

Willits

Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

Willits Weekly newspaper

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 546

Thursday, April 18, 2024

'New options' needed

for Brooktrails Fire Department

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At the February 27 meeting of the Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board of Directors, staff discussed the potential to amend the California Public Employees Retirement System contract and allow partial retirement as an optional benefit to Brooktrails employees. Specifically the discussion revolved around the planning for succession in the Brooktrails Fire Department, and

Read the rest of
Brooktrails
Over on Page 13

Cubbison hearing postponed

to mid-May

By Mike Geniella,
mendofever.com

April 12 – Intricate and costly legal maneuvers have stalled proceedings in the high-stakes criminal case Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster is pursuing against a fellow elected official, county Auditor Chamise Cubbison.

Because of a new Eyster-triggered delay, Cubbison's preliminary hearing, initially scheduled for this week, has been pushed to mid-May.

The latest setback stems from Superior Court Judge Victoria Shanahan's voluntary decision on

Read the rest of
Cubbison
Over on Page 13

Online workshop on local road plans coming up

Submitted by MCOG

The Mendocino Council of Governments has hired a consultant to update Local Road Safety/ Action Plans for the County of Mendocino, and the cities of Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah, and Willits.

These updated safety plans will enable local jurisdictions to enhance safety for all modes of transportation for all ages and abilities and will aid in seeking state and federal grant funding to implement priority safety projects.

MCOG invites the public to a virtual public workshop on Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 6 to 7:30 pm,

Read the rest of
Workshop
Over on Page 13



Above, from left: Andrew Hosford shows off the meat and processing section of Sparetime Supply's new space, The Gardener's Pantry & Décor. Chainsaw-carved redwood bears by Sparetime employee Mike Woodruff are one of the locally made items available for sale. Lene Vinding shows off the mushroom section of the new store. Below: Snails and mushrooms are two of the cute themes in this farmhouse, garden and homesteading center located inside the Sparetime Supply yard.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Sparetime Supply welcomes shoppers to their new shop:

The Gardener's Pantry & Décor

"Grow, Gather, Process and Preserve" is a great motto for Sparetime Supply's new venture, The Gardener's Pantry & Décor, a new side store that's opened up on the Sparetime

retail campus that promises to be a "local destination for at-home food processing supplies and garden-inspired décor."

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photography
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Inside what was once Sidelights, a smaller shop which was focused on hydroponics and growing supplies, the same building now offers an exciting selection of décor and supplies that focus on customers creating a homesteading and farmhouse lifestyle, where one loves bread making, meat processing, canning, gardening, decorating, and more.

Read the rest of
Pantry
Over on page 15

Read the rest of
Pantry
Over on page 15



Above, from left: Laurin Hosford shows off one of her favorite features in the new space: a potting bench similar to one that will be given away during the store's grand opening. Locally made pottery by Earth and Fire includes mugs, bowls and more. Heather Walker shows off the "man section," complete with beard combs, oils, signage and more. Below: The Sparetime team who helped make The Gardener's Pantry & Décor a reality including, from left: Laurin Hosford, Jaime Wilkes, Brandi Enge, Heather Walker and Lene Vinding.



Below, from left: Brandi Enge shows off the bread-making section where sourdough starter, proofing baskets, and more can be purchased. Local jams from Emandal - A Farm on a River are another local good sold at The Gardener's Pantry & Décor. Jaime Wilkes shows off her curated corner, which includes a greens, blues, and succulent-and-cactus theme.



Little Lake Fire sees big rise in insurance costs

Annie Evarts
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At last week's meeting of the board of directors for Little Lake Fire Protection District, Michelle Schnitzius, Little Lake's administrative assistant, told the board they were seeing roughly a \$20,000 increase from last year to this year to renew the department's insurance; almost all due to increases in property coverage. "Our operational budget is 23 years old," said Schnitzius. "It makes it difficult with these large increases."

Read the rest of
Increase
Over on Page 6

Drone alert for Willits, Brooktrails

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits and Brooktrails area residents should not be surprised to see drones surveying overhead in the area over the next week or two. In an email to Willits customers, Pacific Gas & Electric announced "Upcoming PG&E Aerial Safety Inspections" that will take place in the area "within the next two weeks."

The email read: "Every day, we are making the electric system safer and stronger for our customers. As part of this work, we perform regular inspections of our electrical equipment"

Read the rest of
Drones
Over on Page 4

Lake Mendocino murderer OK'd for parole

Posted by Mendocino County DA

The man responsible for the brutal 1993 murder at Lake Mendocino of a Redwood Valley Water District employee was approved on April 4 for release from state prison on parole during a contested hearing held before appointed commissioners from the state's Board of Parole Hearings.

Inmate Troy Harden, now 53 years old, formerly of Willits, was convicted by jury verdict of murder in the first degree by means of a knife and sentenced in March 1994 to 26 years to life for the stabbing death of Larry Stephenson, a husband and father of two

Read the rest of
Parole
Over on Page 6

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Pizza and Parenting

To the Editor:

Hello families! Are you a parent or guardian feeling discouraged or frustrated with your child's behavior? Have you found the strategies you have tried are not working to help your child respond to you and others without excessive emotion?

Willits Unified is offering parent support and training through our Early Intervention and Engagement Program at Brookside and Blosser Lane Elementary Schools. There are currently two future sessions scheduled with more planned. Our trainer, Jackie Herz, is a school counselor with a behavioral background. Jackie is also available to provide individual ideas and support. We look forward to seeing you there!

Join us for FREE pizza, salad, and discussion, Wednesdays at Brookside Elementary, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Open to ALL families. Free childcare is available; you must call to confirm.

April 24: "How to miss a childhood": Raising children in the digital age

May 1: Behavior is communication": What are kids telling us by their actions?

Call or text with any questions: 707-518-0055.

Kelley Labus, Special Education director, Willits Unified

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

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

Monday, April 22: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread

Tuesday, April 23: Italian Sub, Pickle, Chips

Wednesday, April 24: Pepperoni, Sausage & Olive Pizza, Green Salad

Thursday, April 25: Breaded Pork Chop, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Friday, April 26: Turkey, Stuffing, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll

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

Pancake Breakfast: every second Sunday, May 12 next month, 8 to 11 am.

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.

Thank you to the Frank R. Howard Foundation for their unwavering support

Submitted by Howard Memorial Hospital

It takes a village to care for our community, and we could not be more grateful for the team we have here serving with us and caring for our loved ones, friends, and neighbors. Everyone who walks through our doors in need of help is tied to us in our community. We work and live in a unique place that allows us to care many times for those we know and love and create a difference in someone's life that's close to home.

As we create an environment centered around patients and the care we provide, our continual work to improve, increase, and surpass the level of care we can deliver grows with each passing day, and today we would like to thank one organization for their invaluable contributions to our team and community – the Frank R. Howard Foundation.

The foundation, tied deeply to our roots in this community, is a vital part of the work we do at our hospital and Redwood Medical Clinic each day. Established in 1987 as the owners of our regional hospital, the foundation's objectives have remained the same, guaranteeing high-quality hospital services for Willits and our Northern California communities through advancement in healthcare, education and more.

With these efforts, the Frank R. Howard Foundation continues to provide for our team and community with complete trust and assurance that what they provide our team continues to be used for the greater good, as we keep excellent care local, close to home, and accessible to all those around us in our rural environment.

Over the last few years, the foundation has provided a series of gifts to us which have been an increased help for providing to our community. These gifts have included our new medical office building standby generator which was provided to ensure that in times of need we can continue to remain open and able to serve our patients; a surgical microscope used for adjusting magnification brightly illuminating a space with a clear visual of the surgical field in the operating room; CAPRS which are respiratory headgear used to protect against aerosolized and airborne particulates which came exceptionally handy to keep our team safe during COVID-19 as we cared for patients; a top of the line Ares Manikin used to provide in-depth education for our clinical team; paint to fix up our solar arrays; and a state-of-the-art Mamava lactation pod for lactating parents in our facility to use. These gifts have resulted in nearly \$500,000 in assistance from the Foundation that we are eternally grateful to have.

We are also appreciative of the Foundation's work each year as medical staff and the Frank R. Howard Foundation jointly donate funds to the Howard Community Healthcare Foundation for the purpose of funding nursing scholarships. In an effort to remedy the shortage of registered nurses over the years, with this scholarship following the nurses' completion of their program they are provided a career with our hospital.

We are increasingly thankful for all that the Frank R. Howard Foundation does for our team, collaborating with us as we build a better tomorrow for those we serve, and for this we want to give the very biggest THANK YOU for all they do to support us!

Redding Air Attack Base more than doubles firefighting capacity

Submitted by U.S. Forest Service

On Thursday, April 25, 2024, the USDA Forest Service and partners, including the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Redding, will celebrate the completion of Phase 1 in a five-year, \$28 million project to expand air tanker loading capabilities by 132% at the Redding Interagency Air Attack Base. The upgrades allow for simultaneous loading of five aircraft, up from two previously. This base is vital in providing initial and extended attack for wildfires across the Western United States.

In 2021, the base loaded 3 million gallons of fire retardant. The new configuration offers the potential to load over 6 million gallons. Plus, air tankers will no longer have to wait to be loaded, with direct access from the taxway to reduce turnaround times.

"Completing this phase is a huge milestone, greatly increasing our ability to accommodate five Next Generation air tankers and fill them at the same time. Our firefighting crews and the communities we serve will directly benefit from these efficiencies," said Yolanda Salida, deputy director of Fire, Fuels, and Aviation Management for the Pacific Southwest Region. "And now onto next steps — Phase 2 to replace the 70-year-old hangar — giving firefighters a safe, efficient place to operate from. Lots to celebrate being done, lots of work ahead."

Originally opened in the late 1960s, the Redding Air Attack Base has long served as a critical hub for wildfire suppression by loading air tankers with fire retardant to support aerial firefighting. In its early days, the base served as a modest facility for a limited number of aircraft and firefighting operations. Small fixes have improved existing buildings over the years but, until now, had not kept up with expanding operational needs.

Airtankers are a vital resource supporting firefighting efforts nationwide. These planes are only one piece of the wildland firefighting tool kit that assist firefighting efforts on the ground.

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.

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com



Mendocino Railway wins Visit California's prestigious Poppy Award

Submitted by Mendocino Railway

Fort Bragg, California – Mendocino Railway – The Skunk Train is thrilled to announce its victory in Visit California's esteemed Poppy Awards. The company has been awarded the top honor in the "Best Influencer Campaign: Business" category, highlighting its dedication to excellence in tourism marketing and innovation in engaging with travelers.

