** From page 8

Although NICA started as a mountain-bike-racing program, the purpose has developed into a program for growing a community of mountain-biking enthusiasts by getting more kids on bikes, building strong minds, characters and bodies by overcoming challenges and having adventures with teammates.

NICA is designed to work alongside school extracurricular programs, so practices and races take place on the weekends. The Inland Team practices on Sundays, alternating between rides in Ukiah, Brooktrails and Wente in Willits, and on the coast, getting experience in different kinds of terrain and lots of climbing.

For more information about the NICA Mendo Comp Inland Team, team sponsorship and support, or child participation, contact Adam Sherf at Willits Area Cyclists: wactrails@gmail.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks

Brookside Registration Open

Brookside Elementary TK / Kindergarten registration is now open. To register go to www.willitsunified.com. Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2024; TK: age 5 between Sept. 2, 2024 and June 2, 2025.

Inscripción abierta en Brookside

La inscripción para TK / Kindergarten de Brookside Elementary va está abierta. Para registrarse, vaya a www.willitsunified.com.

Firewood Sale

Seasoned Firewood. You pick up in Willits. Fir: \$200 cord. Hardwood (Oak, Madrone, Bay): \$275 a cord. Call for Delivered Prices. 707 972-7213

For Rent

2 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Brand New. Only 1 apartment left. Close to town and Howard Hospital. Well-appointed kitchens with granite counters and large pantry. Spacious bathrooms. Laminate floors throughout and window coverings. 1200 sq. ft. Air conditioned. \$1800.00/mo. More information call 707-489-1080.

Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler), Saturday, April 13 - 8 am to 4 pm

INFOWARS Listening & Discussion Party

Friday evenings, time & location TBD, Alex Jones and The War Room. Propaganda Analysis, Citizen Action Network, American Development League, Lucifer's Bane: Church of Christian Mystics. 707-841-0149

John Ford Ranch Beef

John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049. (Prices change effective 6/25/23)

Mechanics / Bodywork Specials

2014 BMW R1200GS motorcycle. Tundra, F-150, F-250 diesel, Prius, Highlander, RX300, Honda Fit. Call for details & prices. Like New. 2020 Honda CRF250 Rally, 400 miles, \$6000. 2009 Suzuki DR650, \$4000. Hobie Mirage Drive Kayak - Like new, \$1700. Speakers - Bose 901, \$200. Paradigm Studio 60 - \$400. WANTED: Large plastic pots. 707 972-7213

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oaknvine.net/tp>

'What is the Mystery Behind Karma & Reincarnation?'

Explore as we delve into this ancient mystery of the ages. Come share or just listen. Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St., Saturday, April 6th, 10:30-11:30. Free books and healthy refreshments available. Questions? Call Joy (707) 367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of California.

Willits Weekly

Place your ad: willitsweekly@gmail.com



MORE EXPERTISE



Ruth McLarty, MD
General Surgery
AdventistHealth.org/RMCLarty



Cristina V. Cueto, MD
General Surgery
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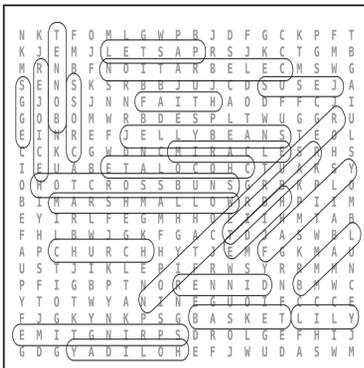
If you're looking for a partner for your complex healthcare needs, look to Ruth McLarty, MD and Cristina V. Cueto, MD, our new general surgeon team.

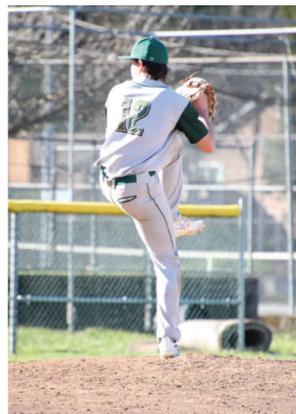
You were made for more. More knowledge. More compassion. More expertise. That is why we're proud to introduce two new general surgeons and welcome them to our team.

