

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

I would like to publicly thank Bruce and Linda Burton for sharing their property with the churches of our community for the Sunrise Service on Easter morning. It was such a wonderful event!

The morning was planned by people from Agape Bible, Calvary Chapel, Grace Community, and Bible Baptist Churches. In addition to these churches, members from St. Francis Episcopal, St. John's Lutheran, Amazing Grace, United Methodist, and Crossroads Churches were also in attendance. Worshipping our resurrected Lord together was such a fantastic experience!

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

Thank you also to Mathew Caine for attending and for writing up last week's article. We really appreciate all you do at Willits Weekly!

Pastor Steve Thrift, Agape Bible Church

THIRD DISTRICT
SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

April 2024 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

Working to create efficiencies in county systems is challenging. We pay taxes and expect to maximize the benefits. In balancing the budget, the low-hanging fruit has been picked – which is projected to bring in \$5 million in savings. How do we get to a balanced budget for the rest of the deficit?

Cuts will be made. When I was a teacher, the mantra was always keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. Where in Mendocino County do cuts come from that won't affect our safety or wellbeing or the wellbeing of our neighbors? It is often said that we will make things more efficient. We make things more efficient by listening to better ideas, and acting. This means changing policies that are outdated or overly bureaucratic and procedures that maximize how people work. There is no silver bullet that will solve the budget problems with one stroke.

I have attended Planning and Building Services and Environmental Health stakeholder meetings. In those meetings, definitions were discussed, processes explained, and suggestions were heard. In follow up discussions with the department heads, the ideas shared by constituents are being incorporated where and when possible.

In talking with constituents and employees, ideas on how to make things better abound. People bring their solutions to me in various ways. Why can't a partial tax be paid when a person shows up at the tax collector's office with a check? How do we most efficiently lower our energy consumption, transition the county's fleet to electric vehicles, and install solar panels over structures or parking lots with little capital outlay? We are working on these endeavors.

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

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.

Willits Weekly

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Great Redwood Trail vs. county rail network

Submitted by Robert Jason Pinoli, Mendocino Railway

An open letter to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors: I wanted to call the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors' attention to two very critical matters facing the future of Mendocino County's transportation network.

The first concerns the North Coast Rail Authority, a group that even Senator Mike McGuire labeled as "the center of controversy on the North Coast [for the past 30 years]," and that has wasted more than \$141 million of taxpayer money. The NCRA has now been rebranded as the Great Redwood Trail Agency, but this name change hasn't ended any of the controversy.

Because while the GRTA plans to leave the NWP's tracks in place south of the Mendocino County border – so the people and businesses south of that border can benefit from both rails and trails, the GRTA has decided to deny those benefits to the people and businesses of Mendocino County. So, even though there is room for both rails and trails in Mendocino County, too, the GRTA has chosen to forevermore cut Mendocino County off from our country's national railroad network.

Even more bizarrely, not only do some of Mendocino County's political leadership seem OK with that, some are even helping the GRTA accomplish their goal. Isn't it time for Mendocino County to stop being a doormat, to stand up and demand the same benefits for its people and businesses that the people and businesses of Sonoma and Marin will enjoy?

Second, in order to more easily achieve its plan to cut Mendocino County off from our national railroad network, the GRTA has announced that it intends to force the abandonment of Mendocino Railway's California Western Railroad / Skunk Train. If they succeed, they will have killed a railroad that has served, and bound together, the communities of Willits and Fort Bragg for 139 years; a railroad that even today has customers interested in shipping 400-500 railcars of freight between our two cities, shipments that would remove nearly 2,000 trucks from Highway 20 each year.

And this is just one example of the railroad freight opportunities that the NCRA (and now the GRTA) has neglected – or intentionally – prevented for more than two decades now. The NCRA and GRTA have insisted that freight rail won't work in Mendocino County, not because there isn't demand for it, but solely because they have been too incompetent to carry it out and too jealous of their fiefdom to allow anyone else to do so.

Freight trains move millions of tons of goods and materials across our national railroad network every day, reducing road congestion, improving road safety, and avoiding the greenhouse gas and other pollution produced by trucks. Trains can move 1 ton of freight nearly 500 miles on just 1 gallon of fuel; not even a Prius achieves that efficiency. Our state Legislature and governor have mandated that California must by 2030 reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels. How is Mendocino County going to do that if our leaders have allowed the GRTA to rip out our county's only remaining connection to our national railroad network?

And why now? Why cut Mendocino County off from our national railroad network at the very same time that the Biden administration has just launched a campaign to reconnect communities that have lost transportation opportunities, creating the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program, and awarding \$3.3 billion to help reconnect communities that were divided by past transportation decisions? The GRTA's efforts to cut Mendocino County off from our national railroad network seem to be doing exactly the opposite of what our federal government is seeking to accomplish.

The GRTA's efforts seem especially inexplicable when Mendocino Railway has repeatedly offered to move the bureaucrats out of the way and just fix the NWP's line in Mendocino County, being just as repeatedly blocked by first the NCRA, and now the GRTA, as they simply don't want to see the railroad restored.

By building its trail on top of the existing tracks, the

Read the rest of **Skunk** Over on page 4

Great Redwood Trail Draft Master Plan released

Submitted by GRTA

On April 3, the Great Redwood Trail Agency released the draft Master Plan for the northern stretch of the 307-mile rail-to-trail project connecting San Francisco and Humboldt Bays.

The draft Master Plan can be found at <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/>

The public comment period for the draft plan is open now until June 3, 2024. Members of the public are encouraged to provide feedback and participate in the planning process by submitting comments and/or attending community events related to the trail project.

The Great Redwood Trail was created by the State of California, through the efforts of Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire, who represents the North Coast.

"It has been a long journey, preparing for the launch of this draft Master Plan," said Senator McGuire. "The Great Redwood Trail Agency has hosted numerous community and kitchen table meetings seeking feedback from thousands of neighbors who live near and around this remarkable trail. We are grateful to all of those who provided comments and participated in the meetings."

The draft plan reflects feedback and input from robust tribal and community engagement efforts over the past 16 months, including attendance at 23 community events, six in-person workshops and three online workshops, more than 70 stakeholder meetings, and 767 surveys completed. Tribal engagement to date has included attendance at more than a dozen tribal community events, presentations at many tribal government and coalition meetings and workshops, many in-depth conversations with tribal members and leaders, a webinar for tribal leaders and representatives, and direct outreach to more than 35 tribes and tribal/native interest associations.

The project team also met with business owners, ranchers, farm bureaus, rural economic development organizations, tourism and visitor bureaus, vineyard owners, houseless service providers, law enforcement, first responders, trail users, environmental advocates, landowner groups, youth-focused non-profits, and local, state and federal agencies.

"As the new executive director of GRTA, I'm excited to work in partnership with communities along the trail to develop the Great Redwood Trail Agency into a solid and sustainable agency that leverages resources to create opportunities for improved health, recreation, and economic growth while honoring and supporting the many communities and cultures along the corridor," said Elaine Hogan, executive director of GRTA. "I believe this draft Master Plan is an excellent first step in laying out our vision for the Great Redwood Trail, and I welcome input from communities to help design a trail that best serves them."

When complete, the Great Redwood Trail will be the longest multi-use rail-trail in the USA, promoting accessible recreation to California's North Coast region as it connects the communities of Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt counties, creating a transformational economic engine.

"The release of this high-level plan is an exciting moment to recognize the transformation the trail represents for North Coast outdoor recreation, as well as its future economy," said Caryl Hart, PhD, former chair of the Great Redwood Trail Agency Board of Directors. "The incredible outreach and meetings that went into this plan show the dedication of our organization to working with our local communities to make this world class trail a reality."

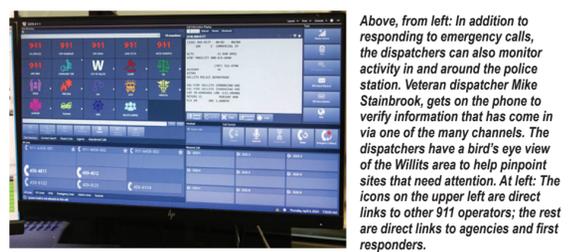
Sterling Kercher, Alderpoint volunteer fire chief, logger, builder, and local landowner, said the trail is "a good thing for the community to give them the opportunity to make some money. It's a community thing, to unite us and to bring people together."