Visit California, the state's official tourism organization, received an overwhelming response this year, with hundreds of submissions for its biennial Poppy Awards, which recognize outstanding achievements in the industry. After a thorough evaluation by industry judges, Mendocino Railway - The Skunk Train emerged as the winner in its category.

"We are beyond thrilled to receive this prestigious award, and thus be recognized by our peers for excellence. The competition is still, and our category finalists were top-notch," said Melodie Hilton, marketing director of Mendocino Railway - The Skunk Train. "This award speaks volumes about the impact of our influencer campaign and the hard work of our team in providing unforgettable experiences to our passengers. We are deeply honored to be selected by Visit California for this recognition."

The award ceremony took place on March 12, at the Poppy Awards Gala, marking the culmination of the Outlook Forum in Greater Palm Springs. This gala celebrates the best work in the tourism industry and honors those who have made significant contributions to California's travel landscape.

The winning campaign, titled "Journey Through the Redwoods: The Skunk Train Influencer Adventure," showcased the company's innovative marketing approach by sending influencers on a captivating journey through the redwoods to The Glen Blair Bar. This initiative yielded remarkable results, including triple-digit growth in social media channels, double-digit increases in site traffic and gross revenues, and the brand's single biggest revenue day ever. These achievements underscore the effectiveness of Mendocino Railway - The Skunk Train's marketing strategies in engaging travelers and promoting its unique experiences.

Mendocino Railway - The Skunk Train extends a huge thank you to Visit California for this prestigious award.

For a full list of winners, please visit: <https://industry.visitcalifornia.com/more/newsroom/2024-poppy-awards-finalists>.

For more information about Mendocino Railway - The Skunk Train and its unforgettable rail adventures, visit www.skunktrain.com or call (707) 964-6371.

California Western Railroad / Skunk Train, located in the redwood forests of Northern California's Mendocino County, is a heritage railroad that has been operating both freight and passenger service since 1885. Initially used to move redwood logs to the Mendocino Coast sawmills from the rugged back country, the Skunk Train has become a beloved institution touted as one of the "10 Best Rail Tours in the Country" (USA Today), and a "Top 10 Family Activity in California" (National Geographic Traveler).

The Skunk Train journey covers 40 miles of scenic delights and 30 bridges, all while retaining its original charm—minus the historic pungent aroma that once preceded its arrival. Operating year-round, this multi-generational experience welcomes passengers to bring along their families and even their dog, ensuring a memorable and inclusive adventure.

More about the Poppy Awards: Crafted by California artisan Nicholson Blown Glass in Auburn, Poppy Awards are bestowed every two years to acknowledge the best of California's tourism promotion. Programs started January 1, 2022 or after were eligible for the 2024 Poppy Awards. Submissions were reviewed by Visit California staff, then blind-judged by California travel industry experts.

More about Outlook Forum: Outlook Forum is the premier travel industry conference for California, the No. 1 tourism destination in the United States. Outlook Forum brings together C-suite executives and industry decision-makers from California's hotels, rental cars, attractions, restaurants, retailers and other travel businesses, as well as representatives from Visit California's global network of offices.



Above, from left: Kate Magruder's Amanda is both humorous and tragic. Joshua Sternberg and Schuyler Marcier share a memory outside. Budding writer Tom, played by Joshua Sternberg, tries to get a moment of peace without the nagging of Amanda, played by Kate Magruder. Below, from left: Before the show and at intermission, the patrons can watch or buy the program, eat mini-pies, and drink wine, beer or spirits from local vendors. Tom is frustrated by the shyness of his sister, Laura. "The Glass Menagerie" director, Michael Ducharme, has been involved in theater for many years in different locations. Further below: Amythyst Romero, managing director of the Willits Community Theatre, checks the guest list. At bottom: Kate Magruder as Amanda and Sonja Burgal as Laura light up the stage with their presence.



Memory Play

WCT presents Tennessee Williams' 'The Glass Menagerie' through April 28

There are still many residents of Willits who are not aware of the fact that the town has an excellent, small, 74-seat theater. The Willits Community Theatre has consistently produced quality productions for the past 47 years. Last Friday, the theater opened its latest offering, "The Glass Menagerie," written by Tennessee Williams and directed by seasoned professional, Michael Ducharme.

The show will run Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2 pm through April 28. Judging by the audience reactions, the play is an artistic success, with stirring, heartfelt performances by veteran performer Kate Magruder as Amanda, novice but brilliant Sonja Burgal as Laura, Joshua Sternberg as Tom, seasoned actor Schuyler Marcier as the Gentleman Caller, and the uber-expressive Aris Vellis as The Narrator.

The WCT has recently gone through some changes in key supportive positions. Amythyst Romero has taken over the role as managing director, and Jeff Shipp is the new production manager. With the help of Michealle Havenhill, the new house manager, they have created a new working paradigm which promotes the enhanced flow of creative and management systems. They work in conjunction with various committees who choose the plays and other entertainments which occupy the stage, promote various musical and poetry nights, and generally oversee the flow of creative juices while keeping the theater functioning.

"I picked 'The Glass Menagerie' for two reasons," said Ducharme. "It's never been done at the Willits Community Theatre in its 47 years of existence. I understand it is still required reading for Willits High School students. I read it when it was on my required reading list when I was in high school. All these years later, it's still on the list. The allure of this play, for me, is the exploration of the memory aspect of the play. I find often that it is downplayed, and I wanted to lean into that part of it."

"There is a lot of humor in the play," said Ducharme, "which is in contrast to the darker parts and sets up the ending. These are such iconic characters. Everybody sort of knows them. Another reason I wanted to do the play is that so many people know the play but don't remember much about it. No matter what level of participation that people have in the theater, many of their responses are that they read it or did a production of it many years ago."

Ducharme's husband, Bhavy Ducharme, who just directed the wildly successful "Rocky Horror Show" at the theater, expressed his appreciation for the current production: "This production is Read the rest of Menagerie Over on page 11



Randall Cantua, LUTCF
Agent
Cantu Insurance Agency
16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490
786 Redwood Drive
Garberville, CA 95542
Tel 707.459.3276
Tel 707.923.2179
Fax 707.923.9550
rcantu@farmersagent.com
OC67822



C. BROWNS RANCHER
Groceries Beer & Wine Gas & Diesel
Pay at the Pump
7am - 10pm
459-4854
1799 So. Main St.
P.O. Box 428
Family owned since 1983'



BEST POWER & HARDWARE
HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT
Lawn & Garden Equipment • Generators
Sales, Parts & Service • Pick-up & Delivery
1600 S. Main St.
Willits, CA 95490
willitspower@gmail.com
Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420
Service: 707 459-0596
Fax: 707 459-6369

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

Willits Weekly

Volume 11, Number 546

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

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

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

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

Jackie Cobb, features editor

Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer

Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter

Annie Everts, reporter / features writer

Danya Davis, Police Log

Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter

Sheri Dockins, sports reporter

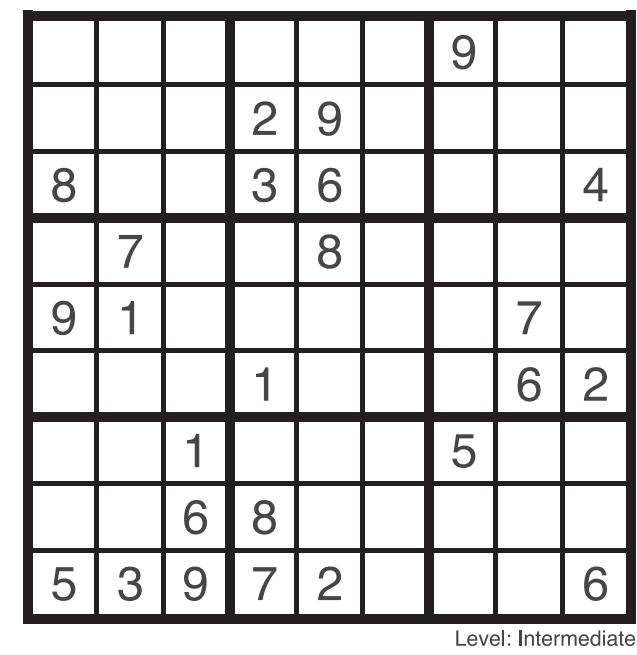
Ava Dockins, sports photographer

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / willitsweekly@gmail.com

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

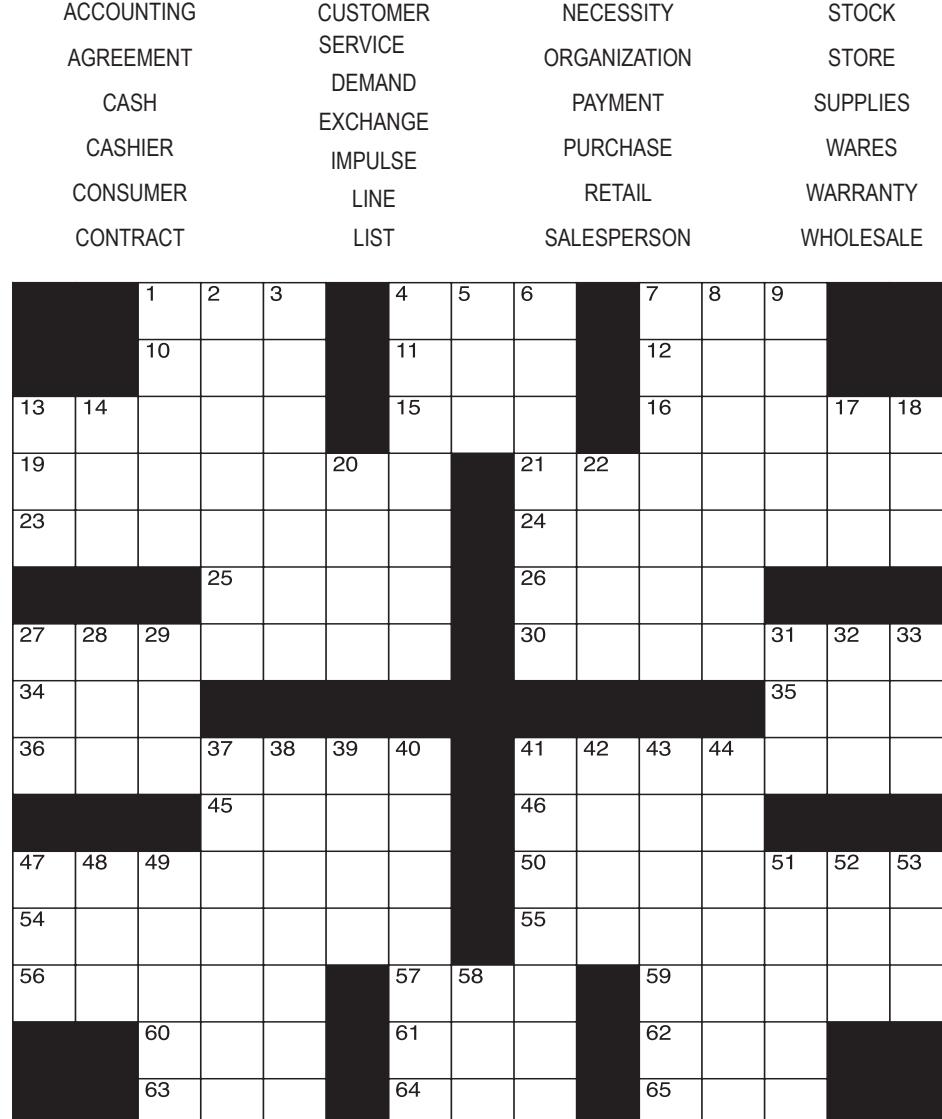
Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