Dr. McLarty, PhD, is a skilled, board-certified general surgeon, caring for ages 2 and older with such common conditions as cholecystitis, diverticulitis, bowel obstructions and hernias. Dr. McLarty also specializes in colorectal surgery.

Dr. Cueto, is a skilled, board-certified general surgeon, and speaks both English and Spanish to best care for patients ages 18 and older. Some common conditions she treats are biliary disease, hernias, benign and malignant diseases of the colon and small bowel, soft tissue conditions and diseases of the breast.

Together, this experienced general surgeon team is available and ready to serve our community.





Above, from left: Head Coach Wayne Shull with the honorary Tom Tilton who taught him his first wrestling move 40 years ago, as he did to so many kids along the way. Kooper Dockins gets strategic with the pitch in a game against Upper Lake on March 15. Jake Grooms smiles after a base hit. Adrian Lopez slides into second base as an Upper Lake player attempts to get him out. At left: Paizley Dockins takes home the gold at a wrestling tournament held at the WHS gym. At left, below: Iziah Folsom works for a pinning combination.



Sheri Dockins
Sports Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com



At top: Jerett Nelson works hard to take his opponent to the ground. Above, left: Arabella Mondo dominates her opponent for a pin during the annual Gatekeeper Tournament. Above, right: Sylas Tomson gets the hand raise for the win during a match in the Gatekeeper Tournament.

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Sports Roundup

Wolverines Baseball beats Upper Lake; Grapplin Pack competes in annual Gatekeeper Tournament

Wolverines Baseball

Fans, family and friends gathered to watch Wolverines Baseball win another home game against Upper Lake on Friday, March 15, at the Dave Kline field. It was a beautiful day to play ball.

There was a bit of nostalgia in the air watching Captain Kooper Dockins pitch a great game, just like his Grandpa Rod Dockins did for WHS in 1971-72. He was also a phenomenal pitcher who signed out of Mendo to the minor leagues with the Phillies. One of the greatest things about watching sports here in Willits is witnessing the many generations of talented athletes throughout the years.

"Jakoby Kirby got the start on the mound and pitched three good innings, giving up only two runs," said Head Coach Tim King. "We had a 3-2 lead going into the 4th, which was too close for comfort. We brought Captain Kooper Dockins in to pitch to keep our lead. Dockins pitched 4 excellent innings, giving up only one run.

"Kooper Dockins, Jake Grooms, Logan Sanderson, Adrian Lopez, Ryan Carter and Jakoby Kirby all contributed with hits," King said. "Adrian Lopez came up clutch with a multiple RBI double to the right-center field gap to put us up 7-3. Kooper closed out the game with a 1-2-3 7th inning. Logan Sanderson played a strong game catching, giving up only 1 stolen base.

"Our outfield is inexperienced but has been working hard to improve. We saw better outfield play in this game. I'm proud of these guys. They work hard at practice, and we've seen improvement in games. Credit to Upper Lake. They're a well-coached team, and the second guy they pitched against us, their harder than anyone we have seen this season," King concluded.

Willits Grapplin Pack

Wrestlers, families and supporters all gathered in the Steve Short Gymnasium at WHS for the annual Gatekeeper Tournament. Since Willits Grapplin Pack began, there have been some amazing tournaments held here in this gym that bring extremely talented wrestlers together from miles around.

This has been one of the greatest feats for the kids to become involved in. It is a group of coaches and parents committed to seeing these kids thrive in the sport. Hats off to each coach, including Wayne Shull, Izzy Ramirez, Brian Agenbroad, Ray Moon, Ryan Hulsey, and Nick Bertolino. Also, to wrestling coach Matt Moratti. Nothing about this sport is easy. You each give 100 percent to these kids on and off the mat. You are preparing them for great futures in wrestling with the discipline and tools for a great future in life. It shows in each and every one of them.