The Master Plan will serve as a guiding document to envision and provide a framework for trail user experience, trail design, operations and maintenance, habitat restoration, project priorities, funding, and management of the trail, which will travel through old growth redwood forests, oak woodlands and vineyards, and the Eel River Canyon.

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



Dispatcher Mike Stainbrook has been at his position for 24 years.



At right: Little Lake Fire Division Chief Fire Marshal Eric Alvarez gets emergency information from Howard Forest station via the police dispatchers.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Below, left: Day-shift dispatcher Anthony Castillo has been on the job for 18 months after a rigorous training regimen. Below, right: Interim Police Chief Chris Dewey is grateful for the service that the dispatchers perform.

First Contact

Emergency dispatchers to be honored April 14 to 20 for their vital role in community safety

They sit (or stand) in fluorescent-lit rooms, monitoring up to eight screens and radio transmissions simultaneously. They are the primary conduit to first response, the entities that one first encounters in an emergency. They are the voices of 911, routing the critical and time-sensitive calls to the proper agencies that are able to fulfill the needs of the callers and respond in a timely manner. They save lives and property by the connections they create in the moment. They are the dispatchers, officially titled emergency dispatcher / records clerk, as they keep all the records of the calls as well.

In order to honor and show appreciation for their efforts, the week of April 14 through April 20 has been declared to be "National Telecommunicator's / Dispatch Appreciation Week," with a proclamation signed by Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez.

Vitaly important, though seldom seen, the two Willits police dispatchers, Anthony Castillo, who works during the day for 12 hours, and Mike Stainbrook, who takes the 12-hour night shift, work long hours and very much deserve this week to honor their service.

Stainbrook has been on the job for 24 years. The job is the culmination of years of community and national service positions. "I've been in service to my community or my country all my adult life. I was in the Air Force and when I came back to Willits, I worked at the hospital for just over five years. I was a volunteer firefighter up in Brooktrails. I worked for the ambulance company. I've done all kinds of first responder jobs," said Stainbrook as he stood at his high desk, allowing him to work standing up for his entire shift.

"I work 6 pm to 6 am," Stainbrook said. "We have to do the 12-hour shifts until we get the rest of our staff. We'd like to have four dispatchers. It's really the bare minimum. We would typically work three days on and three off, and then four on and four off, in 12-hour shifts. That allows us, with four dispatchers, to have that routine schedule, the number of hours per pay period, instead of massive overtime like we currently have. Now, we have to make do for sick time and then people get to



have vacation time, too. That all has to be accounted for."

Stainbrook has memorized the hundreds of codes used to abbreviate the various situations that pass his desk. These codes are common throughout most of California and a good portion of the country, allowing a free flow of information in the fastest time possible, when time is critical.

Castillo is fairly new, having begun the job 18 months ago, after enduring a rigorous course of training. "I'm pretty fresh at this," explained Castillo. "The training is on-the-job at first. We have a six-month training with a communications training officer.

"It involves three phases," he said. "The first phase, you're basically watching your trainer for about four weeks. Then you take a test. When you pass that test, then you're going to go onto the radio side of things, at which your trainer will handle the phone calls. You do that for about eight to 10 weeks, depending on how you improve.

"In the third phase, your trainer is here, but not here. They only take over when something dire happens that you can't handle. They're basically just observing you. It's called your 'shadow period.' If you pass that, you're good to go. Within a year of you being hired, you have to go to the Post Academy for dispatchers, which is a three-week program. Then you're certified to be a dispatcher," Castillo concluded.

The dispatchers route calls to the proper agencies. Fire calls are routed to the Howard Forest CAL FIRE station, which will then route the calls to the necessary fire units. Their consoles have easy-to-click icons which automatically contact the various agencies or services. They have screens with icons, maps, and other information available at the click of a mouse.

Eric Alvarez, Little Lake Fire Department chief fire marshal, opined that "dispatchers work well. In the initial call, that's where we get our initial information. It kind of paints a mental picture of what you're going to be responding to and what resources you might have coming.

"They're your main line of communication

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

Joseph Iaccino, DC, MS
Chiropractor, Lakeview

Anne Martin-Ko, MD
Pediatrician, Hillside

Steven C. Wirth, MD
Family Physician

Family Physician
Hillside, Dora Street, Little Lake, Lakeview

Medical Facility
Hillside, Dora Street, Little Lake, Lakeview

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395 North Street, Willits
Remodeled 3 bedrooms
on a corner lot.

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Beginner



HOW TO SUDOKU

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

AMAZING SPACE WORD SEARCH

R	A	X	S	O	O	D	A	Y	O	N	I	C	A	N	G	A	D	D
C	R	C	B	R	Z	P	T	A	S	N	G	I	G	L	V	E	O	S
N	O	T	U	Z	L	U	Y	I	Z	R	G	I	L	A	N	Z	O	G
I	S	S	A	H	P	T	O	Z	C	H	O	I	A	O	N	R	C	I
T	R	T	R	N	E	G	A	S	L	T	A	P	N	I	X	E	T	M
A	B	U	I	C	O	A	F	Y	C	S	L	T	O	T	I	P	T	U
I	R	I	C	U	C	Y	E	B	E	S	A	I	S	M	A	E	R	S
D	I	G	L	V	A	G	I	L	L	W	A	C	C	Y	P	S	F	B
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S	U	O	I	H	U	A	M	A	U	B	X	F	A	N	T	A	T	T
F	C	A	Z	F	W	T	W	F	G	B	C	O	R	O	N	A	E	O
B	L	G	Y	U	A	C	H	R	O	M	O	S	P	H	E	R	E	R

ABSOLUTE	CELESTIAL	DWARF	MATTER
AFTERGLOW	CHROMOSPHERE	EARTH	NUCLEUS
AMPLIFY	CLOUD	ECLIPSE	OPTICAL
ASTEROID	COLLISION	FLARE	ORBIT
ASTRONOMY	COMET	GALAXIES	RADIATION
ATMOSPHERE	CONSTELLATION	GAS	SOLAR SYSTEM
ATOM	CORONA	GIANT	SPACE
BELT	CRATER	IMPACT	STAR
BRIGHTNESS	DUST	LIGHT	UNIVERSE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13								14					15	
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56				57		58				59				
60			61		62				63			64		
65		66						67				68		
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														70

CLUES ACROSS

- Island nation
- Platforms
- Project plan
- French fishing port
- South Dakota
- Oakland's baseball team
- Military policeman
- Ornamental stone
- Garland
- Process that produces ammonia
- Mousses
- Music notation 'dal ...'
- Fail to win
- Peyton's little brother
- Not near
- Some cars still need it
- Lizard genus
- An idiot (Brit.)
- Postponed
- African country
- Gazes unpleasantly
- In a way, traveled
- Ukraine's capital
- Appropriate
- Dash
- Twitich
- Swiss river
- Data file with computer animations

- City in S. Korea
- Particular region
- They have eyes and noses
- Tear
- Large Madagascan lemur
- Not out
- Ornamental saddle covering
- A driver's license is one
- Latin term for charity
- Rechristens
- Objects from an earlier time
- Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

- Used as a weapon
- Yukon Territory
- Makes a map of
- An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
- Unilithium
- Merchant
- Playing the field
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Something to scratch
- Mexican agave
- Equal to one quintillion bytes
- Session

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

March 18 to March 24

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **54 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

March 18
6:16 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 25000 block of Fairbanks Place.
7:18 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.

March 19
2:39 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

March 20
9:23 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

12:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

March 21
9:55 am: BEAN JR., Leland Cheyenne (47) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of Creekside Drive. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation.

11:22 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Walnut Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

March 22
6:05 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of Walnut Street.

11:48 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of North Main Street and West Commercial Street.

3:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop near

the intersection of West Highway 20 and Coast Street and issued a warning.
9:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of Creekside Drive and issued a citation.

March 23
12:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
1:23 pm: PATEREAU, Matthew Len (40) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on felony charges of violation of probation.

10:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Holly Street and issued a warning.
10:54 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Lenore Avenue and East Valley Street and issued a warning.

11:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

March 24
10:15 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 500 block of Redwood Avenue.

1:37 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Central Street and Barbara Lane and issued a citation.

1:54 pm: COON, Dorian Michael (25) of Lakeport was contacted in the 500 block of South Coast Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (G) VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs), 20002 (A) VC (Hit and Run Vehicle Collision), 4573 (A) PC (Bringing a Controlled Substance into Jail), 594 (B) (1) PC (Vandalism with Damage in Excess of \$400), 11377

(A) HS (Possession of Methamphetamine), 11364 (A) HS (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), 148 (A) PC (Resisting Arrest), on felony charges of violation of parole, and misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance.