Does anyone have a preference on the degree of difficulty of the Sudoku puzzle?
Beginner? Intermediate? Advanced? I'll just keep randomly choosing?
Please let us know what you vote for! Email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com

CONSUMER WORD SEARCH

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. For each
- 7. Airborne (abbr.)
- 10. Photographs
- 11. They —
- 12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- 13. Monetary unit
- 15. Cool.
- 16. A son of Jacob
- 19. Cut off
- 21. Devour
- 23. Agent of one's downfall
- 24. Best
- 25. Network of nerves
- 26. Partner to "oohs"
- 27. Origins
- 30. Sewing utensil
- 34. Alias
- 35. Swiss river
- 36. Greek mythological figure
- 41. Type of whiskey
- 45. Lay to rest
- 46. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 47. Select jury
- 50. Feeling
- 54. Action regarded as
- 55. Morally wrong
- 56. Makes angry
- 57. Act incorrectly
- 58. Effectiveness (abbr.)
- 59. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 60. To what degree
- 61. Buzzing insect
- 62. The human foot
- 63. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
- 64. A place to stay
- 65. Sun up in New York
- 66. Sun up in New York
- 67. An involuntary muscular contraction
- 68. Earnest
- 69. Cuts out surgically
- 70. Can't move
- 71. Baseball stat
- 72. British soldier
- 73. Traditional medicine plants
- 74. Political party controlled by managers
- 75. Hebrew prophet
- 76. Supporter
- 77. Relative biological

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A place where building is done
- 2. Class of escort aircraft carrier
- 3. To do with difficulty
- 4. Constantly
- 5. Founder of Babism
- 6. Indigenous person in parts of Asia
- 7. Sea eagle
- 8. Leave behind
- 9. Time of day
- 10. Colorless crystalline compound
- 11. They lay out course requirements
- 12. Diamond has three
- 13. Algerian coastal city
- 14. Remove cover
- 15. Rechristened
- 16. Distinctive practice
- 17. Defunct phone company
- 18. Turkish officer of high rank
- 19. Eliminate from the body
- 20. Witness
- 21. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 22. Founding Father Franklin

Have something to say?

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor.
Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com



WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

March 25 to March 31

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 56 incidents in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

March 25

10:14 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:57 am: Officer conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

1:01 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Poplar Avenue and Madrone Street.

3:00 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of East Commercial Street and North Lenore Avenue.

4:59 pm: LEGGETT, Shelly Redwood (42) of Covelo was contacted in the 400 block of East Valley Street. She was arrested on felony charges of child abduction and resisting an officer, and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

6:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:02 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 2400 block of East Hill Road.

9:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

March 26

8:07 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

10:10 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:32 am: SMITH, Rondy James (27) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of failure to appear.

10:50 pm: LAFLIN, Adam Powell (47) of Laytonville was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

11:10 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Alder Court.

March 27

1:44 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

10:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Monroe Street.

March 28

2:02 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue and issued a warning.

4:20 pm: GALLOWAY, Faith Joy (38) of Lakeport was contacted in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue. She was arrested on felony charges of kidnapping, child abduction, and forgery, and on misdemeanor charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and petty theft.

The rest of Drones

From page 1

In high fire-threat areas to help reduce risks and keep our communities safe.

"We will be in your area using a drone to inspect our electric poles and equipment. These safety inspections will take place within the next two weeks."

The email detailed some of what residents can expect:

- During inspections, you may see and hear a drone flying close to the equipment.

- The drone may hover in the same location to perform these inspections, and if it does, it will usually be for less than 10 minutes.

- All safety standards and federal regulations will be followed.

- You may also see PG&E and/or contractor trucks in the area.

For questions, please contact PG&E at 1-877-295-4949 or email wildfiresafety@pge.com.

Brooktrails drones

Third District Supervisor John Haschak also posted an alert to Brooktrails residents about drone survey work in that area:

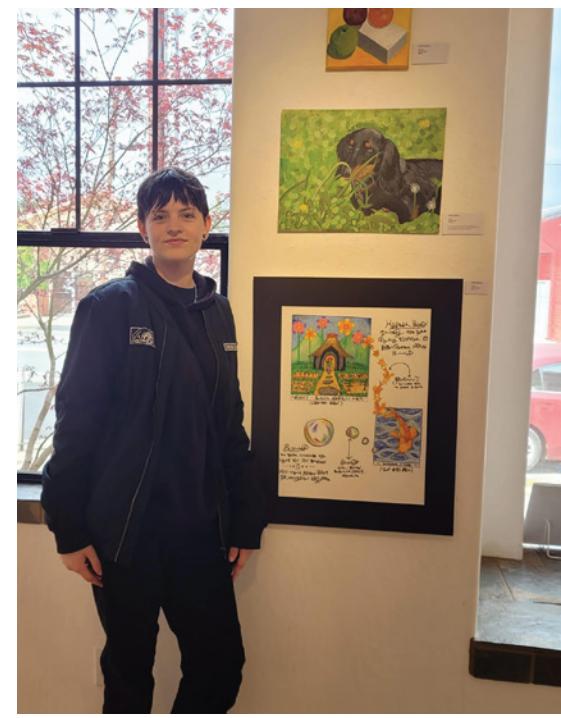
"As a next step in the Brooktrails broadband installation project," Supervisor Haschak posted Tuesday, drones will be flying around Brooktrails from April 18 to 25, from 7 am to 5 pm. Data collected is on utility poles and wires, roads, sidewalks, and curbs, and is only used for mapping purposes. Drones will fly at 200 to 3,000 feet and cause minimal sound disruptions. This is to speed up the deployment of the broadband installation/expansion project."

Resident of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor.

Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com



Above, from left: WHS Senior Kara Wilkes with her linoleum block frog prints and whale prints. Kamryn Wilkes and her acrylic painting of her best friend, Owen. Monica Chavez-Mendoza shows her finely drawn illustration, "Life After Death."



At right: Student artists, including, from left: Monica Chavez-Mendoza, Kaylee Campbell, Sophie Andersen and Audrey Sherf, in front, participated in and hung the Art Under 20 exhibit. At right, below: Three teachers with student work included in the Art Under 20 exhibit are: from left, Caroline Hambright from Willits Charter School, Carolyn Bakewell from the Willits High School, and Rossi Jensen from Potter Valley High School.



Above, from left: WHS Senior Kara Wilkes with her linoleum block frog prints and whale prints. Kamryn Wilkes and her acrylic painting of her best friend, Owen. Monica Chavez-Mendoza shows her finely drawn illustration, "Life After Death."

At right: Student artists, including, from left: Monica Chavez-Mendoza, Kaylee Campbell, Sophie Andersen and Audrey Sherf, in front, participated in and hung the Art Under 20 exhibit. At right, below: Three teachers with student work included in the Art Under 20 exhibit are: from left, Caroline Hambright from Willits Charter School, Carolyn Bakewell from the Willits High School, and Rossi Jensen from Potter Valley High School.

Art Under 20

Local youth show their work at Willits Center for the Arts through April

Arts education has been credited with increased creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, self-confidence, and resilience. Additionally, the arts sector accounts for approximately 800,000 jobs in California alone.

The Willits area is rich in educational opportunities. Local schools have collaborated with the Willits Center for the Arts for over 20 years through Art Under 20, an annual exhibit which gives high school students the opportunity to present their artwork to a public audience, including matting and creating titles for their work, as well as hanging the exhibit themselves.

The recent opening of the 2024 Art Under 20 exhibit was a lively affair with students and their friends and family enjoying food, beverages, and good cheer as they took in an amazing variety of artwork in both WCA galleries. Drawing, painting, collage, and even printmaking were among the mediums represented in the exhibit. Subject matter ranged from portraits of best friends and pets to landscapes and seascapes, and extended all the way to science fiction, fantasy, and philosophy.

Willits High School art teacher Carolyn Bakewell has guided her students through the process of mounting an exhibit for many years. While initially teaching kindergarten at the Waldorf School of Mendocino County and eventually becoming an art specialty teacher for the higher grades, she raised her two children, ran a summer camp, and taught dance classes for children. In 2001, Bakewell completed her BA in studio art and art history from Sonoma State University, and by 2002, she had completed a single-subject teaching credential in visual arts.

"My predecessor Kathleen Kirkpatrick took me under her wing," said Bakewell. "I spent the whole year with her and got a firm grasp of the process from beginning to end. After she retired, I was blessed to get the job of my dreams as Willits High School's visual arts teacher!"

Bakewell explained that Kirkpatrick started Art Under 20 in the year 2000. "After working

Read the rest of AU20 Over on page 15

Below, left: This nocturnal painting, "On the Streets," by Kate Winter is one of

Manny Mello of George Peterson Insurance Agency is Little Lake's broker and represents the majority of the fire districts in Mendocino County. Mello says it's definitely hard for departments these days. He referred to a recent article in Politico about a CAL FIRE station that couldn't get fire insurance for its firehouse.

There have also been some reports of small, volunteer agencies suspending services due to unaffordable liability insurance, as in the rural community of Graniteville in Nevada County. This agency was eventually able to resume its work, but it magnifies the strain California's insurance crisis is putting on emergency services. Mello attributed Little Lake's increase purely to its zip code. Willits is not assessed parcel by parcel by insurance companies. Our proximity to nature means, for them, our whole town is one big risk.