"The Tournament was a huge success," said Head Coach Wayne Shull. "There were teams represented with some very tough competition. There were three state qualifiers in the girls division. There were a lot of very competitive matches today. The tournament ran very smoothly. We congratulate Petaluma Wrestling Club for winning the team championship.

"All of Willits Grapplin Pack kids wrestled very tough and left it all on the mat. It takes a huge commitment from a lot of parents to make something like this even possible. A heartfelt thank you to Shannon Folsom for being the tournament director. To our sponsors, all the parents, community and volunteers who work hard in the concessions, and tables. They all make this event possible," said Shull.

Congratulations to these amazing kids! Placers below:

1st Place: Colter Glass, Aiden Punihaole-Figueroa, Arabella Mondo, Cailin Kelsay, Dane McFadden, Payton Shull, Vladimir Bertolino, Paizley Dockins and Travis Powers.

2nd Place: Ray Moon III, Michael Bolton, Aleah Walsh, Paxton Scott, Walthari Bertolino, Brian Bakewell, Alex Holman, Jerett Nelson, Sulas Thomson, Iziah Folsom, Allaya Knight, Sophia Whitman, Stormie Nowlin, Rickey Ramirez and Aiden Punihaole-Figueroa.

3rd Place: Peyton Scott, Diego Gutierrez, Natalie Hunolt, Elijah Wilson, Gabriel Gutierrez, Caily Powers, Xander Hee, Reese Mayfield, Chey Thurman, Mckalya Johnson, Rickey Ramirez.

4th Place: Makiah Carter, Osvaldo Meza, Julian Gutierrez, Cameron Lindsey, Juan Gutierrez and Davin Swenson.

5th Place: Brian Bakewell



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



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The rest of Murder | From page 1

was declared deceased at the scene.

Mathieson and Draughan's 2-year-old child was present and was transported to an out-of-county hospital for injuries unrelated to the shooting incident.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office detectives responded and took over the investigation. Criminalists from the California Department of Justice labs in both Eureka and Santa Rosa responded to assist in processing the crime scene for evidence. Draughan was subsequently transported and booked into the Mendocino County Jail on a charge of homicide.

Any persons with information related to this homicide are encouraged to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office by calling Dispatch at 707-463-4086, or through the tip line at 707-234-2100.

Editor's Note: As of March 27, the Mendocino County Jail Booking Log reports that Draughan is being held on \$1,000,000 bail.

In a March 21 report on the murder, the Redheaded Blackbelt news website <https://kymkemp.com/> posted some details from a background check on Draughan, showing a 25-year history of arrests and domestic abuse.

"In November of last year," the report

The rest of Roads | From page 1

The alphabetical list goes from Abalone Street in Westport to Zinfandel Drive in Ukiah.

The numerical list starts out with Road 101, aka Pine Mountain Road outside Willits.

"Cypress" has the lead for most-popular road name in the county, with nine variants – and not all in Brooktrails. There are Cypress roads, a circle, a lane, a place, a drive, and even a parkway.

"Birch" and "Perch" come in next, with

The rest of Jobs | From page 5

are getting some informal interviewing experience and getting a lot of information. They seem extremely engaged, which I am pleasantly surprised at."

Several CAL FIRE participants were on hand to speak with the students and offer them the ability to apply for the many opportunities available with the organization, primarily firefighter one, an entry-level position. In addition, they "have natural resource-based positions like forestry.

We also have tech services, so you can work as a carpenter or a WASPO, a water sewage plant operator," noted Salvador Palomar. For more info about a career with CAL FIRE, visit <https://calcareers.ca.gov/> and click on "Create Account," email CALFIRErecruitment@fire.ca.gov, or call 916-894-9585.

Andrea Heaney, store manager for Mendo Mill in Willits said: "I'm telling the kids about the Mendo Mills' history in the community. We've been around for 80 years, having started out as a local sawmill. I'm also teaching the students that the path that you choose right out of high school may not necessarily be the path that you end up on. Visit <http://www.mendomill.com/jobs/> for more info.