7:15 pm: WHITEHURST, Michael James (74) of Ukiah was contacted in the 200 block of South Humboldt Street following a report of an unwanted subject. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on felony charges of violation of parole.



Dorian Coon of Lakeport.

Table 1. Summary of Public Investment in NCRA Rail Corridor

Purpose	Amount
Right-of-Way and Equipment Acquisition	\$44,800,000
Rail Rehab/Capital Projects	\$48,744,364
Project & Environmental Studies	\$12,677,000
Debt, Admin, Local Match	\$17,310,550
SB 1029 Assessment & Dissolution	\$17,800,000
TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT	\$141,331,914

The rest of **Skunk** | From page 2

GRTA pays lip service to the idea that they are "preserving" rail opportunities. This is a red herring, since out of the thousands of "preserved" lines across the United States, only a handful have ever been reopened. Nor is it likely that the NWP will be reopened after the GRTA has spent up to \$1,000,000 per mile to bury them underneath a trail.

The GRTA's slick political maneuver is to hide behind the fictional notion of rail preservation, so the GRTA doesn't have to return the underlying land to its original landowners, while at the same time ensuring that the land will never be used for railroad purposes again. It's a lie intended to fool the gullible. And the leaders of Mendocino County should be ashamed if they fall for it.

A trail where 55 or fewer daily users going through Mendocino County costs the county its rail future and its #1 tourist attraction.

Two members of this board [Mendocino County Board of Supervisors] are on the GRTA's board. I can understand why Caryl Hart and Senator Mike McGuire don't care about the people and businesses of Mendocino County as they live in wealthy Sonoma County. But why is this board, and those of its members on the GRTA's board, helping them hurt the people and

businesses of Mendocino County? If you won't stand up for your constituents, who will? Why abandon your own constituents in favor of those of Marin and Sonoma counties?

Not only are railroads far safer and more efficient than trucks, they are also far more environmentally friendly than trucks. And our company is one of the most environmentally friendly railroads in our nation, winning numerous environmental awards. Our sister company, Sierra Northern Railway, is even now building zero-emission hydrogen locomotives. We want to continue investing in Mendocino County, improve both its industry and environment, something this board, and especially some of its members, seem uninterested in.

I encourage the board to act, to announce its opposition to the GRTA's plans, to oppose the GRTA's efforts to force the abandonment of the CWR line so that it can more easily cut Mendocino County off from our national railroad network, and to replace those representatives who sit on the GRTA's board and willingly turn their backs on the people and businesses of Mendocino County for the benefit of millionaires living in Marin and Sonoma counties. It's still not too late to prevent this catastrophe for our people and businesses.



From far left: Laura Fogg, board member of the Arts Council of Mendocino County and a well-known fabric artist, attends the Art Champions luncheon in Philo. The Real Sarahs play for the attendees with their classic songs and some from their new album. Alyssum Wier, executive director of the Arts Council of Mendocino County, addresses the attendees. A tasty and fresh spread of various finger foods is provided.



At left: The honorees pose for a group photo after lunch. Above: The honorees dine al fresco in a beautiful setting at The Brambles in Philo.

Celebrating Local Creators

Four years of Art Champions honored at Arts Council of Mendocino County luncheon

Each year, the Arts Council of Mendocino County awards the coveted "Art Champion" title to deserving artists, businesses (who promote the arts), educators, and patrons (or volunteers). The purpose is to honor local creators and their supporters that share their artistic visions with this Northern California rural county.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Last Sunday, the Arts Council held a small, relaxed al fresco lunch at The Brambles in Philo, to honor the last four years of their Art Champions. They plan to continue this event every four years or so, in order to gather 16 to 20 honorees for an afternoon of conversation, food, drink and entertainment.

This year, The Real Sarahs played old and new selections to introduce their new album, "Everything's Changed," available on their website, https://therealsarahs.com/ or on Band Camp and other music download sites.

Common to all the honorees at the event was a love of art and respect for the artists who spend their days creating, not always with compensation, but who are driven to express themselves visually.

"For a few years I felt that there were more things needed in the world than art," said Jess Thompson of the Cider Creek Collective, a gathering of artists living together and working towards the common goal of mostly ceramics, "but I decided that people need a sense of agency, that they can't always change the larger scheme of things, but they can take action.

"If you take a lump of clay and put it in someone's hands and say, 'Thompson said, 'you don't think you can change the world? Here, squeeze. There you go. You just changed the shape of the world. Now, make a few more and build something out of them. And pretty soon, you've created the world you want to see around you.'"

Elizabeth Raybee, a well-respected and in-demand mosaic artist opined, "Mendocino is supposed to have the highest concentration of artists of any county in the country, per capita. I think a lot of that has to do with the fact that it is part of the Emerald Triangle. So many people came here as hippies in the '60s and '70s."

Nena Salcedo attended to represent Black Oak Coffee in Ukiah, who, as a business "donates to so many different art events through the year. We support, basically, every art foundation in the county. We support the arts because they are such an important part of Mendocino culture."

County Supervisors John Haschak and Maureen Mulheren attended to support the artists. "The arts are

Read the rest of **Awards** | Over on page 9



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



707.459.5193



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SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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290 S. Lenore Ave.
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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-6:30 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://saintanthonywillits.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 Brunneau

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.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willits umc

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

Thursday,
April 11

Become a Museum Volunteer: Prospective volunteers are invited to join us Thursday, April 11, from 10 to 11 am for a morning coffee break! Meet staff and current volunteers and learn about the exciting opportunities available at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendocinocounty.org/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market will be indoors for one last week on Thursday, April 11 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. From 3 to 5:30 pm, before moving outdoors on April 11, from 5:30 to 7 pm. "Exchange insights and tips about how to navigate menopause, the easy way!" At Quantum Level Health Studio, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, room 4. Please RSVP at 707-371-6103 as space is limited.

'Menopause – The Easy Way': Part of the Natural Healthcare Speaker Series, this free Women's Circle, "Menopause – The Easy Way," is set for Thursday, April 11, from 5:30 to 7 pm. "Exchange insights and tips about how to navigate menopause, the easy way!" At Quantum Level Health Studio, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, room 4. Please RSVP at 707-371-6103 as space is limited.

Friday, April 12

'Art Under Twenty' Reception 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. The opening reception for the show is set 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.

Art Talk on Neoclassicism: Willits Center for the Arts presents its next Art Talk, on Neoclassicism and the groundbreaking contributions of three influential artists: Ingres, Canova, and Jacques-Louis David. Art historian and lecturer Gary Martin will lead the discussion, "accompanied by projected art images, providing attendees with an enlightening exploration into how these artists revolutionized the perception of the world through their profound artistic endeavors." Friday, April 12 at 6:30 pm, free admission. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: willitscenterforthearts.org

'The Glass Menagerie' opens at WCT: Opening night for Willits Community Theatre's production of Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," Friday, April 12 at 7:30 pm. "The award-winning play delves into the fragile dynamics of a mother and her two children, haunted by the memory of an absent father and their struggle to escape their suffocating circumstances."

Ongoing Events

Free Food Pop-Ups: Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program's Food Pop-Up in Willits is now offering two events per month, first and third Thursdays, at 1250 Blosser Lane, from noon to 1 pm, weather permitting. Free food for all! In March these food pop-ups will happen March 7 and 21 this month. Info: outreach@fbfoodbank.org; 707-964-9404

'In the Field' Exhibit: Mendocino County Museum's latest exhibit, "In the Field: Exploring Botany in Mendocino County," celebrates the study of unique plants that grow in our region, reflecting on the pursuits of Mendocino County botanists from past to present, featuring sketches, illustrations, photographs, and pressed specimens. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, is open 11 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. More info: visit www.mendocinocounty.org/museum

Willits Tennis Club: Meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School courts. New members welcome. Free. Show up or call 707-484-3385.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every week on Mondays, 6 pm, at the Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866.

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial 7pm. Info: Bill Brunneau: 459-3390.