Stories like these serve as good reminders to get out and support the fundraising efforts of Little Lake's Volunteer Firefighter Association. Their next event is the Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament, Saturday, April 27 at Sparetime Distribution on 300 East Commercial Street. Sign-ups start at 4 pm and gameplay starts at 5 pm, with dinner at 7 pm. Your \$100 buy in includes a tri-tip dinner. Little Lake's volunteers are hoping to raise additional money to purchase new turnout and SCBAs. Turnouts are firefighter's protective clothing and SCBAs are the breathing masks they wear in situations where oxygen is low, or there's the presence of toxic gas and harmful particles.

The Little Lake crew would also like to remind you to help them to help you by posting your home address clearly and visibly, with reflective letters and numbers. The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council has initiated a "Reflect to Protect" program. According to their website, "California code requires addresses be marked by REFLECTIVE SIGNS, clearly visible from both directions on the roadway...for a donation of \$20, you can obtain a custom, two-sided, green-and-white address sign for your home."

See the Fire Council's website: firesafemendocino.org to order. The signs need to be picked up in Ukiah. They don't mail them, so it's a good opportunity to get your neighbors involved, put in an order for your whole street, and designate a pickup person. Everyone knows how frustrating it can be to head up a gravel road looking for the right house, or how hard it is to find an address while driving down a street at night. Imagine having to explain to 911 how to find your home while you're having a heart attack. In an emergency situation, these reflective signs can save lives.

Lastly, on the agenda, three of Little Lake's board members are up for election. Tony Madrigal, Nancy Stipe, and Arnie Mello have all served four-year terms. Administrative assistant Schnitzius explained the election process a little further saying: "If no one chooses to run against them, then they will be able to continue operating on the board. If someone chooses to donate their time to the board and run against them, they will be on the election ballot in November for voters."

Employment Opportunity: Wastewater Plant Operator in Training, I, II or III

Annual salary is DOQ/DOE:
Operator in Training: \$39,175.55 - \$47,618.27
Operator I: \$44,830.45 - \$54,491.63
Operator II: \$48,196.93 - \$58,583.62
Operator III: \$57,978.13 - \$70,472.69

Candidates must possess a valid California Class C driver's license or higher, verified by current DMV records obtained by appointment of hire. Premium pay of 5% above current rate for employees in possession of a valid Class B or A California driver's license.

Special Requirements:

Wastewater Operator in Training - requires employees to complete a training program and successfully pass examinations to obtain Wastewater Plant Operator I certification within the first 18 months of employment.

Wastewater Plant Operator I/II/III - requires possession of a Grade I/II/III Wastewater Treatment Operator's Certificate issued by the California State Department of Water Resources Board.

Application Deadline:
Friday, May 9, 2024, by 4:00 P.M.

Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org



Employment Opportunity: Accountant and Sr. Accountant

Annual salary is DOQ/DOE:

Accountant: \$48,680.74 - \$59,171.63

Desirable Experience/Education: Any combination of education and experience which would provide an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and abilities listed. Normally, either possession of a college degree in accounting, finance or business administration with at least 12 semester or 16 quarter units of Accounting, including Principles of Accounting, Intermediate Accounting, Advanced Accounting, Governmental Accounting, Cost Accounting or Auditing; or one year of experience in the accounting field.

SR. Accountant: \$57,689.22 - \$70,121.58

Desirable Experience/Education: Any combination of education and experience which would provide opportunity to acquire the knowledge and abilities listed. Normally, either possession of a college degree in accounting, finance or business administration with at least 12 semester or 16 quarter units of Accounting, including Principles of Accounting, Intermediate Accounting, Advanced Accounting, Governmental Accounting, Cost Accounting or Auditing; OR possession of a Certified Public Accountant Certificate, and one year of experience in a position comparable to Accountant in a local government agency or one year of experience in a professional level auditing or accounting position which demonstrates exposure to the many different facets of accounting theory and application.

Application Deadline:

Friday, May 9, 2024, by 4:00 P.M.

Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org



who was at that time living in Upper Lake but working in Redwood Valley.

The victim was stabbed multiple times and had his throat cut while he was performing work at the Lake Mendocino water outlet tower.

Troy Harden's brother, Ron Trevor Harden, and another man, John Jensen, were at the scene and convicted of being accessories to the murder.

In one of Mendocino County's worst recorded murder-suicides, Ron Harden killed four family members and himself in 1993 in Willits before he could be sentenced for his involvement in Stephenson's murder and attempted cover-up.

The April 4 parole hearing got off to a really bad start. The obviously confused board members started the hearing by attempting to prevent the Mendocino County deputy prosecutor from appearing to argue against Harden's parole.

Because there had been a change of venue to Humboldt County due to pretrial publicity in Mendocino County, the commissioners were of the mistaken belief that the Mendocino County district attorney had no standing to even appear at the parole hearing (despite having appeared at all prior parole hearings), let alone to argue against Harden's parole.

Delaying the hearing, it was eventually made clear through official records that the Mendocino County DA – not the Humboldt County DA – was the prosecuting agency that handled the murder trial against Harden in Eureka in front of a Humboldt County jury.

Board members eventually had to relent and begrudgingly allow the Mendocino County deputy district attorney's appearance and listen to her vigorous arguments against granting Harden parole.

In brief, Mendocino County Deputy District Attorney Jamie Pearl argued that Harden remains unsuitable for parole because, despite the rehabilitative efforts undertaken during his years of incarceration, he still poses an unreasonable risk to public safety, citing the underlying reasons for this factual and legal conclusion.

It is also noted that members of the victim's family also appeared and argued against parole for Stephenson's killer, the next of kin also sharing their beliefs that Harden continues to pose a public safety risk outside of a structured prison setting.

However, changes in the law undertaken over time by the Legislature in Sacramento have made board findings that convicted murderers serving

life sentences are now suitable for parole an easier result, if not a probable outcome. Because of his age in 1994, Harden has been classified as a "youthful offender" with special parole rights.

A youth offender is an incarcerated person who was under 26 years of age at the time of the crime for which he or she stands convicted.

Parole board members are now required at youthful offender parole hearings to give great weight to factors "specific" to "youthful offenders."

For example, the board is required to give great weight to the non-specific general perceptions of diminished culpability of juveniles as compared to non-specific general perceptions of the culpability of adults, the "hallmark features of youth," and any subsequent "growth and increased maturity" of a "youthful offender" inmate.

Less weight, if any, is afforded the specifics of the crime and the forever impacts on the victim's family, friends, and co-workers.

Given the board's finding that Harden is now suitable and should be granted parole, he will be eligible for release immediately after the decision granting him parole is deemed "final" (which takes about five months).

The board decision granting parole is subject to the board's decision review process and the governor's separate review process.

For those wishing to express their agreement or disagreement with the board's parole suitability decision regarding Troy Harden, letters can be sent to: Board of Parole Hearings, Post Office Box 4036, Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

For those wishing to further express their agreement or disagreement to the final decision-maker regarding Troy Harden's parole suitability and release, respectful letters may be sent to: Governor Gavin Newsom, 1021 O Street, Suite 9000, Sacramento, CA 95814

For those interested in communicating with Governor Newsom via email on the board's Troy Harden parole decision, access to the governor's email portal is available at www.gov.ca.gov/contact/

Once at the portal page, for the topic use "Parole Issues/Concerns" and click on "Leave a comment." When you click and navigate to the second page, you will be asked to check whether you are "pro" or "con" on the parole issue/concern, before being able to type your comments.

Read the rest of
Volunteers

Over on page 11



Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center thanks program volunteers

Posted by STRC

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month! Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center is featuring program volunteers on its Facebook page in April.

The April 6 post features volunteers Alice McAlister and Kathy Shuster. "These two beautiful friends bring so much joy to our team. Thank you for all of the creativity, care, and dedication you bring to Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center. We appreciate everything you do!"

The April 10 STRC posted features Volunteer Barbara Burica, who "brings so much dedication, generosity, and equine knowledge to our team. Thank you for all that you share with Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center!"

On April 13, STRC's volunteer appreciation post featured Erin and Ellie Ruiz. "This fantastic mother-and-daughter duo bring so much positive energy, flexibility and equine love to our team. Thank you for all the gifts that you share with Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center. We appreciate everything you do!"

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, the next Volunteer Training at STRC is set for Saturday, April 20 at 10 am. To register message the "Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center" page on Facebook, or text 707-391-3873. "We look forward to seeing you all soon!"



Above, left: Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center board members and fundraiser committee members gather at Ridgewood Ranch to say goodbye and thank you to Mike and Margie Smith. Above, right: Mike and Margie Smith at STRC's event to thank them for their support over the years.

At left: Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center says thank you to mother-and-daughter volunteer duo Erin and Ellie Ruiz, for their "positive energy, flexibility and equine love."

Below, left: Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center appreciates volunteer Barbara Burica, left, for her "dedication, generosity, and equine knowledge."



JOIN US FOR PIZZA AND PARENTING!



Join us for FREE pizza, salad, and discussion.
Open to ALL Breakside and Blosser Lane families.
Free childcare is available; you must call to confirm.

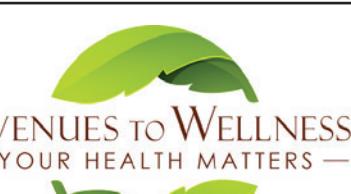


BEDTIME AND MORNING ROUTINES
How to make routines that work for your family
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

HOW TO MISS A CHILDHOOD
Raising children in the digital age
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

BEHAVIOR IS COMMUNICATION
What are kids telling us by their actions?
Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Breakside Elementary 5:30-6:30 pm
Call or Text with any questions (707) 518-0055



A PROGRAM OF THE FRANK R. HOWARD FOUNDATION

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



Susana Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson
Group Facilitators

Ongoing Events

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 be assured a lunch! Provided by various churches and community organizations.

Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl: Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Games start at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of two, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've got everything you need! Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main Street.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank: Twice-monthly drive-thru food distribution in Willits, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, located in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields, 9:30 to 11 am. Groceries to go, senior basket at 10 am; meet at the front entrance to the library, 390 East Commercial Street.