"We're trying to get the kids psyched about careers in conservation," said Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra, executive director of the Resource Conservation District of Mendocino County. "We're not looking for kids to work for us currently. We generally hire people with college educations. We're telling the students about the career and what kind of college degrees we are looking for when they do graduate from college, so they can plan their steps." Visit <https://mrcrd.org/get-involved/join-our-team> for more info.

Dripworks is hiring full-time seasonal employees in the warehouse and in the Call Center. Visit <https://www.dripworks.com/careers> to find out more.

reads, "Draughan was charged with the use of tear gas against the deceased [Mathieson], as well as committing assault with great bodily injury. During the court proceedings, a criminal protective order was issued.

"On November 8, 2023, Draughan signed a court document stating he did not own or possess any firearms.



Johnathan Lee Draughan, recently of Covelo.

"On December 20, 2023, the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office filed a motion for the case to be dismissed due to insufficient evidence. Due to the dismissal of the case, the criminal protective order was terminated.

"The deceased filed for a CPO on January 30, 2024. Draughan was served with notice of the filing on February 2. The CPO was not successful on February 28."

The Redheaded Blackbelt also reported that, according to the background check, Draughan has a history of arrests back to 1998 in North Carolina, and "at least 14 court cases between North Carolina and South Carolina." Draughan's record also includes 2022 arrests in Del Norte County for disorderly conduct under the influence of drugs and for violating a court order to prevent domestic violence.

The rest of Election | From page 1

eight variants each – and, yes, all in Brooktrails.

Now that it's approved, the county Department of Transportation will submit the resolution to the California Department of Transportation, as it does each May.

To download the lists of county roads, go to www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/agendas-and-minutes and find the agenda for the March 26 meeting. Under item 3m on that agenda, see links to "2023 Road List Alphabetical" and "2023 Road List Numerical."

The rest of Letters | From page 2

Jaime Wilkes, vice-president at Sparetime Supply, was glad to be able to tell the students about their employment opportunities. "Our goal today was to let them know that there is a local company here that has any kind of job that you can think of throughout our business: office jobs, marketing and graphic design, internet and computer technology, warehouse work, drivers, logistics.

We wanted to make sure that the kids know that no matter what they want to do later in life, that they can start at Sparetime, start at the bottom, which gives them experience in something." To learn more, visit <https://www.sparetimesupply.com/careers>.

Sam Heath and Christina Tipp offered careers in their geological support company, SHN (<https://www.shn-engr.com/careers/careers-overview>). The Sherwood Valley Casino hires people over 18, which fits most of the near-graduate students (<https://www.svrcasino.com/careers>). The Ukiah Police Department is always looking for new hires (<https://www.ukiahpolice.com/careers/>).

Adrian Lopez, vice-president of operations at MetalFX, told the students of the recent successes at the company and that they are a world-class manufacturing company that enjoys training and retaining and promoting employees. Visit <https://www.metalfx.com/employment/> to find out more.

"The energy is very high and very wonderful," said Soroptimist Kitty Norris. "We have listened to and spoken with a lot of wonderful students this morning. We look forward to collaborating with them in the future. We spoke with a lot of juniors who didn't realize that we give out scholarships. We also had seniors who are going to be putting their applications in for scholarships. We made some wonderful connections today."

The rest of Election | From page 1

Greer was the first-place winner (currently at 27.4%) in California's "top two" March primary. The top two primary sends the top two primary winners – no matter their political party – to the November general election.

In Mendocino County's closest election, the First District supervisor's race, the March 21 update shows incumbent Maureen Mulheren still in the lead with 51.82% (1,679 votes) and challenger Jacob Brown at 48.18% (1,561 votes).

After reporting that she expected to have the March primary election certified by the end of the week, "which is a good thing," she said, Voter Registrar Bartolomie welcomed any of the supervisors to visit her office and talk to her about any concerns about how elections are handled.