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Sack lunches served at the City Park (or across the street in case of rain) every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm. Come early to

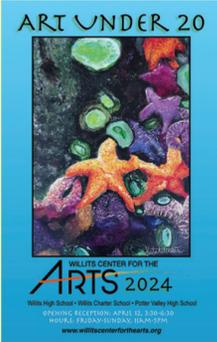
What's Happening Around Town

Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm, through April 28. Tickets for all shows are \$20 and available at the door or online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org.

Friends Anonymous at Shanachie: "a Punk Rock band from Northern California, who like to plug in, go loud and proud, and put on a good time." Friday, April 12 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, April 13

Spring Saturday Crafts at the Library: Join us at the Willits Library each Saturday in April for a craft to celebrate the spring season. 11 am to noon. Sunday, April 13 features DIY Bird Feeders; and Sunday, April 20 features Spring-Themed Wood Cut-Outs. All ages welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, (707) 459-5908.



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS 2024
Willits High School, Willits Charter School, Potter Valley High School
MUSIC, FINE ARTS, DANCE, THEATRE
www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Sit-N-Sew: Second Saturdays at the Willits Library, April 13 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in – bring your sewing project and have fun. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Free Print Workshop at WCA: "Intro to Zine Making" with Mariangela Le Than. Saturday, April 13 from 1 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Come make your own mini zine. Drawing not necessary - Being yourself!" Suggested age 12+ No registration necessary.

Behind the Scenes Tour at the Museum: April is the last month of this year's Behind the Scenes Tours series at the Mendocino County Museum. Tour areas rarely open to the public, including the Museum collections storage facility, see special exhibits and artifacts new to the collection, and view the new exhibit, "In the Field: Exploring Botany in Mendocino County." Tours are set for Saturday, April 13, from 2 to 3 pm, and Tuesday, April 16, from 2 to 3 pm. Recommended for adults and children age 8 and older. Included with regular admission. Space is limited; to reserve a space, email museum@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-234-6365.

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Saturday, April 13 at 7:30 pm. See Friday, April 12 listing for more details.



Shanachie Pub's 24th anniversary with Blue Luke: "Shanachie Pub celebrates 24 years in business bringing great music from one of our finest local bands featuring guitar prodigy, born and raised in Dos Rios, Blue Luke! Saturday, April 13 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, April 14

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Sunday, April 14 at 2 pm. See Friday, April 12 listing for more details.

Wednesday, April 17

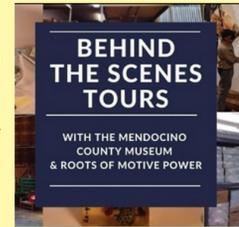
Willits Stamp Club at the Library: Monthly meeting of the Willits Stamp Club is on third Wednesdays, Wednesday, April 17 this month, 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Bring your collection and enjoy time perusing stamps. All are welcome. Refreshments served. Info: talsofam@pacific.net

ATW Talk on Youth and Substances: Avenues to Wellness

presents: "Youth Choosing to Use Substances: Increasing Safety" a talk by the team at MCAVHN Care & Prevention Network. Aurelie Clivaz, MS, Joe Ditto, and Travis Meeks. Wednesday, April 17, 6 to 7 pm at the Willits Methodist Church, 286 School Street. The talk "will focus on current substance abuse trends in our youth. They will emphasize the use of prescription drugs, specifically opioids and Xylazine, a new drug that is having devastating consequences and how to have productive conversations with youth regarding alcohol and other drugs, including crisis situations. Free to the public. Wheelchair accessible. Bring your questions.

Thursday, April 18

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market moves outdoors for the season, on Thursday, April 18, to the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street. Hours are still 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.



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. Soup & Bread offered after the concert for \$5 donation. St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial streets. Admission by donation. Donations can be mailed to: P.O. Box 182, Willits, CA 95490.

Cosmic Family Band
FAMILY FRIENDLY
Benefit Concert
FOR
Willits Daily Bread
Sunday April 21, 2024
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
SOUP & BREAD DINNER \$5.00
St. Francis Episcopal Church
Commercial & Main Street
Admission Donations Accepted
To Help Willits Daily Bread continue to feed the hungry in our community.
Willits Daily Bread - P.O. Box 1826 Willits, CA 95490

'Clean Canvas Event' at City Park, April 27

Join City of Willits Community Development for the First Annual Clean Canvas Event, "Celebrating Earth & Art," on Saturday, April 27 from 11 am to 3 pm at Willits City Park.

Get ready for a day filled with creativity, environmental awareness, and community spirit! "We're proud to partner with the Willits Chamber of Commerce, Willits Center for the Arts, Mendocino County Public Health, and our grantor Clean California to bring you this fantastic event!" Please submit your artist, vendor and sponsor applications by Friday, April 19.

Enjoy Educational Demonstrations and Vendors; Sidewalk chalk painting with Earth Day themes (FREE for all ages and levels of artistic experience); Litter abatement education; Art competition judging at 3 pm; and Opportunities to learn about re-use, recycling, and reducing consumption

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyotheatre.com
Next Week:
ABIGAIL

GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE

(PG13) 1 hr 55 mins
Fri.: 5:15 & 8:00pm
Sat.: 2:30, 5:15 & 8:00pm
Sun.: 1:30 & 4:15 & 7:00pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 7:00pm

THE FIRST OMEN

(R) 2 hrs
Fri.: 5:30 & 8:15pm
Sat.: 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15pm
Sun.: 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:30 & 7:15pm

MONKEY MAN

(R) 1 hr 53 mins
Fri.: 5:45 & 8:30pm
Sat.: 3:00, 5:45 & 8:30pm
Sun.: 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:45 & 7:30pm
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'The First Omen'

The Story: A mystery tale of horrors and unnatural anti-God evil in the early '70s of our previous century. The place is Rome, Italy. The twisty action mostly unravels at a Catholic orphanage for young girls. It is run by nuns and novitiate.

Among them is the most innocent sweet-faced ingenue Margaret (Nell Tiger Free). Meg is newly arrived in Rome from the United States. It is hinted that she had overcome "undefined difficulties" from her past. And now, in Rome, her tribulations have only begun.

My Thoughts: Let me begin by noting what most of you readers are probably thinking: lead actress Nell Tiger Free has an incomparable hippie name! It incorporates three solid Mendo hippie memes: Nell is "old-fashioned," Tiger is her "soul animal," and "Free" is just plain as hippie as you can get! I'm imagining she was home-birthered in Mendocino, or maybe Humboldt.

And now that I'm speaking of babies, this flick is icky-scary in an unfortunate "accidental home birth video" kind of way: all soggy with barely identifiable fluids and bestial, not-quite-human shapes. Gag! Yuck! O' poor innocent Margaret, will she survive what's happening to her with her soul intact?

Finally, and peculiarly, the flick is furiously anti-Catholic in its narrative, and at the same time, it is unequivocally pro-Catholic in its theology. For me, it is a head-scratching paradox. Who are these doofuses? But then again, it's Hollywood, so maybe the filmmakers didn't notice.

Parents: No! No children. Besides, I don't think the Noyo will sell you tickets for them anyway.

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



Dan Essman
Columnist

Spring Library Book Sale: The Friends of the Willits Library Spring Book Sale is set for April 18 to 21 at the Willits Library, 391 East Commercial Street, in the conference room. Admission to the sale on Thursday, April 18 is reserved for members of FOWL only and is open from 5 to 7 pm; you can join at the sale. Open to the public on Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 from 10 am to 5 pm. On Sunday, April 21, the sale runs from 10 am to 3 pm. On Sunday all books will be only \$3 a bag! Book prices range from 25 cents for some children's books, up to \$3 for "special" books. Volunteer cashiers are still needed. If you can help with a two-hour shift, please sign up at the library or call Beth at 707-459-6453.



June Star at Shanachie: Out of Baltimore, Maryland, June Star plays Americana roots-rock with electric guitar (lots of 'em), pedal steel, and songs about love... Thursday, April 18 at 7 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Thursday, April 18 at 7:30 pm. See Friday, April 12 listing for more details.

Friday, April 19

Spring Library Book Sale: The Friends of the Willits Library Spring Book Sale opens to the public Friday, April 19, 10 am to 5 pm. Willits Library, 391 East Commercial Street, in the conference room. See Thursday, April 18 listing for details.

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Friday, April 19 at 7:30 pm. See Friday, April 12 listing for more details.

Saturday, April 20

Spring Saturday Crafts at the Library: Join us at the Willits Library each Saturday in April for a craft to celebrate the spring season. 11 am to noon. Sunday, April 20 features Spring-Themed Wood Cut-Outs. All ages welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, (707) 459-5908.