'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 mendocinocoounty.org/museum

Willits Boules Club: Tuesdays and Fridays at 3 pm: The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: bbruneau@bbruneau.com

Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym: Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers free classes for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street, on Thursday evenings. We teach Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu Karate, Kenpo Youth/Adult Self Defense, Bully and Abduction Awareness/Defense, and Small Child PreSkills. Little Dragons Small Child PreSkills karate class, 6 to 6:30 pm, ages 3, 4, 5, 6 (7) year-olds. Beginner/intermediate class, 7/8 years and above, 6:35 pm to 8 pm. Intermediate/advanced class, all ages, 8 to 8:45 pm. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). More info: call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0569.

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 Bruneau: 459-3390.

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

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church

290 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first
and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Info: 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

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

Church of Christ

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

Mass times:

Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - English

10:30 a.m. - Spanish

Confessions on Saturday

4:45 - 5:15 p.m.

Or by appointment at

707-459-2252

https://stanthonywillits.org/

saintanthonywillits@gmail.com

We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177

Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
Call for information,
ALL ARE WELCOME

The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

St. John Lutheran Church

Church Service:
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714
Friendly, open worship
Saturdays
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available,
Wednesday

Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
399 W. Mendocino Ave.
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Church

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

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: Willits Community Theatre's poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues 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.: 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.

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, Saturday, April 18 at 7:30 pm. See Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

Saturday, April 20

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.

Wednesday, April 24

"History Makers!" Program at the Museum: Create, explore, and listen to stories every Wednesday from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. during History Makers! at the Mendocino County Museum. April 24: Wildflower Watercolor Painting. Wednesdays in May: Botany Inspired Collage. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission; free admission on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. Info: www.mendocinoco.gov/museum, museum@mendocinoco.gov or 707-234-6365.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Benefit for Firefighters,



What's Happening Around Town

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.

Girl Scouts Meet Up, Troll Style: Come to the Scout Hut in the Red Grove Park on Sunday, April 21 from 1 to 2:30 pm to learn about the local Girl Scouts troop. Girls will participate in our Trots It Takes Two Challenge and earn a patch while learning about the Girl Scouts Law. Families will receive a Girl Scout experience and learn why Girl Scouts is empowering for their girls." RSVP at: http://tinyurl.com/WillitsGirlScouts. Questions? Contact your community manager Deanna Lockhart at DLockhart@gsnorcal.org.

Library Spring Book Sale: 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.

Spring Saturday Crafts at the Library: Join us at the Willits Library Saturdays 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. Held inside at the Willits Branch Library meeting room, 390 East Commercial Street, (707) 459-5908.

Spring Vendors Fair: Mendo Crafts presents the April Vendors Fair on Saturday, April 20 from 11 am to 5 pm, outside at Imagination Station, 280 East Commercial Street.

A Benefit to Save Our Daily Bread at St. Francis: 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 Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Sunday, April 21 matinee, at 2 pm. See Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

'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 Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

'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 Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

Wednesday, April 24

"History Makers!" Program at the Museum: Create, explore, and listen to stories every Wednesday from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. during History Makers! at the Mendocino County Museum. April 24: Wildflower Watercolor Painting. Wednesdays in May: Botany Inspired Collage. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission; free admission on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. Info: www.mendocinoco.gov/museum, museum@mendocinoco.gov or 707-234-6365.

Sherwood Firewise Communities annual meeting, May 4, 2024

Submitted by SFC

Sherwood Firewise Communities annual meeting, "celebrating six years of neighbors working together to create a safer community," is set for Saturday, May 4 - National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day - at the Brooktrails Community Center, from noon to 5 pm.

From noon to 1 pm, Eat & Greet with Taqueria Ramirez Taco Truck, and exhibits of Roadside Fuel Reduction & Home Fire Hardening projects. From 1:30 to 3 pm: Agency Panel Discussion, with representatives from federal, state and county agencies discussing Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan update and Evacuation Preparedness. From 3:30 to 5 pm: Local Fire Safe Councils / Firewise Communities Roundtable Discussion. Forming and maintaining a FIREWISE USA recognized community. More info at www.sherwoodfirewise.org or info@sherwoodfirewise.org.

Dan Essman Columnist

His world is cruel, but deep inside Kid there are memories of a kind loving mother and a life in the forest where he was raised on hero tales of the Monkey God Hanuman, a Hindu deity who confronts terrible enemies and fights alongside Rama for justice. Kid's mother was murdered. His old life was burned all to ashes and heartbreak, but Kid has a plan.

My Thoughts: We live in an age when revenge and the getting thereof is a trusted moneymaker as a plot line. The bad guys have to get what's coming to them as if they (the Baddies) have put a poop ton of effort into being evil and are being justly rewarded for their evil efforts, and usually at the hands of the decent folk who have worked just as hard being the good guys.

"Revenge ain't revenge if it's an accident," which is an old saying that I just made up. This flick "Monkey Man" and the Kid live up to that snarky adage. The smug, thoroughly evil jerks got their collective butts well-kicked, and I left the Noyo feeling my bloodlust well-satisfied. Of course: revenge ain't resurrection. Kid's mother is still dead.

Parents: Absolutely not for children

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

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Monkey Man'

The Story: Vengeance/ action/ mixed martial arts drama written and directed by and starring Dev Patel. It's Dev's movie. He's known as "Kid," but is otherwise nameless. He wears a monkey mask. He fights in a boxing ring. He gets the bloody crap beaten out of him every night by more accomplished/ more brutal fighters. That's how he survives.

Dan Essman Columnist

His world is cruel, but deep inside Kid there are memories of a kind loving mother and a life in the forest

where he was raised on hero tales of the Monkey God Hanuman, a Hindu deity who confronts terrible enemies and fights alongside Rama for justice. Kid's mother was murdered. His old life was burned all to ashes and heartbreak, but Kid has a plan.

My Thoughts: We live in an age when revenge and the getting thereof is a trusted moneymaker as a plot line. The bad guys have to get what's coming to them as if they (the Baddies) have put a poop ton of effort into being evil and are being justly rewarded for their evil efforts, and usually at the hands of the decent folk who have worked just as hard being the good guys.

"Revenge ain't revenge if it's an accident," which is an old saying that I just made up. This flick "Monkey Man" and the Kid live up to that snarky adage. The smug, thoroughly evil jerks got their collective butts well-kicked, and I left the Noyo feeling my bloodlust well-satisfied. Of course: revenge ain't resurrection. Kid's mother is still dead.

Parents: Absolutely not for children

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

THE FALL GUY

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 & 7:15pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 7:00pm

ABIGAIL

(R) 1 hr 49 mins
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

Masks Optional

Tightwad Tuesday Title for April 23 is RED. All tickets at just \$6!

Thursday, April 25

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Thursday, April 25 at 7:30 pm. See Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

Friday, April 26

Book Lovers Discussion Group: Meeting monthly at the Willits Library to discuss books, authors and genres. Come talk about why you love books! All adults welcome. Friday, April 26, from 1 to 2 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Sober Grad Pick-Up Tri-Tip Dinner: Sober Grad's biggest fundraiser is set for Friday, April 26, from 4 to 7 pm. Pick up is 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. Tickets are available at 101 Trailer & RV Supply and Monkey Wrench Men.

Karen Thiel, WHS (707) 459-5908 ext 1904

Carrie Lambert, WSG (707) 677-6173

Check back for updates!

Pre-Sale Only

DON'T LET RIVERS FOOL YOU

Cold water and swift currents can overpower any swimmer

Trees, rocks, and undercut banks trap people under the surface

WEAR A LIFE JACKET

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS 2024 SWEETHEART?



GO TO OUR WEBSITE
WWW.WILLITSFRONTIERSDAYS.COM
OR EMAIL US
WILLITSFRONTIERSDAYS@YAHOO.COM

PASSING OF THE CROWN
Perpetual Chaps



Easy-going Shilo

Shilo is often found up high on top of the cat condos napping. She is an independent lady but enjoys attention when it comes her way.



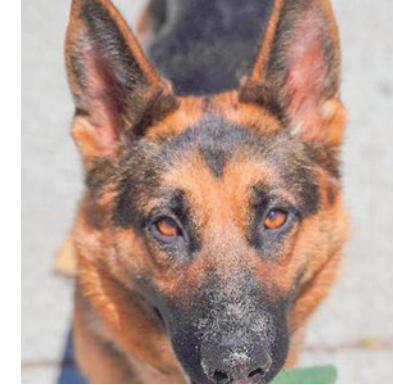
Lady Jane will be able to blossom in a calm, patient and kid-free household. She would do best in a setting with plenty of room to run around and perhaps a mentor dog. She is very intelligent – she can open doors – and needs training and further socialization. She will be a perfect companion for someone who can be home a lot of the time, and give her the nurturing she needs. Come meet her and fall in love today ... she needs a special home devoted to helping her get settled in the world!

To learn more about Lady Jane, 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.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Bashful Lady Jane

This beautiful girl is so deserving of a loving home. Lady Jane is sweet and friendly but very nervous and insecure out in the world. She came in with her mom, Ingrid, but her mom was adopted and now it's her turn! She can spook easily, although she walks well on leash once she is comfortable with it.



Shilo spends plenty of time out on the catio and would do well as an indoor/outdoor cat.

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

Polite George

George ended up at the shelter through no fault of his own. He was a beloved member of the family until his owner passed. George is mellow indoors and he is house-trained. He walks nicely on leash and enjoys going for walks. This sweet dog knows "sit" and "shake." Mr. G needs to shed some pounds, and he's looking for an exercise partner to help him lose some weight!



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 prefill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-467-6453 for more information.

CELEBRATING EARTH AND ART

JOIN THE CITY OF WILLITS FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL

WILLITS



OBITUARY |

Neva Williams Hatfield

Neva Williams Hatfield peacefully departed from this world at her cherished home in Willits, California, on February 27, 2024. She was born in Oak Grove, Louisiana on October 22, 1938, to Warren and Georgia Williams. In 1951, the family relocated to California, where Neva would carve out a life filled with love, resilience, and devotion.

Neva dedicated herself to various roles throughout her life, serving as a cashier at Star Super Market and later as a secretary with family and friends. Renowned for her skillful sewing, Neva generously crafted countless treasures for loved ones, weaving her love and care into every stitch.

A cherished daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend, Neva's indomitable spirit touched the hearts of many. Her strength and compassion will forever resonate with those fortunate enough to have known her.

Left to cherish her memory are her beloved husband, Ned (Sonny) Hatfield; devoted son, Kenny (Tabitha) Knight; stepson, Steve (Janice) Hatfield; stepdaughters, Angie Hatfield and Karla (Jim) VanLagen; grandchildren, Matia (Dave) Gerstenkorn and Mandy (HB) Albright; step-grandchildren, Brian, Joshua, Christopher, Justin, Steven, and Ashley; great-grandchildren, Mayson and Silas Albright; and sister, Peggy Bloomquist; along with numerous nieces and nephews. Neva was preceded in death by her parents and older sister, Mary Durupt.