"We've put extra security measures in to make sure, of course, that the incorrect ballots did not get counted and the correct ballots did," she said, referring to the all-Republican test ballots a third party vendor incorrectly caused to be sent out to all county voters in early February.

"We've sorted those out," Bartolomie said. "We had about 450 ballots that had not been revoted with the replacement ballot, so we remade those to the proper precincts and the proper party, so those are taken care of. Those are being scanned in now, along with the provisional ballots – we had about 580 of those – which are being processed now, and that's like the end of our process," she said.

Provisional ballots are given, for example, to voters who show up at the polls without their mail-in ballot or who register to vote on Election Day.

Bartolomie said she had talked to the ballot vendor ("the printer") about what measures they – or any other future ballot vendor – should have in place "so this never happens again."

She reported the vendor had promised more quality control measures applied to steps after the Elections Office had approved proofs for all the different ballots to be printed.

Proofs were approved for this election, as usual, Bartolomie said, "but there was a step between, which was that the third-party vendor had to check the image to make sure the image and the ballot was going to print correctly, and what happened was [the employee] had sent the test ballot, rather than the regular ballot order, to them to be printed."

Supervisor John Haschak asked Bartolomie if the county had any control over vendor Integrated Voting Systems, or any other ballot vendor, as far as that vendor contracting out tasks to a third party.

"I didn't even know there was a third party," Bartolomie answered, "so that answer is 'I don't know.'" Haschak asked if she had confidence in Integrated Voting Systems themselves.

"Well, whether it's this vendor or it's another vendor," Bartolomie said, "I know that we will be asking for spot checks as well, so we can make sure that our product is going to be as correct as it was when it left our office."

Supervisor Haschak then asked about the 177 voters on the edge of supervisorial districts who received ballots for their old district, after the 2021 redistricting process.

"Is there notification that's given to people when they get redistricted?" he asked. "Yes

we send out a postcard to everyone who's affected," Bartolomie answered, "so every 10 years if you're in an area that's getting redistricted, then you receive a postcard saying you're now in the Third District or Fourth or whatever."

Haschak asked what the voter office had done to take care of the ballot redistricting issue so it doesn't happen again.

"We called in Leif Farr, who is our GIS coordinator for the county, and he helped us make sure everything was correct and that we had everyone where they should be," Bartolomie said, "and then we also called in Sue Ranochak, who was our previous assessor, and we double-checked it together to make sure everything was fine."

"OK," Haschak said, "so you're feeling like the procedures that we have in place are appropriate?" "Yes," Bartolomie answered. "You know, we had a very short turnaround and that's no excuse for a mistake but it was a mistake and it happened, and we got the [corrected] ballots out within 48 hours," with a letter notifying voters of the problem, and a press release that went on social media and to the press alerting voters to the error.

Supervisor Ted Williams asked if the redistricting issue could have affected results of the 2022 election.

"We went back and looked at that," Bartolomie said. "Yes, there was the 140 ballots from the Hopland area ... but when we looked at that, you had won by such a landslide that 140 votes was not going to matter one way or the other, and John [Haschak] had won by such a landslide that the 40 votes that were up there were not going to matter."

When asked if anyone in the room wanted to comment, Sally Webster came up to speak. "I have been a temporary worker in the elections office opening ballots," she said, "it's my last hour today. And I feel very strongly about what I'm going to tell you today."

Webster said she witnessed the unfolding of the ballot misprint error "from the first phone call that we got about the misprinted ballot all the way through to the final end of what we're doing with our processes."

When subsequent calls came in about Democrats receiving Republican primary ballots, "Katrina immediately started investigating," Webster said, and by the next morning, "she had a plan and she had marching orders, and she told us exactly what we were going to do and how we were going to handle this.

"The plan included every ballot – how it was going to be handled, and how the public was going to be informed. She put protocols in place to see that a free and fair election took place."

Webster also praised the voter office's effort to answer the many phone calls coming in about the incorrect ballots.