Spring Library Book Sale: The Friends of the Willits Library Spring Book Sale continues Saturday, April 20, from 10 am to 5 pm. Willits Library, 391 East Commercial Street, in the conference room. See Thursday, April 18 listing for details.

Hello SPRING
11 AM to Noon
Supplies provided!
Every Saturday in April
Willits Branch Library
Spring Crafts!
April 4, 2024 April 19, 2024 April 26, 2024 April 27, 2024
Flower Pot Decoration | DIY Bird Feeders | Spring Themed Wood Cutouts | Animal Ears Creations with Faux & Tales!
Willits Branch Library
390 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490
www.willitslibrary.org

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Saturday, April 20 at 7:30 pm. See Friday, April 12 listing for more details.

Clay Hawkins Duo 4/20 Party 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. Saturday, April 20 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, April 21

Spring Library Book Sale: the last day for the Friends of the Willits Library Spring Book Sale Sunday, April 21, from 10 am to 5 pm is \$3 a bag day. 10 am to 3 pm. Willits Library, 391 East Commercial Street, in the conference room. See Thursday, April 18 listing for details.

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Sunday, April 21 matinee, at 2 pm. See Friday, April 12 listing for more details.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.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

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

Ukiah Earth Day, April 20

The City of Ukiah is sponsoring Earth Day Ukiah, a free community event, on Saturday, April 20 from 10 am to 2 pm at Todd Grove Park, 600 Live Oak Avenue, Ukiah. Features educational booths, arts and crafts, musical performances from the Instilling Goodness School, and an Electric Vehicle Showcase organized by Climate Action Mendocino. Info: Marianne Aranda at maranda@cityofukiah.com or (707) 467-5723 or visit www.cityofukiah.com/earthday

Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner, April 26
Please support Sober Grad's biggest fundraiser: It's time for the BEST tri-tip dinner of the year!! Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner pickup is set for Friday, April 26, from 4 to 6 pm, at the Willits High School Ag Farm (behind the high school, 299 North Main Street).
Dinner – a complete meal for 4 – includes Marinated & Grilled Tri Tip, Baked Potatoes, Green Salad, Emandal Bread, Cookies from Kemmy's Pies, and a Beautiful Rose donated by Flowers by Annette.
Mark your calendar for April 26, and get your ticket! Tickets are available at 101 Trailer & RV Supply and Monkey Wrench Men & Womens Wear. You can also get your ticket from your favorite Class of 2024 graduate, or call Karen Thiel, WHS , 707-459-7700, ext. 1504 or Carrie Lambert, WSG, 707-671-6173.

Gary Woodruff



Gary Arthur Woodruff, age 79, passed away peacefully after a valiant battle with cancer on March 30, 2024, in Lakeport, California. He was surrounded by friends, family and loved ones. Gary was born on February 16, 1945 to parents Arthur and Carmel. He was a proud resident of Willits, California and a graduate of Willits High School Class of 1962. He was an avid vintage car lover and started working at Woodruff Chevrolet right out of high school.

Gary was a volunteer firefighter and ambulance driver in 1961, and thus began his career as a firefighter in Mountain View, California, where he served for 22 years.

Gary was very outgoing and loved playing cribbage, going camping, working on classic cars, attending events, and catching up with old friends at Gribaldo's Cafe in Willits.

He was an eternal coach and taught many of his children and grandchildren to swing a bat, kick a ball, play cards, ride quads, ride snowmobiles, and water ski.

He spent many years traveling with the love of his life, Vy. They flew to places like Mexico and Hawaii, spent months sailing the South Pacific, and visited many beautiful island nations as well as road tripping across the U.S.

He is preceded in death by his younger brother Grant Woodruff and parents Arthur and Carmel. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Vytorus Woodruff, children Kimberly Boyd, Darin Woodruff, Guinevere Garcia, Bernadette Grinols, Brandon Weiler, Stephanie Calavano, and Courtney Newham, 14 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

We need to feed our hungry

A Benefit to Save Our Daily Bread
Serving the hungry for over 25 years

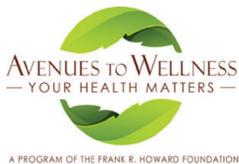
Willits' legendary Cosmic Family Band
Awesome family-friendly uplifting music

After Show: Soup and Bread, \$5

Donations:

P.O. Box 182, Willits, CA 95490

April 21 • Sunday 3-5 p.m. by donation
Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial



Bereavement Support Group

This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the symptoms of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward.

Beginning Thursday May 2

Time: 2-4pm

Willits Senior Center

To register call:

Suzanne at (707)456-9676

FREE OF CHARGE

Space is Limited: Register NOW



Susana Wilson and Suzanne Piccetti-Johnson
Group Facilitators

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Warmhearted Pretzel

This young lady is very affectionate toward all people and waiting to go to her forever family. Pretzel is quite mellow for her breed, but will still need consistent training and stimulation. She gets along well with other dogs; she loves to play with other dogs all day long.

To learn more about Pretzel, 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.



Well-rounded Sokka



Sokka LOVES people! You can bet he'll greet you with a smile and butt wiggles ... and even be happier as he gets as many scratches and scratches as he can! Sokka is such a good boy in so many ways. He is housebroken and crate-trained. He knows basic commands and has a great personality. He gets along well with other dogs and could coexist with another mellow canine friend. Sokka has done well with kiddos and would do just fine in an adult home as well. Help this guy find his forever family!

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.peffinder.com.

Peaceful Skeeter

Skeeter can be shy at first but seems to warm up quickly! She is currently living with a feline friend and seems to be loving the company. Skeeter may not be ideal for infants or young children, but a quiet home or cat savvy kids would be ideal!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from noon to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 3 pm (closed for lunch from 1 to 1:30 pm) on Saturdays. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-467-6453 for more information.



The rest of Awards | From page 5

central to Mendocino County's cultural identity, and it is also an economic driver in the county," said Haschak. "I've been told by businesses that people have come from all over to enjoy our arts, ceramics, or watercolors, or whatever it is.

"There's a creativity that we all have to some extent, that kids need to be introduced to, allowing their creativity to flow," said Haschak.

"Art is one of those things that rural communities like Mendocino County has amazing resources of all the people that live here that are so talented," Mulheren suggested. "I just hope to share more and inspire our youth to use art as a means of working through whatever kinds of emotional challenges they might be having."

According to Kara Starkweather of the Mendocino Dance Project and member of the Arts Council board, "What really defines a place, the artists create what home looks like, culturally and visually and spiritually. One of the coolest things about artists is that they feel like the arts chose them, that they have no choice. There's something inside that just makes you do art. You can't not do art."

Honorees include: 2020: Lauren Sinnott, Gary Martin, Judy Stavely, Willits Weekly, Art Center Ukiah. 2021: Corinne Pearce, Blake More, Larry Wagner, Black Oak Coffee, Gualala Arts. 2022: Yoli Rose, Nick Schwartz, Molly Dwyer, Gallery Bookshop, Medium Gallery. 2023: Solange Roberdeau, Jess Thompson, Doug Browe, Pear Tree Center.

The Arts Council of Mendocino County supports the many artists of the county by publishing a brochure of art galleries, music venues, and arts organizations, in addition to a monthly events calendar and weekly emails.

"We also have an Art in the Schools Program," shared Alysium Weir, executive director of the Arts Council of Mendocino County since 2010. "We partner with the Botanical Gardens on a sculpture gallery. We manage a lot of public arts projects, sometimes administering the whole project and sometimes as more of behind-the-scenes support. On our website, we have a classified section and an opportunities section, so you can read about opportunities for artists. We also have directories, so individual artists can create a profile listing for themselves in our searchable database for specific kinds of artists. Our calendar is searchable as well, so you can search by location or art type." To learn more, visit www.artsmendocino.org/.

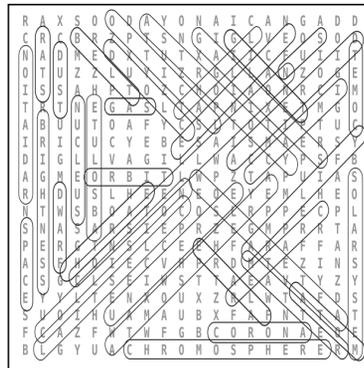
The rest of Contact | From page 3

through working that incident," said Alvarez. "You'll be working with firefighters and others on the scene, but the dispatchers are your contact for additional resources. Getting the City of Willits water, who might have to come in and turn something off. PG&E might have to turn something off. We relay our information through dispatch to notify the corresponding agencies as to what we are needing."

Interim Police Chief Chris Dewey has been chief in Ukiah for several years and knows the vital importance of the dispatchers. "Dispatcher Week is a long-standing tradition to honor the dispatchers who provide so much to the community and to our officers. They're the connection between someone asking for help and getting an officer or an ambulance there. They are the first point of contact for the first responders.

"Their job is incredibly difficult," said Dewey. "They have to anticipate what everyone needs, get the right resources there, just based on questions and information they get over the radio."

To celebrate, Dewey said: "We'll have a big banner outside of the City Hall for all of the community to see. We get them some gift bags, some nice lunches, and some dinners. It's just our chance to say 'Thank you' to the dispatchers for all they give us."



MCHC chief medical officer elected to statewide board

Submitted by MCHC

Mendocino County Health Clinics Chief Medical Officer Dr. Matthew Swain has been elected to the board of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California, the statewide organization responsible for engaging, educating, and advocating for the osteopathic profession.



Mendocino County Health Clinics Chief Medical Officer Dr. Matthew Swain.

Licensed physicians in California are either allopathic physicians (with the title of "doctor of medicine" or M.D.) or osteopathic physicians (with the title of "doctor of osteopathic medicine" or D.O.). Both M.D.s and D.O.s must graduate from medical school. Both may complete internships, residencies, and fellowships (depending on their specialty). Both can become board-certified in their specialty and all medical specialties are available to both.

However, because there are 13 allopathic medical schools and only three osteopathic medical schools in California, most doctors in the state carry the title of M.D. The practice of osteopathy is sometimes confused with other practices, and because different countries have their own medical education and licensing requirements, things can get confusing. In Canada, for example, you are allowed to call yourself an osteopath without completing medical school, internship and residency. This is not the case in the U.S.

Osteopathy originated in the late 1800s, in no small measure to combat the primitive and damaging practices of the mainstream medicine of the day, a time when arsenic and mercury were used to treat syphilis and chloroform was used to treat asthma. Osteopathy, in contrast, favored an approach that helped the body heal itself through preventive measures such as nutrition and some hands-on manipulation.

Fast forward to today and, according to the Cleveland Clinic, the two approaches are described as follows:

Allopathic medicine uses medication, surgery and other interventions to treat illnesses. Osteopathic medicine emphasizes the relationship between the mind, body, and spirit. It focuses on treating the person as a whole and improving wellness through education and prevention. D.O.s also receive extra training in osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), a hands-on method for diagnosing and treating patients.

Dr. Swain explains that although he had the option to attend an allopathic medical school, he opted to become a doctor of osteopathy because he prefers a more holistic approach. He noted that regardless of whether doctors are M.D.s or D.O.s, they can employ a holistic approach, and many do — especially those in primary care (e.g., family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics).

In his role as chief medical officer, Dr. Swain encourages all MCHC healthcare providers to consider patients' overall wellness, rather than focusing solely on a particular complaint or condition. In fact, all federally qualified health centers such as MCHC offer medical, dental, and behavioral health, precisely because people's physical and emotional health are inextricably linked and a focus on the whole patient leads to better outcomes, he explained.

During his upcoming three-year term as a board member for the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California, Dr. Swain says he intends to advocate for the health of all Californians by focusing on the practice of medicine, public policy, and health.

"I plan to bring a D.O.'s perspective to the healthcare discussion in California and by extension, to the national stage, because if our philosophies resonate with people, they should be incorporated into decisions at the statehouse and beyond. I look forward to having the opportunity to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with some great people and to shine a light on the particular challenges faced by rural Californians when it comes to healthcare, especially by those who are less-advantaged," he said.

He noted that many political decision makers come from bigger population centers and are unaware of how difficult it can be to connect people in rural areas with the specialty care or medical technology they need.

"Federally qualified health centers are mandated to be the safety net for folks who don't have much. When patients are dealing with a complex set of medical problems that require specialty care, we don't necessarily have that specialist right down the road. I can get patients screen time, but getting them to Sacramento or San Francisco for an appointment may simply be a bridge too far. We provide the best care we can given our realities," he said.

Dr. Swain suggested that bringing these realities to the forefront when legislators make decisions about healthcare might help change things for the better. He noted that while the healthcare industry has its challenges, he encourages those called to serve as physicians to pursue medicine.

"I am very passionate about medicine. It's not for everyone, but if you feel called to care for others, to put them before yourself, to make sure people feel heard, valued, and loved, there's no better profession," he said.

MCHC Health Centers includes Hillside Health Center and Dora Street Health Center in Ukiah, Little Lake Health Center in Willits, and Lakeview Health Center in Lakeport. It is a community-based and patient-directed organization that provides comprehensive primary healthcare services as well as supportive services such as education and translation that promote access to healthcare.



CLASSIFIEDS

30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks

Art's Handyman Service

Art's Handyman Service. I am 68 years old. I live in Willits. Carpentry and more. Also quality weed-eating. Call me. Let's talk. 707-841-1991

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 ya está abierta. Para registrarse, vaya a www.willitsunified.com.

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 at 459-5049. (Prices change effective 6/25/23)

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.oakvine.net/p>



Mendocino County invites applications for:

Account Specialist I/II/III

\$38,438 - \$54,225

Corrections Deputy

\$55,369 - \$67,308

Deputy Probation Officer I/II

\$51,937 - \$69,617

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner

\$75,878 - \$93,142

Facility Project Specialist I/II

\$67,870 - \$90,896

Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist

\$57,387 - \$69,763

Program Administrator

\$74,048 - \$90,022

Public Safety Dispatcher

\$53,102 - \$64,542

Retirement Specialist I

\$44,844 - \$54,516

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

www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs

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BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

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



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 visite nuestro sitio web www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside

Avenues to Wellness talk on youth and substances

Avenues to Wellness presents: "Youth Choosing to Use Substances: Increasing Safety" by the team at MCAVHN Care & Prevention Network. Aurelie Clivaz, MS, Joe Ditto, and Travis Meeks. The talk is set for Wednesday, April 17, from 6 to 7 pm at the Willits Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Free to the public. Wheelchair accessible.

The team from MCAVHN Care & Prevention Network will focus on current substance abuse trends in our youth. They will emphasize the use of prescription drugs, specifically opioids and Xylazine, a new drug that is having devastating consequences. They will address how to have productive conversations with youth regarding alcohol and other drugs, including crisis situations. Please join us for this important and informative talk. Bring your questions.

All three presenters have been working in the mental health, alcohol and other drugs and homelessness prevention field for 10 to 15 years. Aurelie Clivaz has a masters in social work, and Joe Ditto is working toward his Alcohol and Other Drug counseling certification. All three presenters bring their own lived experience and wisdom regarding addiction while helping countless others on the healing journey. MCAVHN House provides services and supports to persons affected by substance use disorders and behavioral health conditions.

Library

Spring Book Sale

April 18th - 21st

at the
**Willits Branch Library
Conference Room**

Thur April 18th 5 pm to 7 pm
FOWL members only

Fri April 19th 10 am to 5 pm
Sat April 20th 10 am to 5 pm
Sun April 21st 10 am to 3 pm

Sunday all books only \$3 a bag!

Willits Library
390 Commercial Street, Willits
(Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library)

WIN YOUR SHARE OF

\$2000

TAX DAY

MONDAY, APRIL 15
FROM 4/1 TO 4/15 EVERY 500 TODAY'S
POINTS REDEEMED FOR 1 ENTRY

GIVEAWAY

7 PM \$200 CASH 8 PM \$300 CASH
9 PM \$500 CASH 10 PM \$1000 CASH

MONDAY, 4/8

TAX DAY GIVEAWAY BONUS ENTRIES

From 9 pm - 10 pm
300 points per
ticket entry



SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

WWW.SVRCASINO.COM

See Guest Services for details. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER





Youth Choosing to Use Substances: Increasing Safety

Wed. April 17, 6-7pm

The team from the MCAVHN Care & Prevention Network will focus on current substance abuse trends in our youth. They will emphasize the use of prescription drugs, specifically opioids and Xylazine, a new drug that is having devastating consequences. They will address how to have productive conversations with youth regarding alcohol and other drugs, including crisis situations. Please join us for this important and informative talk.

All three presenters have been working in the mental health, alcohol and other drugs and homelessness prevention field for 10-15 years. Aurelie has a Master's in Social Work and Joe is working toward his AOD certification. All three presenters bring their own lived experience and wisdom regarding addiction while helping countless others on the healing journey. MCAVHN House provides services and supports to persons affected by substance use disorders and behavioral health conditions.

Call 707-456-9676 for more info.
Email: spiceth@howardfoundation.org
Visit: avenuestowellness.org

Willits Methodist Church
286 School Street

FREE to the public
Donations appreciated
Wheelchair accessible

FOWL Library Spring Book Sale

April 18-21

The Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale is coming soon to the Willits Library! The sale will be held in the Willits Library conference room, April 18 to 21.

Admission to the sale on Thursday, April 18 is reserved for members of Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL) only and is open from 5 to 7 pm. If you are not already a member of FOWL, this is a great time to join and help support the Willits Library.

The book sale is open to the general public on Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 from 10 am to 5 pm. On Sunday April, 21, the sale runs from 10 am to 3 pm. On Sunday all books will be only \$3 a bag!

Come browse our garden and home project books, as well as children's, fiction and non-fiction titles. We have an abundance of "specials" (art and coffee table books). Prices range from \$.25 for some children's books up to only \$3. for specials.

Volunteer cashiers are still needed. If you can help with a two-hour shift, please sign up at the library or call Beth at 707-459-6453.



Clean-Up This Spring

As you freshen up your home for Spring, consider including new windows and doors from MILGARD® with the added bonus of special savings* on every product purchased.

\$85 per door on V450 HomeMaker, V400 Tuscany® Series and V300 Trinsic™ Series	\$40 per window on V450 HomeMaker and V400 Tuscany® Series
\$30 per window on V300 Trinsic™ Series	\$20 per window on V250 Style Line® Series

24 Monroe St.
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 459-6163
Mon.-Fri.:
8 am-5 pm

MILGARD CERTIFIED DEALER

Round Tree Glass, Inc.

*Savings provided in the form of electronic gift cards for every qualifying order placed within the offer dates. Restrictions may apply. For official rules, visit milgard.com/spring-savings-pv

The rest of Snow From page 1

Please keep these water safety tips in mind:

- Be cautious near high, fast-moving waterways
- Pay attention to any posted warnings
- Always wear a life vest
- Don't camp or park vehicles along fast-moving streams or rivers
- Move to higher ground if heavy rain or rising water occurs
- Never drive through flooded roadways

To see photos of the Covelo Ranger Station snow survey, visit "U.S. Forest Service - Mendocino National Forest" page on Facebook.

Central Sierra snow survey

The April 2 snow survey at Phillips Station in the Central Sierra showed the Sierra snowpack is also in good shape. The California Department of Water Resources announced that the "manual survey recorded 64 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 27.5 inches, which is 113 percent of the April 1 average for this location."

Statewide, the snowpack is 110 percent of average for April 1, with more snow since then. "We use the April 1 average metric because, in terms of snow water content, that's typically when snowpack is at its peak each year in the Sierra Nevada."

The April 2 results "show significant improvements to the snowpack after a slow start to the water year. The dry start to the water year and a drier environment overall can still impact how much snowmelt runoff will reach our reservoirs, so DWR will continue capturing and storing water in preparation for future dry years."

The fourth survey of the year at Phillips Station had some special guests accompanying the scientists as they measured the snow on a beautiful, sunny day. California Governor Gavin Newsom, Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, Department of Water Resources director Karla Nemeth, and DWR water resources engineer Andrew Reising joined the scientists on the ground (all in snowshoes) as they measured the snowpack.

The rest of Fugitive From page 1

The 24-month sentence will be formally imposed at a sentencing hearing scheduled for May 1, 2024 at 9 am in Department B in the Ukiah Courthouse.

Arrested last September for DUI by the Ukiah Police Department, the defendant presented the officer an expired California driver's license as his identification. It later turned out that that expired CDL belonged to a former Bay Area acquaintance of the defendant.

While Sadeghi was initially booked into the county jail under the false I.D. and name, follow-up by jail personnel revealed the defendant's true identity.

Defendant Sadeghi was previously convicted in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California (San Diego) for having robbed the Great American First Savings Bank in 1984. Once arrested and convicted, he was sentenced to and served 8 years in federal prison for that crime.

After being released on supervised parole, the defendant violated terms of his parole and the federal judge issued a warrant in 1990 for Sadeghi's arrest.

In 1991, federal law enforcement agents located and attempted to arrest Sadeghi, but he eluded them in a vehicle and foot pursuit.

Defendant Sadeghi was later arrested in San Francisco in 1997 and again in 1998 on drug sales charges. In both cases he used – and was convicted under – false names that were not detected as false names by the San Francisco authorities.

Defendant Sadeghi was also arrested in Fullerton in 2008 for DUI and, again, convicted under a false name that was not caught by the Los Angeles County authorities.

The law enforcement agencies that developed the evidence that was going to be used at this week's Mendocino County trial were the Ukiah Police Department, the California Department of Justice crime laboratory, the U.S. Marshal Service, and the District Attorney's own Bureau of Investigations.

The prosecutor who is handling this case is District Attorney David Eyster.

Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Victoria Shanahan accepted the defendant's no contest pleas and will impose the stipulated sentence at the May hearing.

It is expected that defendant Sadeghi will have additional court appearances and proceedings sometime after May in the San Francisco County Superior Court and the U.S. District Court in San Diego.

The rest of Gang From page 1

UPD officers contacted a 17-year-old male victim at the skate park. The victim had wounds to his head, face, and shoulder area. It was learned that the victim suffered several blows to the head, face, and back from a metal baseball bat and personal body weapons. He was transported to the emergency room at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley for treatment.

The press releases notes the violation involved in this "gang-related fight using deadly weapons" is of 245(a)(4) PC-Assault with a Deadly Weapon Likely to Cause Great Bodily Injury (Felony).

UPD officers searched the area and found a small, metal, youth-sized Louisville Slugger baseball bat that was thrown in the high weeds just east of the skate park. UPD officers also located a homemade spear fashioned out of a metal wrought iron fence picket. The spear was approximately 3 feet long with a 3.5-inch double-bladed dagger attached to one end. Nobody in the incident at the Ukiah Skate Park was stabbed or cut.

The juveniles that were detained early in this investigation were either released or arrested on charges unrelated to this incident. One juvenile was arrested for an outstanding warrant for felony violation of 422 PC [criminal threats]. A second juvenile was arrested for a felony probation violation of 777 Welfare & Institutions Code.

After an in-depth investigation, this case was determined to be gang-related. This is an ongoing investigation, and anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to call the Ukiah Police Department, 707-463-6262, and speak to an officer.

The Ukiah Police Department would like to thank the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office for their assistance.

The rest of Benefit From page 1

back to the organization. This month the church, on behalf of Daily Bread, will be presenting a community get-together, dinner and concert to raise funds for Willits Daily Bread on Sunday, April 21.

This will be the first fundraiser for the non-profit since the COVID pandemic, explains Daily Bread booster Bill Bruneau, whose wife, Betsy Bruneau, is the St. Francis Episcopal Church's pastor.

"For many years the main fundraiser, 'Sip Some Soup,' took place at the Willits Community Center." Bill Bruneau remembers. "It still hasn't felt safe to have an event of that size, so this year we will present a fun afternoon in the church's straw-bale sanctuary."

The Cosmic Family Band, along with other local musicians, will give an uplifting family-friendly concert from 3 to 5 pm. There will be a silent auction, and a light meal which will include soup and bread donated by Reza's Bakery and Tamara Adams of Emandal – A Farm by the River. Sound for the event will be donated by Hal Wagenet of Modern Music Sound Services.

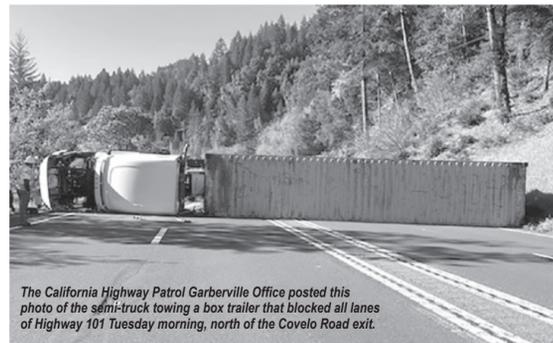
Entry to the event is by a sliding-scale donation, and Bruneau says all are welcome. "There is an almost magical resonance with the straw bale walls," Bruneau declares. "This should be a memorable and remarkable concert," he says, adding: "We hope the Willits community will come to our event, enjoy the music and good times, and donate generously."

Director Savage explains that Daily Bread regularly collaborates with other community non-profits such as the Willits, Fort Bragg, and Redwood Empire food banks. "We also receive grants from the E.R. Ericksen Foundation, the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, the City of Willits, Mendocino County, and more," she says. "Plus there are individual community members who give many big and small donations that keep Daily Bread going."

Both Bruneau and Savage are focused on the principal mission of this important community asset. Their mission statement, "Willits Daily Bread, feeding the hungry in our community," has not changed over the years. Bruneau points out, "It's tough enough to be homeless, without having to also go hungry."

In addition to attending the fundraiser on April 21, supporters can drop off donations for Daily Bread at their location at St. Francis Episcopal Church, at 66 East Commercial Street in Willits, during their open hours between 4:30 and 5:30 pm, Mondays through Thursdays.

Donations can also be mailed to Daily Bread, PO Box 1826, Willits, CA 95490. To make a donation for the fundraiser's Silent Auction, please call Cindy Savage at 707-367-5669, or 707-367-5669.



The California Highway Patrol Garberville Office posted this photo of the semi-truck towing a box trailer that blocked all lanes of Highway 101 Tuesday morning, north of the Covelo Road exit.

Sideways semi closes 101 north of Willits

Posted by CHP Garberville

Just after 9 am on Tuesday, April 9, a semi-truck towing a trailer overturned onto US-101 near mile marker 59.80 [north of the Covelo Road exit], blocking all four lanes.

California Highway Patrol Garberville office asked motorists: "Please avoid the area and use alternate routes. A tow truck has been requested but it may be a while before traffic can proceed through the area. At this time no injuries have been reported."

Caltrans District 1 posted at 10:10 am that "U.S. 101 is now OPEN to one-way controlled traffic in Mendocino County at the Route 162/Covelo Road junction."

At 1:39 Tuesday afternoon, Caltrans reported that Highway 101 was now fully open at the incident site.

The rest of Draft From page 2

Frazier Haney, executive director of the Wildlands Conservancy, added: "The Great Redwood Trail will be a pilgrimage for those who need the solace nature brings – for grieving a loss, seeking new meaning in life, or discerning their own purpose – and our organization is proud to help anchor it with facilities and staff in the Eel River Canyon to the sea."

Segments of the Great Redwood Trail are already built and open to the public in Arcata, Eureka, Blue Lake and Ukiah, with additional segments underway.

Public Comments

The Public Comment period on the draft Great Redwood Trail Master Plan is open until June 3, 2024. There are several ways to comment on the draft Master Plan.0

- Use the webtool found at <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/> Click an area to add a marker, or click and drag an area to highlight content on which you'd like to comment. Once an area is selected, there's an option to enter your name and comment to complete the process.

- Leave a comment at the bottom of the page here: <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/>

- Send comments by email to info@greatredwoodtrailplan.org
- Leave a voicemail message at (707) 440-9445.

- Attend a community event and share your views with us. One upcoming online meeting is set for April 16. Additional information and upcoming public meeting dates and times can be found here: <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/#events>.

Tribal and community outreach efforts and stakeholder engagement were led by Alta Planning + Design, with support from North Coast Opportunities, Redwood Community Action Agency, and Jen Rice, with funding from the State Coastal Conservancy.

The Great Redwood Trail Agency is a local agency established by the Great Redwood Trail Agency Act, Government Code § 93000 et seq., to develop and manage the Great Redwood Trail and discharge the duties of a rail common carrier before the Surface Transportation Board. The GRTA officially replaced the North Coast Railroad Authority in 2022 and manages the rail corridor in Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt counties. The rail corridor in Sonoma and Marin counties and the multi-use SMART Pathway, the southern segment of the Great Redwood Trail, is managed by Sonoma – Marin Area Rail Transit.

The rest of Haschak From page 2

Efficiencies are happening. A year ago, the cannabis department was a mess. It was incredibly poorly run. With new leadership and issues and policies being dealt with in the General Government Committee, the staff has flourished, people are getting their state licenses, and costs are down. I used to field several complaints about the department every day. Now I might go a month without issues, and when they do arise, the department communicates clearly with constituents and the board.

There will be a Talk with the Supervisor Thursday, April 11 at 10 am at Brickhouse Coffee in Willits. I am available by email haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or phone 707-972-4214.

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, April 11: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

Friday, April 12: Spinach Lasagna, Garlic Bread

Monday, April 15: Beer Battered Cod, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Tuesday, April 16: Beef Stroganoff, Veggies, Roll

Wednesday, April 17: Rubeen Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

Thursday, April 18: Shrimp Fettuccini w/White Wine Sauce, Garlic Bread

Friday, April 19: Carnitas Burrito, w/Green Sauce

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

Pancake Breakfast: every second Sunday, on April 14 this month, 8 to 11 am. \$10; \$9 center members; \$6 children under 8. Menu choices: 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$10; \$9 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides \$2: 3 slices bacon, 2 sausage links. Breakfast includes Peet's Coffee and orange juice or milk.

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

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor!

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Questions: willitsweekly@gmail.com



From left: Eldon Easterday Jr. and his wife, Beverly Easterday. Eldon Easterday Jr., at right, with his son, Eldon Easterday III, at left, and grandson Eldon IV, holding great-grandson Eldon V. Below: Eldon Easterday Jr. smiles with his fishing pole.

Come say Happy 90th Birthday to Eldon Easterday Jr.

Submitted by Eldon G. Easterday III

Willits, California is home to many wonderful landmarks. The Gateway to the Redwoods, known for its beautiful forests and landscapes, great people, and wholesome living. Willits is the homeplace of Seabiscuit, the Skunk Train, and for many years the home of Edith Ceccarelli who was the oldest known living U.S. citizen.

Willits is also the home of long-time resident Eldon Easterday Jr. who will be celebrating his 90th birthday on April 12.

During Eldon Easterday Jr's life, his birthday has sometimes fallen on Easter Sunday – in 1936, 1998, 2009 and 2020 he celebrated his birthday in conjunction with the special day.

This Friday, April 12, the friends and family of Mr. Easterday will be having a 90th birthday party at Slam Dunk Pizza in the Evergreen Shopping Center in Willits. If you find yourself at the south end of Main Street and want to stop by around 5:50 pm, you can wish this fine Willits resident a Happy 90th Birthday.

Please support our biggest fundraiser of the year!!

WILLITS SOBER GRAD

Tri-Tip Dinner



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

Willits Sober Grad is a non-profit organization that works each year from September through June to raise funds which are used to out on a safe, sober party for the graduating Seniors of the Willits Community Schools on Graduation Night. These schools include: Willits Charter School, Willits High School, Sanhedrin High School, LaVida Charter School. Since it's inception in 1986, no High School Senior has died on Graduation Night.

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, Emandal Bread, Cookies from Kemmy's Pies, and a Beautiful Rose Donated by Flowers by Annette.

PRE-SALE ONLY
\$60 TICKET



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Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner

Submitted by Willits Sober Grad

Please support Sober Grad's biggest fundraiser: It's time for the BEST tri-tip dinner of the year!! Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner pickup is set for Friday, April 26, from 4 to 6 pm, at the Willits High School Ag Farm (behind the high school, 299 North Main Street).

Dinner – a complete meal for four – includes Marinated & Grilled Tri Tip, Baked Potatoes, Green Salad, Emandal Bread, Cookies from Kemmy's Pies, and a Beautiful Rose donated by Flowers by Annette.

Mark your calendar for April 26, and get your ticket! Tickets are available at 101 Trailer & RV Supply and Monkey Wrench Men & Womens Wear. You can also get your ticket from your favorite Class of 2024 graduate, or call Karen Thiel, WHS, 707-459-7700, ext. 1504 or Carrie Lambert, WSG, 707-671-6173.

At left: Willits Senior Class members, from left to right, Catie Spackman, Mason Rescina, Dayana Estrada, and Milli Patino, hold tickets to Willits Sober Grad's Tri-Tip Dinner on Friday, April 26.



MORE

EXPERTISE



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Cristina V. Cueto, MD
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Now welcoming new patients

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707-459-6115

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.