A graveside service honoring Neva's life will be held at Willits Cemetery on April 27, 2024, commencing at 11:30 am. In Neva's memory, contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

Hospice of Ukiah Community Supported Hospice & Palliative Care

Your donations help more than you know...

For over 40 years, we have provided professional end of life and comfort care to our community, all free of charge and unrestricted. We can do this because of your generosity.

We would like to keep going for another 40 years. With your support we will.

hospiceofukiah.com 620 S. Dora St., Suite 101, Ukiah, CA 95482

Earthlab ENERGY SYSTEMS

Wood & Gas Stoves • Fireplaces • Pellet Stoves

Call for showroom hours.
1037 S. Main St. • Willits, CA
707-459-6272

BUD GARMAN CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC.

707-459-5859
Environmental Restoration - Ponds
Septic & Water Systems - Site Development
Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery

24900 N. HWY 101 IN WILLITS GARMAN@GMAIL.COM

HARRAH SENIOR CENTER SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Senior Center THRIFT STORE
Open Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
& Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
We have See's Easter candy on sale now.

Lots of clothing and furniture available.
459-6826
1501 BAECHTEL ROAD • WILLITS

OBITUARY |

Fred Page

A talented concrete and brick mason, Darrold Frederick Page, age 86 of Willits, California passed peacefully at his home on April 3, 2024.

Fred was born in Willits at the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital on May 26, 1936 to Darrold and Mary Page, the last of three children.

Fred graduated Willits High School and continued his education in the U.S. Navy learning construction and masonry work in their trade school. He returned to Willits and built installed an abundance of patios, walkways and fireplaces that are still being used to this day. There was no job too big or small.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents Darrold and Mary (Parham) Page, sister Patricia (Page) Campbell, and son Patrick Page.

Survived by his sister Laura June (Page) Banda; his son, Shawn Page (Wendy); grandchildren, Jeffrey Page (Samantha), Mary Page, Kian Page (Rosalie) and Dezra Page (Garry Littleton); great-grandchildren Merrick

Page, Devin Page, Rory Page, Lily Page, Abree Barnard, Emma Neal, Arora Page, Parker Page, Oliver Page, Tobias Page, and Sylvia Page; and nieces Pamela Campbell and Becky (Campbell) Stender.

Fred was a Navy veteran serving in Guam, a member of the Oddfellows, a concrete/brick mason, a past-volunteer fireman in Willits, a Willits Redwood Little League coach and umpire, a mentor, and a member of the Grange.

Fred was nothing less than a loving Dad, Papa, Papa Fred, and great friend to Ray, whom he faithfully had coffee with, and Percy whom he went to have lunch with at the Senior Center every day.

WRLL will not be the same without Fred sitting "in his spot" on the bleachers watching the Little League games.

We cannot sum up the life of Fred Page with words, as there are no true words to accurately describe how kind, generous, caring and loving he truly was.

A Celebration of Life was attended by family and many friends on April 9. Interment is to be held at a later date.



Upcoming Kids' Camps

Registration open for WCT's 'Gateway to the Stage'

Registration for Willits Community Theatre's 2024 "Gateway to the Stage" Summer Camp begins May 1. Under the direction of Billy Hetherington, this summer's 7 week camp begins June 24. 30 campers will rehearse and perform "The Addams Family: A New Musical Comedy." To register, 707-216-1826 or wctperformingartscenter.org

Free Kids Art Camp at WCA, June 24-28

Willits Center for the Arts is offering a free Kids Art Camp this summer, June 24-28, for 7 to 12 year olds, with Caroline Hambright, <https://carolinehambright.com>, and other local artists. Limited space is available by lottery application.

Activities include: painting - printmaking - mixed media - street art - Pomo basket weaving with Buffie Schmidt - games - City Hall visit - nature journaling with Laura Corben - park play time. Twelve spaces available, chosen by lottery. Applications are open now; apply by May 15; notifications by June 3. Apply online at www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Camp Living Waters, July 21-26, open for registration

Submitted by Camp Living Waters Steering Committee

Camp Living Waters 2024 is set for Sunday, July 21 through Friday, July 26 at Cookson Ranch in Redwood Valley. Camp is open to youth ages 9 to 15, and youth ages 16 to 17 serve as counselors.

Join us this year for a week of Real Super Heroes, full of madcap cape adventures, identifying our God-given super powers and discovering the real superheroes all around us. Registration is open at CampLivingWatersHumboldt.org

Camp Living Waters is a week-long Episcopal summer camp open to all. It is a warm, welcoming and joyful community that encourages diversity. It is a non-profit camp based at St. Alban's parish in Arcata and draws its staff members from the faith communities of the North Coast who lead, supervise and encourage campers and counselors.

The week is based around a daily schedule including crafts, outdoor activities, swimming, Bible discussion, worship, and nightly campfire, with additional special activities throughout the week such as stargazing and archery.

Campers aged 9 to 15 make new friendships and explore their faith and ask questions; counselors get to do that and learn leadership skills in a supportive atmosphere. The week is spent living and building a Christian community based on the values of love, service and fun.

Andrew Curtis, who attended Camp Living Waters for six years, described it as follows: "Two words: God's love. This is the entire purpose of the camp. We find it in a multitude of ways: the cool waters of the creek, the fun activities, the delicious food, the support of the staff and counselors. This is the one time in the summer that I look forward to most."

Camp Living Waters is made possible through donations from throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, Episcopal Community Services, Christ Church Eureka, St. Francis Fortuna, Episcopal Foundation of Northern California, and others.

Tuition for the camp is \$200 and includes five nights lodging, meals, and activities. For information or to register go to www.camplivingwatershumboldt.org or call St. Alban's Episcopal Church at (707) 822-4102. Contact St. Alban's if you are interested in a campership (scholarship). We encourage those who would love to send their child to camp but cannot afford it, to apply for a campership. No child should be denied attending summer camp due to lack of funds.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Benefit for Firefighters, April 27

With fire season coming up, it's a great time to support the volunteers of the Little Lake Firefighters Association at their Texas Hold 'Em Poker and Tri-Tip Dinner Benefit Tournament, set for Saturday, April 27 at Sparetime Distribution, 300 East Commercial Street. Buy in is \$100. RE Buys until after dinner. Signups 4 pm; game play starts at 5 pm; tri-tip dinner at 7 pm.

Proceeds to be used to purchase items for the volunteer firefighters in Willits, such as web gear and training props (propane props and fire extinguisher education) for our community. Tickets at the door, or stop by Willits Fire Station 54, 74 East Commercial Street, to get advance tickets – advance tickets are always helpful for planning dinner events.

The rest of
Workshop From page 1

to hear a presentation on the project and offer input. The presentation will cover Local Road Safety/Action Plan goals, preliminary collision analysis findings, high injury networks, and the project's online outreach platform.

Your input is essential for the success of the updated Local Road Safety/Action Plans. Public input is due by May 3.

This project is funded with state grant funds provided by Caltrans. Contact MCOG project manager Loretta Ellard at lellard@dbcteam.net or 707-234-3434 with any questions.

Taller Público Virtual:
Actualizaciones de los Planes de Acción y Seguridad Vial Local para el Condado de Mendocino y sus Ciudades

El Consejo de Gobiernos de Mendocino (MCOG) ha contratado a un consultor para actualizar los Planes de Acción y Seguridad Vial Local para el Condado de Mendocino, y las ciudades de Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah y Willits.

Estos planes de seguridad actualizados permitirán a las jurisdicciones locales mejorar la seguridad para todos los modos de transporte y para personas de todas las edades y habilidades, y ayudarán en la obtención de fondos estatales y federales para implementar proyectos prioritarios de seguridad.

MCOG invita al público a un taller público virtual el jueves, 25 de abril de 2024 (6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.) para escuchar una presentación sobre el proyecto y ofrecer sus aportes. La presentación cubrirá los objetivos del Plan de Acción y Seguridad Vial Local, hallazgos preliminares del análisis de colisiones, redes de alta siniestralidad y la plataforma de divulgación en línea del proyecto.

Para acceso a la reunión de Zoom e información adicional, visite el sitio web del proyecto en <https://www.mendoroadsafetyplan.com/>. Este proyecto está financiado con fondos de subvención estatales proporcionados por Caltrans. Contacte a la gerente del proyecto de MCOG, Loretta Ellard, en lellard@dbcteam.net o al 707-234-3434 con cualquier pregunta.

The rest of
Cubbison From page 1

Tuesday, April 9 to formally recuse herself because of her personal and professional ties to a special prosecutor Eyster hired in March to try the Cubbison case.

In a formal filing on Tuesday, Shanahan cited a state code for removing herself as the trial judge. A court spokeswoman declined to offer any specifics on Thursday.

Cubbison's attorney, Chris Andrian, who knows all the parties involved, said the latest delay is disappointing, but "Judge Shanahan did the right thing."

"The judge and the DA's choice for special prosecutor know each other and have worked together in Sonoma County," said Andrian. "Judge Shanahan acted in an abundance of caution. I do not quarrel with her decision."

Judge Ann Moorman will now oversee the Cubbison case, which has been moving slowly in the legal system for six months.

The DA's decision to engage Santa Rosa attorney Traci Carrillo as a special prosecutor is blamed for another delay in the Cubbison case, and it has raised concerns about the financial burden being placed on Mendocino County taxpayors. If the case proceeds to trial as anticipated, the bill could reach tens of thousands of dollars, with Carrillo charging \$400 per hour. A \$10,000 retainer has already been authorized.

Eyster says his department is short-staffed, and the county's former Assistant District Attorney Dale Trigg left on March 1 for a prosecutor post in Sonoma County.

Eyster did not respond to a written request for comment on his decision to abandon his plans to prosecute Cubbison personally and to hire a special prosecutor in a case that has rocked Mendocino County politics and embroiled Eyster in the most serious political crisis of his 13-year tenure.

Eyster's decision to turn to an outside prosecutor in the Cubbison case sharply contrasts with his stance three months ago, when he publicly resisted defense moves to recuse him from the politically charged case. After being challenged for waging a political vendetta against Cubbison because of her questioning of DA office expenses, Eyster received the support of the state Attorney General's Office and eventually Superior Court Judge Keith Faulder, who ruled on January 12 that there was "insufficient evidence" to remove the DA.

However, the case took another twist when Judge Faulder, a month later, was recused from the Cubbison case on a preemptory challenge afforded to the auditor's co-defendant, former county Payroll Manager Paula June Kennedy. Public Defender Mary LeClair, who represents Kennedy, did not have to offer a reason under court rules.

Cubbison and Kennedy, veteran county employees, each face a felony charge of misappropriating public funds, stemming from an estimated \$68,000 in extra pay to Kennedy over three years during the COVID pandemic. Cubbison said former Auditor Lloyd Weer authorized the extra pay before she was elected auditor. Weer and Kennedy claim it was Cubbison who told them to use an obscure payroll code to make the unauthorized extra salary payments, according to Eyster.

As the case bogged down in early legal challenges, Shanahan stepped in as trial judge after Faulder was recused.

But then, another challenge.

DA Eyster's decision to hire attorney Carrillo forced Judge Shanahan to declare her possible conflict because of past personal and professional ties with Carrillo. The two attorneys worked together in the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office, and are friends.

Shanahan, a native of Willits, was a deputy district attorney in Sonoma County from 2007 to 2014. Before that, she served five years as chief deputy district attorney in Mendocino County under the late District Attorney Norm Vroman.

The proposed change provides "an additional layer of security to the leadership roles in the Fire Department. As the department moves toward succession planning at the chief level, there may be circumstances where this additional role for the general manager would assist the department in accomplishing its mission in the unanticipated event of a significant change in employee status at the leadership level. This provides flexibility for managing the department staff in the event the chief is not available."

The board voted unanimous approval of the Second Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Tamara Alaniz Amending Section 2(b) Adding Chief Administrative Officer of the Fire Department."

Continuing at the April 9 meeting, General Manager Alaniz reported: "Brooktrails had received 70.8 inches of rainfall so far this season with more to come during the week. A request for proposals has gone out for engineering for a possible Brooktrails Water Reuse project, and we've already received a few inquiries. The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program has ended, as of March 31. Important to note: the district received a total of nearly \$110,000 of assistance since COVID to help our customers' utility bills."

Cubbison, in addition to denying any criminal wrongdoing, has filed a civil lawsuit against the Board of Supervisors, declaring she was suspended without a hearing and lost pay and benefits because of Eyster's criminal filing in mid-October. That lawsuit is pending.

Carrillo is well known in Sonoma County for her roles as a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and civil litigator.

The rest of
Brooktrails From page 1

particularly the fire chief's position.

Fire Chief Jon Noyer said, "It's my 40th fire season. I've been up and down. They were going to trade me in for a water tank one year, and the next year I got promoted. But, the way that the fire service is right now, the way that our community is built, it's not conducive to hiring new talent with experience. The last few hires that we've had were off the street, no experience whatsoever. It takes a lot of time to get to that level. To find yourself a chief for this district is not going to be an easy or simple task. You're going to have to reach far and wide."

"We don't offer a very conducive scheduling system for most people," Chief Noyer continued. "We work five days per week, eight hours per day. Currently, right now, I'm working a 14-day duty schedule, so I'm on for 14 days, day and night (mainly answering emergency medical calls). And my second in command, who is 23, is on the same schedule. We are the only two duty officers this district has. We have no other options."

"We need to start finding new options. Something needs to change, whether it's a different shift structure, or finding new talent. I do not feel that what we are doing right now is working. I do not know how much longer I'm going to be able to keep up at this pace. I'm of retirement age. We need to start looking at the future and how we're going to transition," Noyer said.

Board Vice-President Rick Williams asked: "How do we compare to other smaller districts in the county, like Hopland or Mendocino or the others? Are we big enough to compare to them to provide men and women an opportunity to make more money?"

Noyer's response was: "The majority are volunteer. Hopland has paid staff. Fort Bragg has day-time paid staff. Little Lake has day-time paid staff. We don't have a volunteer base. We have eight volunteers, but only three are active. We have three paid employees, and that's all that we have. We are a bedroom community. No one works in Brooktrails."

"Suffice it to say," Chief Noyer continued, "if we have a major incident, a fire, we have to depend on automatic aid from our neighboring fire departments, and they depend on us, because they're the same boat. Moving forward we need to look at our shift structure, possibly going to 12 hour shifts."

Discussion then centered around how the district could get new volunteers and/or how the district could afford to hire more paid staff. The board will move forward with the discussion regarding the scheduling of a possible volunteer meet and greet signup event at its April 13 budget planning meeting.

Follow-up on the February 27 meeting resulted in the agenda for the April 9 meeting including the item: "Consideration of Second Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Tam

At right: Mariana Mendoza, left, and Jazmarie Henson give it all they got to get ahead of the competition in the 100-meter dash. At right, below: Arlo Jensen fiercely passes up a competitor in the 100-meter dash. At right, further below: Nikolas Bloyd runs ahead of his competitor with intense determination. At bottom: Damian Reiter makes a smooth long jump.

Below: Leo Moratti shows his impressive skills in the long jump. At bottom: Ava Holmen tenaciously sprints in the 100-meter dash.

Photos by Ava Dockins



COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

Willits Wolverines home track meet

Willits Wolverines held their only home track meet of the season on Maize Field at WHS on April 11. Many teams traveled from Santa Rosa, Upper Lake, Anderson Valley and Laytonville to compete against our talented athletes. This year's track team consists of only seven young men and women, who are each gifted in their skills: Ava Holmen, Jazmarie Henson, Mariana Mendoza, Leo Moratti, Nikolas Bloyd, Arlo Jensen and Damian Reiter.

A powerful trio of Lady Wolverine runners set out to perform in their heats with fierce tenacity. There was no stopping these young women from representing WHS and placing. In the girls event of the 100-meter dash, Henson took second at 14.2 seconds. Mendoza placed third at 14.6 seconds; and Holmen sixth at 14.9 seconds. In the event of the 200-meter dash, Holmen placed second at 28.6 seconds, Henson third at 29.4 seconds, and Mendoza placed fifth at 30.6 seconds. In the event of the 100-meter hurdles, Henson took an impressive first place.

The boys also set a precedent of top-notch persistence with running and fixity of purpose with the high jump and long jump. Bloyd and Jensen ran with the spirit of a bulldog, and only continue to improve yearly. Reiter has a spectacular long jump and high jump.

Moratti placed first in the event of the 100-meter dash at 11.3 seconds. He placed second in the high jump at 5 feet 2 inches. Moratti also beat the last record of the longest jump at WHS by athlete Scott Lassey. Lassey held the record at 19 feet 8 inches in 2003 until Moratti made a magnificent leap of 21 feet 11 inches last year. Moratti was second overall in the North Coast Section. He qualified for the state meet, but injured his leg the week before. He scratched in all of his long-jump attempts at this last home meet, but he will be trying to beat his current record this Wednesday at the Viking Classic at Montgomery High School in Santa Rosa. Impressive skills Moratti! Best of luck to you. We hope to see you at the state meet this year!

Congratulations to our untamed and competitive Wolverines track athletes on your placements and achievements. You should be proud of yourselves! Your community is proud of you. We are hoping more students choose to participate in the program next year. It is a fantastic way to stay in shape for yourself, as well as for other sports. It is a great way to stay on track with your body, mind and spirit. Go Wolverines!!

Registration Opens - May 1 -

WILLITS CHARTER THEATRE
Gateway to the Stage
Summer Camp

Under the direction of
Billy Hetherington

**7-Week
Camp Begins
June 24**

to register:
707-216-1826

wctperformingartscenter.org

OUR SPONSORS

vocality
Community Credit Union

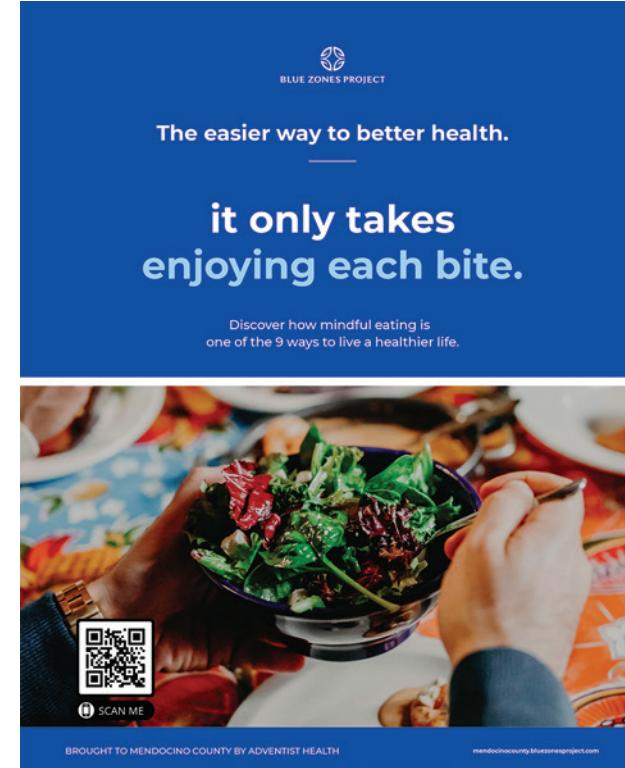
NC
NC Financial Group

Community Foundation of Mendocino County

KZKZ
UNDERWRITER

**Sparetime SUPPLY
DISTRIBUTION**

The Addams Family
A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY



At far left: The grand prize raffle item: a custom-made potting bench that will be given away to a lucky winner on Saturday, April 20 during the annual Vendor Day sale at Sparetime Supply, and the Grand Opening event for the new store: The Gardener's Pantry & Decor.

Photo by Laurin Hosford

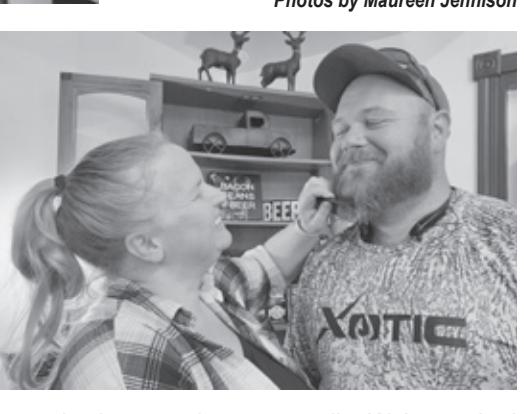
At left, top: The "Man Corner" of The Gardener's Pantry & Decor offers beard grooming supplies made by Cody Swan, among other things in the new shop. At left: The sunflower station was created by Laurin Hosford and offers lots of options to spruce up your home or garden.

Below, from left: Candles make great gifts, including this coconut-wax candle made by Hidden Gem, which is scented with apple, vanilla and spice, and includes a beautiful crystal to enjoy once freed from the wax.

The kids' section includes garden-focused options like small-sized gardening tools, books and more.

Brandi and Scott Enge confirm that handmade combs are indeed good at taming beards.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



The rest of
Pantry
From page 1

The Gardener's Pantry is sectioned into two areas: décor, which is all garden-inspired and includes everything from signs, to planters, to birdhouses, to pottery, to wall hangings; and the other area focuses on the processing side, including cutlery, mason jars, soaps, candles, storage, seasonings and more.

Brandi Enge's area focused on the kitchen and pantry selections, choosing "farmhouse-inspired things I felt could also really be utilized," whether as its intended purpose, or just as decorative storage, like crocks, canisters and baskets.

"I love making bread, so we have great supplies for that, and really lots of home-style goods that I feel like really give the feeling of comfort and easy-living to the décor," said Enge.

Laurin Hosford did a sunflower theme for her area: "My husband gave me sunflowers on our first date, and I just love them, they're so happy!" said Hosford. "So I took on sunflowers and bees – we have a local honey vendor, too: Roxy Bees honey from Ridgewood Ranch." Hosford said she loved the sunflower planters on display, and noted that all the items were useful in other ways besides just decoration – they were birdhouses, planters, watering cans, etc.

"We were excited to open this special curated space that offers things that are helpful to the community for their garden and home; could help create a wonderful space for them to enjoy; and also ways to use the bounty of their gardens, or add elements to a homesteading lifestyle. We're trying to offer products that aren't offered elsewhere locally, and things that customers would otherwise have to travel to purchase," said Hosford.

With such a big project, the shop was split into different sections to allow everyone to help, infuse their own brands of creativity, and for the overall task not to be so overwhelming.

Jamie Wilkes' corner was put together with a theme of "greens and blues,"

succulents and cactus." One of her favorite items are the mugs which have funny punny sayings like "Pretty fly for cacti."

seasonings and production, and can help get you supplies and information knowing it's good."

There's also a "man corner" with metal art, signs, bottle openers and lighters; a kids section with garden-themed toys and products like bug identification kits, mini wheelbarrows, and flower pot crafts; a mushroom zone with wind chimes, garden stakes, prints and more; and a kitchen supplies area where utensils, openers, measuring, trays, trivets and display items are available.

Growing an amazing garden, or raising your own livestock is all well and good, but sometimes, you're left with the feeling of "now what?" when your counters are overflowing with grown goodness.

Along with offering the supplies to turn the raw materials into their next stage, staffers of The Gardener's Pantry also hope to offer classes on processing, canning, preserving and other skills to increase the knowledge of what to do with all the delicious things coming from the garden – also possibly wreath making, painting, seed starting, and more.

The Gardener's Pantry is also looking for input from the community on what they travel elsewhere to purchase along these lines, that could be included inside the new store in the future.

"We will have an ever-changing selection of things," explained Jamie Wilkes. "Just because this is a succulent-themed area now doesn't mean that it will be next month, or that anything that was here will

be here again, necessarily. We're excited to offer an ever changing assortment to keep people coming in and seeing what's new and tailoring our offerings to what the customers want."

One-of-a-kind items are also being offered by many local artisans who are helping to fill the gift and décor side of the new shop with handmade items including: Jam from Emandal – A Farm on a River; Oil and Vinegar from Mi Distinctive Tastes; wooden cutting boards and beard combs by Cody Swan; Noya Beeswax Wraps; Earth and Fire Pottery; redwood carved bears by Sparetime Employee Mike Woodruff; melted glass decorative bottles by Gail Yde; soaps by Mermazing Scents; candles by Hidden Gem, Misty Made, and Bell Springs Candle Works; Mamas Medicinals products; shower bombs and candles by Mandy Johnston; Ewe So Dirty products; towels and painted cattle skulls from Kenzie Barlow; and all the plants are from Blue Sky Nursery.

The store will be having its grand opening on Saturday, April 20, also Sparetime Supply's annual Vendor Day, and they will be holding raffles – including one for the potting bench - doing giveaways and much more.

The team is also looking to add staff, specifically to run the Gardener's Pantry & Décor store; if you're interested in applying, contact them directly at 707-459-6791.

Come by and see The Gardener's Pantry & Décor store during regular Sparetime hours, Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 6 pm and Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm.

The rest of
AU20
From page 5

at the high school for a long time and struggling to find a venue to showcase student art, the Willits Center for the Arts opened in 2000, and Art Under 20 was one of its first shows," said Bakewell.

"I helped with Art Under 20's second year when I was student teaching," Bakewell explained, "and have been onboard ever since. When I formally took over the WHS art studio, I invited all the teenage artists in the community from our local schools, including Laytonville and Potter Valley High. Home-schoolers, independent-study students, and Mendocino College students have also shown their work at Art Under 20 at various times." This year, participating schools were the Willits High School, the Willits Charter School, and Potter Valley High School.

Bakewell also emphasized her pride in all of the students represented. "They surprise and delight me all the time," she said. "It's a beautiful thing to witness their creativity, imagination and ideas come to life, while they become more confident. With each assignment, the students gain more knowledge, skills, techniques and abilities to add to their art 'toolbox.' I think the most important thing is to create a safe place where students feel comfortable and respected, and are encouraged to express themselves. Once they have the tools, every person is an artist."

Bakewell added that she was especially impressed by the crew who worked together to hang this year's show: Audrey Sherf, Kaylee Campbell, Monica Chavez-Mendoza and Sophie Andersen. "They just went to it and did a fabulous job, giving up a day to hang the show on their spring break! Hanging a show is a great learning experience in itself."

Bakewell said she has had dozens of students go on to a career in the arts. "Some have traveled overseas to study, and many have become professional artists, art teachers, and graphic designers," concluding, "Art is life and life is art. We are blessed to have thriving visual arts programs in our Willits schools!"

one of the high points of the Art Under 20 exhibit for her.

"Creating art is a way to tap into our feelings and our culture," Jensen said. "Watching students start unsure of their skills and begin to light up with confidence and inspiration is my favorite part of teaching. Having their art shown in a professional setting is part of the process."

Bakewell expressed her enjoyment of the gallery opening experience as well. "I loved meeting the proud families – mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles and friends – and hearing their conversations," she said. "It's important to appreciate the time, effort, and dedication the artists invest in making their art. It's great to see the community show up and acknowledge their effort."

Bakewell also emphasized her pride in all of the students represented. "They surprise and delight me all the time," she said. "It's a beautiful thing to witness their creativity, imagination and ideas come to life, while they become more confident. With each assignment, the students gain more knowledge, skills, techniques and abilities to add to their art 'toolbox.' I think the most important thing is to create a safe place where students feel comfortable and respected, and are encouraged to express themselves. Once they have the tools, every person is an artist."

Bakewell added that she was especially impressed by the crew who worked together to hang this year's show: Audrey Sherf, Kaylee Campbell, Monica Chavez-Mendoza and Sophie Andersen. "They just went to it and did a fabulous job, giving up a day to hang the show on their spring break! Hanging a show is a great learning experience in itself."

Bakewell said she has had dozens of students go on to a career in the arts. "Some have traveled overseas to study, and many have become professional artists, art teachers, and graphic designers," concluding, "Art is life and life is art. We are blessed to have thriving visual arts programs in our Willits schools!"



Above: Willits High art teacher Carolyn Bakewell, left, smiles with WCA Curator Gary Martin. Below: Rossi Jensen proudly shows her Potter Valley students' work.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde





WHS Golf Team tied for first place in their Coastal Conference league

Submitted by WHS Golf

The Willits High School Golf Team is in first place now first place in their Division 2 North Coast Sections Coastal Conference league this season, after a win at the March 27 tourney in Ukiah and a win in Willits on April 9.

The WHS golf team is set for another competition on Wednesday, April 17 at the Windsor Golf Course.

Coach Jeff Yokum has been head golf coach for three years now and assistant coach before that for three years. Assistant coach is Nolan Jergensen, who has been coaching for three years now. "We are proud to coach and try and make golf fun for the kids," Coach Yokum said.

"Golf is unique, in that it can be played for your entire life," Yokum continued. "Nolan is really good with the kids, and they really respect him and his coaching efforts."

Yokum said he played on the golf team all four years of high school, with the team winning the North Coast pendant in 1992.

At top, left: WHS golfers during practice at the Brooktrails Golf Course: Ely Bowles, Cole Lane, Zahyr Lopez, Tanner Dudley, Ethan Winter, and Maci Yokum. At top, right: After the win at Ukiah, everyone on the golf team is happy and celebrating. At left: WHS golfer Ethan Winter during the Ukiah tournament in March. At left: WHS golfer Zahyr Lopez got the low score out of all the schools at both tourneys Willits has played so far this year. At right: The 2024 Willits High School Golf Team. Back row, left to right: Assistant Coach Nolan Jergensen, Ely Bowles, Brody Bowen, Luka Ritchley, Brian Bowles, Maci Yokum, Ethan Winter, Zahyr Lopez, and Coach Jeff Yokum. Front row, left to right: Nikolai Ritchley, Ryzyn Lowham, Tanner Dudley, and Cole Lane.

"I always thought it would be so cool if I could give back and help with the team when my children were in high school," Yokum said. Senior Maci Yokum has been on the golf team for four years, like her classmates Luka Ritchley and Ethan Winter.

"All the kids on the golf team are great kids. We don't have any problems and have a lot of fun," Yokum said.

Yokum noted that WHS golfer Zahyr Lopez got the low score out of all the schools at all three tourneys Willits has played so far this year – surely he will make the statewide qualifier even this year. "Only his second year playing, and he is doing really well," Yokum said.

Willits High School has had a golf team for over 35 years. "We really want to bring home that pendant this year, and the kids are working really hard to improve their game. I am proud of them all."



MORE
JOYFUL MOMENTS

You're made for living a happy, fulfilling life.

That's why we have top experts for all your healthcare needs, no matter your age or stage of life. We're proud to offer you more choices, expanded access and higher quality care in Mendocino County, as demonstrated by our Planetree Gold Certification for excellence in patient-centered care. We're not just here to put more years in your life, we're here to put more life in your years.

Services provided by Adventist Health Howard Memorial:

- Addiction Medicine
- General Surgery
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Primary Care

Learn more at AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org


Adventist Health
Howard Memorial