"The calls were continuous, they were ceaseless," Webster said, "they could not put the phone down that they didn't have to pick it up and answer again. The stress in the office was very high, and I'm going to remind you that it was no fault of the elections office or its employees...."

"Let me just say that Katrina's goal is to see that everyone has the right to vote.... We're really fortunate to have her in this office, because she is a strong leader, and I just think that she deserves commendation for the work that she's done, and I have never had more respect for her as I do right now," Webster concluded.

The rest of Letters | From page 2

Willits' beautiful new firehouse. It was only later when I discovered she was also a watercolorist-extraordinaire, an inventive chef when not in her studio, and interior designer. She was truly a creative force, encouraged me to pick up a brush in her classes, and introduced me to another set of artistic friends.

Silent auction items were kindly donated by the generous business people of Willits. Not once was I denied a donation, and they became another set of friends.

After I lost my husband, I could no longer tolerate living and maintaining a large two-story house and moved to a sweet little cottage in town with an old, wisteria-covered arbor that afforded a lovely fragrance, little birds, privacy, and a natural sunscreen. Kind, attentive, helpful neighbors were a new set of friends.

I looked forward to attending live performances at Willits Community Theatre, incredible exhibits at Willits Center

for the Arts, movies at the Noyo, swinging by the amazing Willits Library and County Museum, buying plants at the Gleaners Spring Plant Sale (what a treasure that is!), take-away salads at Mariposa Market, or shopping for a really unique gift at Cat's Meow.

Where else would I find fresh tomatoes plucked from someone's garden on my front porch?

Willits.

Gail Richards, Willits

Equestrian day camp

To the Editor:
Next week, April 1 through 5, I have an equestrian (spring) day camp for school kids, 12 to 5 pm. Guaranteed ride time. Lunch included. \$65 per diem. Contact Three Cherie Ranch 707-841-1530 or threecherie@gmail.com

Sarah Owsiany, Willits

Willits Weekly
The Local Paper

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

April 1 benefit for The Pond Club

Submitted by Michelle Hutchins, Blue Zone Project

Judson Howe, president of Mendocino County Adventist Health Hospitals, and the Blue Zone Project - Mendocino County are sponsoring a benefit concert in Willits to support a local health resource at a grassroots level.

The Joe Craven Trio Band, a unique music experience for all ages, performs April 1 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Doors open 5 pm; show starts at 6 pm. Proceeds will benefit The Pond Club in Willits.

The Pond Club supports adults who are post-surgery and therapy with organized aquatic aerobics classes. The indoor pool is attached to a private residence, formerly owned by Bobbie Riccio, who bequeathed the property to The Pond Club.

Riccio opened her privately owned pool for many years to older members of the community, and organized aquatic therapy classes taught by certified instructors. Today, the pool opens three days a week with limited capacity. Proceeds from the concert will go to purchase equipment to ozonate and chlorinate the pool, allowing it to open more days a week and to expand access to more people.

The Monday, April 1 concert, a Cosmic Pickle Production, also features the Farmers Market Band. Tickets: \$20; kids 12 and under FREE. Advance tickets at Flying Dog Pizza and J.D. Redhouse. Plus food by Turtle Island Tacos and the Fairall's Farm blue food truck. Beer and wine by Northspur Brewing and Frey Vineyards.

Active Lulu

Lulu loves to explore and is always up for new adventures. She has boundless energy and would be the perfect walking and hiking companion, and she thoroughly enjoys swimming, so she'd be the perfect beach dog.

Lulu can have separation anxiety, but we feel that with a little consistency, Lulu can overcome her anxiety. Lulu also tends to guard along fence lines and her area, and can be food aggressive.

If you're looking for an active friend to inspire you to get out in nature, Lulu is the girl for you!

To learn more about Lulu, or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 459-4900.



Bart came in with his sister, Lisa, so we think he would be able to live with another cat.

Hanky Panky

What a boy and what a story this boy has! Hank was a stray dog in Redwood Valley for months. He sat like a statue in the vineyards, stoic and calm watching the world go by, accepting food but avoiding capture. Hank was finally caught and ended up at our county shelter. Our community did not let us forget about Hank, and with dogs in danger due to lack of space, we knew his time was running up. We pulled Hank into our program and he quickly earned the nickname Hanky Panky. While we will never know what his past was like, what we do know is that this is one special dog! Hank has made friends here and slowly but surely we are opening up his world. We think his life matters and we want to help him find his place!



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

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Fab-Tabby-lous Bart

Bart is a little timid at first, but we think once he is in a home with lots of love and attention, he will come out of his shell and become a wonderful feline companion.

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OBITUARY |

Milane Corr

Milane Nazarro Corr (1931-2024) peacefully passed away on February 27, 2024 in Ukiah, California at the age of 92.

Milane was the only daughter of Amille and Ray Nazarro. Amille was a dancer in Europe and model in Los Angeles. Ray was a movie director for Columbia Pictures.

Milane was born in Los Angeles on July 15, 1931. After her mother passed away in 1935, Milane was raised by her grandmother (Milena L. Pilcovich) in Fresno.

From Fresno State



Milane with her cat Riley in 2021.

College (Univ.), she earned a B.A. in Journalism and a Secondary Teaching Certificate to teach in high schools. At age 22, she married Bill Eckert and they moved to San Francisco. In the early 1970s, she divorced and moved to Ashland, Oregon.

Later, she met Kenneth Corr (a sculptor) in San Francisco at Project Artaud (live/work artist studios) where she was active in drama. During the "back to the land" movement, they moved to Willits, and married in 1980. He passed away in 2017 after 37 years of marriage.

She continued to live on Timberline Road until she was 90 before moving to Ukiah. The couple's ashes will be scattered in the area where they lived.

No memorial will be held. Her remaining relatives are from her uncle Frank Stenberg's family in Fresno and in the Pacific Northwest (Oregon and Washington).

BEST of LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

Joseph Iaccino, DC, MS
Chiropractor, Lakeview

Anne Martin-Ko, MD
Pediatrician, Hillside

Steven C. Wirth, MD
Family Physician

BEST of LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

Family Physician
Hillside, Dora Street, Little Lake, Lakeview

BEST of LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

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We need to feed our hungry
 A Benefit to Save Our Daily Bread
 Serving the hungry for over 25 years
 Willits' legendary Cosmic Family Band
 Awesome family-friendly uplifting music
 April 21 • Sunday 3-5 p.m. by donation
 Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial

Willits Elementary Charter School

Willits Elementary Charter School is accepting applications for the lottery to join our school in 2024-25. We will hold the public lottery on Friday, May 3. Applications for entering Kindergarten and grades 1-5 are available on our website and in the school office. All applications due by April 30.
 Questions: 707-459-1400

Willits Elementary Charter School está aceptando solicitudes para la lotería para unirse a nuestra escuela en 2024-25. Realizaremos la lotería pública el viernes 3 de mayo. Las solicitudes para ingresar al Kinder y a los grados 1-5 están disponibles en nuestro sitio web y en la oficina de la escuela. Todas las solicitudes deben presentarse antes del 30 de abril.
 Si tiene preguntas, llame al: 707-459-1400

BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TK-Kindergarten Registration Now Open

To pre-register go to www.willitsunified.com
 Para registrar a su estudiante ve a www.willitsunified.com

Kindergarten - age 5 by September 1, 2024
 Transitional Kindergarten - age 5 between Sept. 2, 2024 and June 2, 2025
 Kinder - 5 años antes de Septiembre 1, 2024
 Trancision de Kinder - 5 años en medio de Septiembre 2, 2024 a Junio 2, 2025

Once you have completed the online registration, please bring the following documents to Brookside:

- Birth Certificate
- Certificado de nacimiento
- Immunization records
- Registros de inmunización (vaccunas)

If you have any questions please call the Brookside office at (707) 459-5385 or visit our Website at www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside

Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame a la oficina de Brookside al (707) 459-5385 or visit nuestro sitio web www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside