

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Sober Grad at a crossroads

To the Editor:
Dear Willits community: Willits Sober Grad is at a crossroads. In June, two of our longtime board members will be leaving us, and we are reaching out to the community to help us decide the fate of our organization.

Willits Sober Grad is an all-volunteer 501c3 whose mission is to provide a safe and sober party for seniors to attend after graduation. The first sober grad party in Willits was for the Class of 1986, and over the past 37 years, it has become a valued tradition in our community.

Willits Sober Grad exists because people like you believe in what we do, and show your support year after year through your donations, supporting our fundraisers or volunteering at the party. It is a community effort, and we all do what we do because we believe it saves lives.

For Willits Sober Grad to continue to operate as a non-profit, we need to recruit two board officers as well as additional members at large who are passionate about our mission.

If you would like to help Willits Sober Grad continue to serve the youth in our community, you are invited to a planning meeting on **Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 6 pm at the WHS Media Center** to discuss the open positions and the options for going forward.

Willits Sober Grad Board of Directors

Thank you

To the Editor:
Sherwood Firewise Communities' 5th Anniversary meeting was a great success! We would like to thank General Manager Tamara Alaniz (BTCSD), Chief Jon Noyer (BFD), Supervisor John Haschak, Emily Teccio (MCFSC), Thomas Clegg (Labyrinth Home Fire Hardening, Cal Fire representatives, SFC volunteers, and all the attendees for your continued support!

We would also like to thank Adventist Health Roots Restaurant, Happy Donuts, Craft House Baking, and SFC members for the delicious food provided.

Working together to make our communities safer has been SFC's mission, and the accomplishments over the last five years are due to support from the Community Foundation, Cal Fire, Mendocino County and the many local businesses that offer donations for our fundraisers.

We look forward to growing the organization, especially with bringing in some younger families, so that we can continue making the community safer!

If you are new to Brooktrails and the surrounding Sherwood Corridor communities, please visit our website to see all the services available. And don't forget the Sherwood Firewise 4th of July Raffle coming up! Raffle tickets can be purchased online at www.sherwoodfirewise.org. We appreciate your support.

Tracey Douglas, Sherwood Firewise Communities

Let's make Willits a Garden City

To the Editor:
Almost 20 years ago people from all sides in Willits came together around an effort to make this area resilient in the face of the challenges we are facing in the 21st century. The unanimity that was achieved didn't last long, but the community went on to do a lot towards that goal, from adopting solar energy on a small scale to creating a community kitchen at the Grange to baking "buy local" thinking into our consciousness. Some of us have been meeting lately in the "Building Community" initiative to revive that spirit. And one little group that I am part of has focused on food security. Without food security we don't have much in the face of really big challenges, like the breakdown of the so-called supply chains during COVID. The trucks may keep running, bringing us our goodies, but the goodies, and the food, become more expensive with each new crisis. Whether it's drought or flooding, the Central Valley, where an enormous proportion of our food comes from, is going to be producing less each year. And we produce very little of what we eat.

We can remedy that, and thrive as a community as we do it, but it will take commitment and leadership. For starters we would urge Willits City Council and city government to make food security a top priority in planning and policy making.

What would that mean? We could adopt a "Garden Friendly" city resolution as Fort Bragg and Point Arena have done, tasking a city official with encouraging gardens throughout the city, promoting food security, and celebrating our local foods. The city could promote the development of

Read the rest of **Letters** | *Over on page 13*

Be careful on the water this year

Posted by **Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall**

The weather is warming up, and Lake Mendocino full to the brim! I am certain we will have a great year for recreation in Mendocino County. We are very fortunate to live in this beautiful place.

This year let's all do our best to be extremely careful while out on the lake or fishing our streams and rivers.

Hikers, please remain vigilant while crossing streams. We have a lot of snow that will be melting over the next few months, and that is a blessing in itself.

That same snow melt can cause our creeks and rivers to be much colder and run faster than years past. Please be careful.

Water recreation will be on everyone's mind as the temperatures move into the 90s and beyond.

Let's do our best to have no accidents and remain aware while in or around water. Remember boating and alcohol don't mix. Keep an eye on the children close to water, and please make sure life preservers are in good order.

Zero accidents and zero drownings should be a goal for all of us this year.

As always thank you for supporting the men and women at the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

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. Price is \$7.

Thursday, May 18: Chicken Tacos w/ Rice & Beans
Friday, May 19: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Green Salad, Garlic Bread

Monday, May 22: Linguica, Peppers and Onions over Rice, Roll

Tuesday, May 23: Cheeseburger Sliders, Chips

Wednesday, May 24: Beef & Broccoli, Rice

Thursday, May 25: Pastrami on Rye, Macaroni Salad

Friday, May 26: Turkey Dinner, Dressing w/Gravy, Cranberry, Veggie

Monday, May 29: Center closed for Memorial Day

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

Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am.

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

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

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.

Annual mussel quarantine in effect

Submitted by **Mendocino County Public Health**

California Department of Public Health has issued a mussel quarantine order effective May 1 through October 31, 2023. The mussel quarantine is a yearly event prohibiting the public from harvesting mussels for human consumption due to potentially dangerous levels of biotoxins that may be present in shellfish anywhere on the California coast, including bays, inlets and harbors.

The annual mussel quarantine is in place to protect the public against paralytic shellfish poisoning, or PSP, and domoic acid poisoning, also known as amnesic shellfish poisoning.

The quarantine applies only to sport-harvested mussels. Other types of bivalve shellfish, including oysters and clams, and commercially harvested mussels from certified companies are not included in the quarantine.

CDPH may extend the quarantine, if monitoring results indicate the presence of dangerous levels of biotoxins outside of the normal quarantine period. The May through October quarantine period encompasses more than 99 percent of all PSP illnesses and deaths reported in California since 1927.

The mussel quarantine is in effect along the California coast, from the Oregon border to the Mexican border. All bays, inlets and harbors are included.

Notices will be posted in public areas along the coast advising the public of this quarantine.

PSP and domoic acid poisoning are immediately reportable to the local health authority (Title 17, California Code of Regulations, Sections 2500). Even suspected cases should be reported immediately by telephone to the local health department and to the nearest poison control center. Local health departments should interview patients regarding shellfish exposure and report these cases promptly to the Infectious Diseases Branch at 510-620-3434.

For more information, CDPH has developed a "Frequently Asked Questions" for the annual mussel quarantine that can be found online at the CDPH Marine Biotxin Monitoring Program website.



Above: Nuestra Alianza volunteers prepare elotes, which are corn on the cob with sour cream or mayonnaise and cheese or chili powder. This young lad is enjoying his elote and horchata. Nuestra Alianza Executive Director Dina Hutton is also one of the founders of the organization. Below, left: The Recreation Grove kiosk is the focal point of the afternoon with its food and drinks. Below, right: Fresh fruit helps to cool the attendees on the warm day.



Family Day

Nuestra Alianza hosts El Dia de la Familia event at Rec Grove with delicious food, raffles and games

This past Saturday afternoon, the organization Nuestra Alianza de Willits hosted a family day, called El Dia de la Familia, with an emphasis on mothers and their kids. As at most such joyous gatherings, food was a central focus for the attendees.

There were the traditional elotes (grilled corn on the cob with a variety of condiments: mayonnaise, sour cream, chili, garlic, chamoy, and more), watermelon (with spices), horchata (a rice-based sweet drink), papas fritas (French fries), and fresh juicy fruits.

Besides the food and drinks, the day offered a raffle, a police car for the kids to explore, a fire engine, music, decorations, free plants for mothers, and plenty of information, including a booth from the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County.

"All the moms are getting to take home one of the plants on the tables for Mother's Day," explained one of the founders of the organization, Executive Director Dina Hutton. "The Mexican Mother's Day was last Wednesday. It's always on the 10th of May, no matter which day of the week it falls on. [The celebration] is a combination of Dia del Niño and Mother's Day."

Some of the raffle prizes included an array of bicycles, which were donated or purchased through the generous gift of \$5,000 from one-time Willits Police Chief Alexis Blaylock. For an organization that lives on donations, that largess was very welcome.

"I would like to make Nuestra Alianza sustainable," said Hutton. "At the beginning of every fiscal year, we panic. Our business manager is working on several multi-year grants which he would like to have staggered."

Nuestra Alianza de Willits was founded to aid Latino families in navigating the Willits environment while retaining their culture and heritage. Many parents found they could not help their children with homework due to language barriers.

Nuestra Alianza helps children to learn Spanish, as well as engage in ethnocentric activities such as art and

dance. Each summer, they have a program called Plan Vacacional, wherein for a month, the children are taught in the language of their heritage and engage in several fun and educational projects.

Last year, the Plan Vacacional program included Dia de los Ninos dances, a Parents Day at Baechtel Grove Middle School, and a prom at the Little Lake Grange. This year's program begins on July 5 and runs to July 28. Hutton expects about 100 kids to enroll.

One of the services offered at Nuestra Alianza is COVID testing for anyone who asks and the service was offered at the park as well. There was also a good supply of take-home tests for those who preferred to do it on their own.

As some of the Nuestra Alianza volunteers also work with the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County, they were permitted to join the event with a booth where they could explain the workings of their organization, which essentially acts as an advocate for those patients (and their families) who have received a diagnosis of cancer. The group recently hired a new executive director, Anya Jindrich, who took over for Karen Oslund.

"We're here so people know that we exist and also to spread awareness about the different cancers like colorectal cancer, breast cancer," explained Keily Sanchez, patient navigator. "People need to be aware that they should vaccinate their kids for HPV when they turn 9 and they can get that vaccine up to age 26.

"We have two offices," said Sanchez, "one in Ukiah and one in Fort Bragg. We're trying to do more outreach outside Ukiah and Fort Bragg. Everyone in the county can receive free services. We're here to support people and their family members when they've been diagnosed with cancer.

"We also serve patients from Lake and Sonoma counties," Sanchez said. "Lake County just closed their Cancer Treatment Center, so the patients are coming to Mendocino County for treatment.

Read the rest of **Family** | *Over on page 11*



Above: The Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County was invited to have a booth in order to impart information. Below: This family takes a snack break.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Correction |

In the article titled "Candidates declare for 1st, 4th county seats" by Forrest Glycer, published in the May 11 edition of Willits Weekly, it was mistakenly reported that Carrie Shattuck, a candidate for First District supervisor in the 2024 election, had run for supervisor before.

In fact, it will be the first time running for county supervisor for Shattuck. Shattuck has filed her "Notice of Intent" with the county and has announced publicly that she will run for the position in 2024. Willits Weekly regrets the error.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633
Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047
Jackie Cobbs, features editor
Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer / mathew@willitsweekly.com
Forrest Glycer, reporter / features writer / forrest@willitsweekly.com
Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter / willitsweekly@gmail.com
Danya Davis, Police Log / danya@willitsweekly.com
Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter / margi@willitsweekly.com
April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com

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Public forum on East Commercial Street Corridor, May 18

Submitted by **the City of Willits**

The City of Willits is in the discovery phase of a two-part process for community outreach and program development along the East Commercial Street Corridor. This ¾ mile stretch of East Commercial Street has been a significant artery for civic, economic, and residential life in Willits for over 100 years.

Looking towards the future, the City of Willits seeks to create a plan for the East Commercial Street Corridor that recognizes the importance of parks, pedestrianism, public sites, and businesses, aiming to increase tourism, promote safety, and create a link with Main Street.

A public input session will be held on Thursday, May 18 between 6 and 8 pm at the Willits Community Center at 111 East Commercial Street.

Following a brief introduction, attendees will be able to browse multiple working stations that address existing conditions along the East Commercial Street Corridor and possible improvements to its amenities. This public input session will help the City of Willits to develop subsequent projects and developments along the corridor.

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

Level: Beginner

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

GREEN THUMB WORD SEARCH

G H I V W A N G E W R Z Z A A W T S V S D N S A L O U B
 N I R A L I V L R R V D Z S G M S O I L P O R I
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- | | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|
| AERATION | GREENERY | PESTS |
| COMPOST | GRUBS | PLANTS |
| CONTROL | HOSE | PRUNING |
| CRABGRASS | IRRIGATION | RAINING |
| DROUGHT | LEVELS | RESEEDING |
| ENRICHMENT | MOLD | SOIL |
| FERTILIZATION | MOLES | WEEDS |
| GRASS | MULCH | YARD |

1	2	3					4	5	6				
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					32				34	35	36	37	38
39	40				41				42				
43				44					45				
46				47					48				
49									50				
									51				52

CLUES ACROSS

- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Branch
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Slang for requests
- 'So Human An Animal' author
- Rocker Billy
- British Air Aces
- Type of tree
- 'Tough Little Boys' singer Gary
- State attorneys
- Goddess of fertility
- Localities
- Beloved singer Charles
- Clue
- Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface
- Helsinki neighborhood
- Farm resident
- Ocean
- Where ballplayers work
- Unable to hear

CLUES DOWN

- Unit of angle
- Headgear to control a horse
- Clots
- Follows sigma
- A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns
- Greek units of weight
- Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- Systems, doctrines, theories
- Stony waste matter
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Hostile to others
- U.S. State
- Not wet
- Something one thinks up
- Where beer is made
- Clumsy person
- Belonging to us
- Canadian flyers
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Snakelike fish
- Unhappy
- Fruit
- Not good
- Zero degrees Celsius
- Goo Goo Dolls' hit
- Crawls into the head (folklore)
- Legally responsible
- Move in a playful way
- Regarded with deep affection
- Partner to flowed
- Native American tribe
- Head honcho

POLICE LOG

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

April 17 to April 23

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **64 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

April 17

4:58 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Madrone Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:02 pm: WARREN, Brent Keith (42) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol), and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended license.

April 18

3:15 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Railroad Avenue.

11:08 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Commercial Street and South Main Street and issued a citation.

6:42 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

10:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

April 19

8:45 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

9:55 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

2:32 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

3:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

6:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of South Main Street.

7:22 pm: SIMMONS, James Keith (32) of Laytonville was contacted in the 500 block of Della Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 11364 HS (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia) and on felony charges of violation of parole.

10:16 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:31 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

April 20

11:09 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:22 pm: SMITH, Joshua Webb (30) of Laytonville was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 2800.2 VC (Reckless Evading), 12500 VC (Driving without a License), 20002 VC (Hit and Run), 148 PC (Resisting Arrest), and on felony charges of violation of probation.

April 21

8:20 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1600 block of Elm Lane.

April 22

9:47 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

2:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

7:38 pm: VERDUZCO Jr., Jose Manuel (43) of Willits was contacted in the 1600 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 242 PC (Battery) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

April 23

4:04 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:51 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of South Main Street.

1:16 pm: VASSAR, Rusti Rose (31) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street following a report of an unwanted subject. She was arrested pursuant to 11364 HS (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia) and on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

5:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.



Joshua Smith of Laytonville.



Calayan's Custom Creations and Keepsakes

Creative outlet for Willits woman creates beautiful braids and heartfelt treasures

Calayan Knight isn't just carefully brushing horses' tails and manes anymore – now, she also sees the amazing things she can create with the long, strong strands of their hair.

Maureen Jennison
 Graphics & Photographress
 maureen@willitsweekly.com

"I learned the techniques of multi-strand braiding from my friend Joan Whitney a few years ago," explained Knight. "But I really started getting serious about it in November when Nicol Persico Kunka gave me a chunk of horsehair and I was able to make her some earrings with it. Then she wanted more things made, and some friends of hers wanted some things made, and well, things just took off from there."

Knight braids the hair in a square braid, using eight sections of hair. The sections can be all the same color for a more subdued look, or alternating colors or multi-strand sections can create vibrant and interesting patterns in the finished earrings, bracelets, key chains and zipper pulls she creates.

"I actually learned to braid this way with baling twine from the hay bales," laughed Calayan.

While hair from any horse can become a nice piece, Knight has found this a special thing to do for people who have lost their horses, or for those with elder animals, too.

"It's wonderful to be able to snip what we need and make something for someone who still has their horse happily hanging out in the pasture, but being able to keep a part

Read the rest of **Horsehair** | Over on page 15



Above: Calayan Knight shows off her earrings, created with braided horsehair. Below: Light strands of hair shine almost like pearl in this bracelet and earrings set.



WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS

2023 Schedule of Events

More info and entry forms: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

Friday, June 23:
TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS
 Jack Sharp Arena | 6 pm
 Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10
STREET DANCE
 featuring Joe Peters
 Following truck pulls | Free
Saturday, June 24:
SWEETHEART JUDGING
 Appearance & Poise
 Noon | Rodeo Grounds
Sunday, June 25:
HORSESHOW
 Jack Sharp Arena | 8 am
SWEETHEART JUDGING
 Horsemanship:
 During Horse Show | Jack Sharp Arena
Wednesday, June 28:
CARNIVAL OPENS
Friday, June 30:
HOMETOWN CELEBRATION
 Main Street - Downtown Willits | 5 to 9 pm
Saturday, July 1:
SWEETHEART CROWNED

Sunday, July 2:
LIONS COWBOY BREAKFAST
 Rec Grove Park | 7 am
 Adult: \$13, Child: \$9
JUNIOR RODEO
 Jack Sharp Arena | 9 am
 Adult: \$10, Child (2 and under): free
Monday, July 3:
CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO
 7 pm | Jack Sharp Arena
 Box: \$25, Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10
WESTERN DANCE
 featuring The Boondock Boys
 Following rodeo | Free
Tuesday, July 4:
HORSESHOE CONTEST
 Rec Grove Park | 10 am
PARADE "Wranglers, Boots & Spurs"
 Main Street - Downtown Willits | 11 am
COUNTRY MUSIC RODEOLA
 Rec Grove Park | Noon
BEEF BARBECUE
 Rec Grove Park | Noon
 Adult: \$20 & Child/Senior: \$12
CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO
 Jack Sharp Arena | 4 pm
 Box: \$25, Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

'Art in Our Gardens' Ukiah Valley tour, May 20

Submitted by Mendocino County Art Association

Ukiah Valley once again celebrates art, culture and the artists who live here! The 2023 "Art in Our Gardens" tour is once again gracing Ukiah Valley next Saturday, May 20. Enjoy a delightful day of meeting artists and viewing their art in the peaceful surroundings of beautiful gardens as 22 artists display and speak about their art.

This once-a-year event is presented by the Mendocino County Art Association celebrating their 75th anniversary. It is free and runs from 10 am to 4 pm. More information, maps, and directions are available at the Corner Galley, 201 South State Street, Ukiah. You can also visit www.artsmendocino.org for more information or email katheen@mendocinoartssn.org.

In Ukiah the featured artists are Svetlana Artemoff, Katie Kight, Dorleen McBride, Mary Monroe, Laura Fogg, Katie Gibbs, Polly Palecek, Nancy Collins, Gina Greco, Georgine Hultz, Cindy Lindgren, Ann Magline and Diana Steele. In Ukiah the gardens hosting the many artists are Laura Fogg's, Dorleen McBride's and Cindy Lindgren's.

In Redwood Valley the featured artists are Wanda Bennett, Deborah Briggs, Jeanne Koelle, Marie Pera, Michael Riddell, Juanita-Joy Riddell, Susan Walker, Spencer Brewer and Esther Siegel. The gardens in Redwood Valley hosting the artists are Mike and Juanita Joy Riddell's and Esther Siegel and Spencer Brewer's.

See you there for a day of sunshine, gardens and eye candy!



The new permanent exhibit at Seabiscuit Stud Barn at Ridgewood Ranch opens Saturday, May 27 with a celebration including a ribbon cutting ceremony and a tour of the exhibition.

Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation opens permanent exhibition

Submitted by Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation

The Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation is delighted to announce the opening celebration of their permanent exhibition housed in the original 1930s era stud barn of the legendary racehorse. The barn itself is listed as a National Historic Site. The opening will be Saturday, May 27, from 11 am to 1 pm on the spectacular Ridgewood Ranch in Mendocino County.

The exhibit will feature archival photos, paintings, tack, and a theater with ongoing films. The event will also include a ribbon cutting ceremony, a presentation of the

Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation's mission, and a tour of the exhibition.

The Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of Seabiscuit and his impact on the sport of horse racing and the family that owned him.

Also on the ranch is a restored historic carriage house available for a weekend stay on the 5,000 acre ranch in one of the most picturesque settings in California.

The foundation is excited to share this momentous occasion with the public and looks forward to welcoming visitors to Ridgewood Ranch.



Above: Show participants include: from left, Bill Herr, Phaedra Swearngin, Ursula Schlichting, Linda Posner, Bill Barksdale, Emmy Good, Nancy Nelson and Pat Yoxall. Not pictured are participants Jane Camp, Brian Weller, Pearl Marill, Jeff Shipp, Finn Shipp and Peter Smith.

Popular monologue show "Speakeasy IX" comes to Willits Community Theatre May 20 and 21

By Mike A'Dair

The ninth annual monologue show, "Speakeasy IX," will come to the Willits Community Theatre this weekend. Shows are Saturday, May 20th at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday May 21st at 2 P.M.

The show is being directed and produced by Emmy Good. This year's show features performers from previous shows, with a few new storytellers. The lineup includes Peter Smith, Pearl Marill, Phaedra Swearngin, Ursula Schlichting, Bill Herr, Linda Posner, Bill Barksdale, Nancy Nelson, Brian Weller, Jeff Shipp and his son, Finn Shipp, Pat Yoxall and Emmy Good.

Here is a brief description of some of the highlights of the show:

Bill Herr will share stories told in his droll Texas way. One of his stories is entitled "The Flit Gun" and the other is "The Challenge" which is about how real men establish the pecking order on the Texas oil fields.

In "The Other Woman," Linda Posner reveals how she lived and loved in the permissive Broadway years before the AIDS epidemic.

Bill Barksdale's monologue "Survivor" is about his experience in the early 1980s when the AIDS epidemic decimated the gay community. Barksdale is a powerful storyteller and the way he tells this monologue will leave you breathless.

In "Mrs. McGillahooly's Cottage," Phaedra Swearngin becomes a Cockney maid on a mad campaign to dispose of all the liquor in her cupboard.

Pearl Marill will perform a couple of heartfelt poems, "Palm Springs," on the joy and pain of turning 40, and "When I'm Alone."

Jeff and Finn Shipp will do "The Audience is Old" in which they look at some of the best of contemporary stand-up comedy. This monologue promises to be funny.

Peter Smith, who has missed the past few shows, returns to the stage with his story, "Letting Go."

Emmy Good will do "Accidents Happen" which is about an experience she had on the slopes at the Big Bear Ski Resort in Southern California. The picture Good paints of herself at age 17 being pulled up the mountain by the rope pull is priceless.

Good emphasized that of the two shows, the Saturday show will more likely have some adult content and the Sunday show will be "family friendly."

Tickets for "Speakeasy IX" are \$10 and are available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org. Tickets may also be available at the door.



Above, from left: Bruce Burton and Linda Buletti came to enjoy good food and great music at the Dream a Little Dream event. John Keleher, Sarah Ryan of The Real Sarahs, and Rachel Britten spend some time together prior to dinner. Lee Persico attends with his wife, Evelyn. At left: Although there are over 50 attendees, the evening seems intimate due to the placement of the tables. Below, left: Diva Genuone gives an impromptu accompaniment to Frankie J. Below, right: Sarah Ryan of The Real Sarahs sings the old pop standards with the Velvet Vipers.



Dream a Little Dream

Little Lake Grange turns into night club with jazz, dancing and dinner at recent fundraiser

"I wanted to bring an event to Willits that was taking us back in time to a time when we used to have this same kind of event here in the '20s and '30s and '40s," said Da Grand Pooba of Cosmic Pickle Productions, entrepreneur and organizer of the Dream a Little Dream fundraiser for the Little Lake Grange on Saturday.

"The era during the Second World War when Louis [Armstrong] and Ella [Fitzgerald] were putting out some incredible tunes together," said Pooba. "There's going to be a fair amount of that kind of music tonight. There's going to be old jazz standards from that era from the '30s through the '50s."

"I wanted to do something elegant for people so that they could come to Willits instead of driving all the way to San Francisco," he continued. "Gas is expensive. I wanted to bring something special. So about every six months we're going to do something different that people aren't expecting. For this first one, I wasn't expecting a sell-out crowd for all 80 seats. I was hoping, but the main thing was the people who come will tell all their friends and others about it." At last count, about 50 finely dressed patrons enjoyed the music, ambience, food and dance.

As the attendees filtered in and were seated, the bar, tended by Peter Smith, Richard Jeske, and Kami Lenn, served the specialties of the evening: martinis (shaken or stirred), Manhattans, champagne and beer. The mellow piano stylings of Frankie J filled the room as the evening got underway. Seated at tables of 10, the room seemed somehow intimate, even with 50 in attendance. Friends and associates sat together to enjoy their repast.

An impromptu set occurred when song stylist Devi Genuone, festooned in flamboyant '20s garb, sat in with her friend, Frankie J, setting the stage for the upcoming featured act of the evening, the Velvet Vipers, accompanied by Sarah Ryan's (of The Real Sarahs) vocals and local trumpeter Jim Dooley (of Funkacillin and Pura Vida).

The food was provided by the crew of Black Dog Farms Catering, headed up by Caroline Radice and Jason Pluck, and Mendocino Ferments, Grant Fisher of Grant's Goodies and Paul Johnson lent a hand as well. A simple shrimp cocktail opened the menu along with fresh-baked bread.

A colorful and tasty salad came next, followed by the main course, John Ford beef, cooked to perfection on the outdoor grill. Accompanying the steak were roasted potatoes and some finely sautéed vegetables. Dessert was provided by Grant's Goodies - chocolate crinkles, a

Over on page 15

Above, right: Grant Fisher or Grant's Goodies, Caroline Radice of Black Dog Farm and Catering, and Paul Johnson take on much of the kitchen duties. Below, left: Frankie J entertains the attendees. Below, right: The steak, from John Ford beef, was cooked outside on a grill by Black Dog Catering and Mendocino Ferments.

Photos by Mathew Caine



SALUTE TO SERVICE

Sherwood Valley Casino is giving back in a big way this month not only a huge campaign targeted to all our community service members.

On Mondays Sherwood Valley Casino's Salute to Service for all Veterans, Active Military, First Responders, Fire, Medical, Police, Teachers, Utility workers.

Earn 100 Todays Points to Receive \$25 Free Play and 50% off Creekside Cafe food special coupon.

Must show participating valid ID.



We Prepared a Special Menu for our Service Members!

May's Monday Salute to Service Meals shall be:

May 1: Chili Relleno
May 8: Our famous Teriyaki Chicken Sandwiches
May 15: Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Then we close out our Salute To Service Meal Specials with a crowd favorite of:
May 22: BBQ Ribs and Mac and Cheese

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO
WWW.SVRCASINO.COM
100 Kawi Place • Willits, CA 95490
Tel: 707-459-7978

Management reserves the right to cancel or modify any promotion at any time without notice.
For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club.
Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

Willits Swimming Pool Information Summer 2023

June 12, 2023 – August 11, 2023

Schedule

Monday–Wednesday	Thursday & Friday
7am–9am Lap Swim	7am–9am Lap Swim
8am–9:30am Otters Practice	10am–1pm Swim Lesson
10am–1pm Swim Lesson	12pm–1pm Aqua Aerobics
12pm–1pm Aqua Aerobics	1pm–3:30pm Public Swim
1pm–3:30pm Public Swim	4pm–5:30pm Swim Lesson
4pm–5:30pm Swim Lesson	
5:30pm–6:30pm Otter Practice	Closed: Saturday & Sundays

Admission Price

Public Swim	\$5
Lap Swim	\$5
Lap Swim Pass (20 entries)	\$80
Aqua Aerobics	\$7
Senior Discount	\$6
Aqua Aerobics Pass (20 entries)	\$125
Swim Lesson (Sibling discount of \$5.00 per sibling) (Up to 4 Swimmers)	\$50

All swim lessons will be one-on-one, so book your dates, they will fill up fast.
We also have NEW POOL HOURS for this year.
Due to the lack of lifeguards, not only in Willits but throughout the state, the new pool hours are Monday Friday 7 am to 5:30 pm; closed Saturdays and Sundays. Hours are subject to change if additional staffing becomes available.

Willits Swimming Pool Information Summer 2023

June 12, 2023 – August 11, 2023

For more information: (707) 459-5778

Swim Lessons

Registration - for swim lesson, Session I will take place at the Willits Pool, on the following dates:

Friday, June 2nd from 3pm-5pm
Monday, June 5th from 8am-10am & 3pm-5pm
Tuesday, June 6th from 8am-10am & 3pm-5:00pm

The fee for each session is \$50.00 and there is a sibling discount of \$5.00 (up to 4 swimmers).

Swim Lesson Sessions

-The City of Willits offers a variety of American Red Cross swim lessons for individuals of all skill levels.
-Registration is required one week prior to the designated session.
-Openings are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
-No make-ups & refunds for missed days.
-All Swim Lesson are one-on-one and tailor to child's need

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (5) 30 Minute Lessons	Thursday & Friday (2) 45 Minute Lessons
Session 1 June 12-14	Session 1 June 15-16
Session 2 June 19-21	Session 2 June 22-23
Session 3 June 26-28	Session 3 June 29-30
Session 4 July 10-12	Session 4 July 13-14
Session 5 July 17-19	Session 5 July 20-21
Session 6 July 24-26	Session 6 July 27-28
Session 7 July 31-Aug 2	Session 7 Aug 3-4
Session 8 Aug 7-9	Session 8 Aug 10-11

MORNING LESSON TIMES	EVENING LESSON TIMES	MORNING LESSON TIMES	EVENING LESSON TIMES
10:00am - 10:30am	4:00pm - 4:30pm	10:00am - 10:45am	4:00pm - 4:45pm
10:30am - 11:00am	4:30pm - 5:00pm	10:45am - 11:30am	4:45pm - 5:30pm
11:00am - 11:30am		11:30am - 12:15pm	
11:30am - 12:00am		12:15pm - 1:00pm	
12:00am - 12:30am			

Grateful Gleaners Annual Plant Sale

Vegetables, Flowers, Fruits, California Natives, Medicinal & Culinary Herbs, and More!

Community Contributors Include: Donna d'Terra, Golden Rule Gardens, Mendocino County Herb Guild, Morgan Rex, Richard TooTreese Jeske, and Quail Seeds

Proceeds fund the Grateful Gleaners' mission to:

- Harvest fruit from local trees
- Distribute the bounty to community groups
- Provide grants to support farmers in the Willits foodshed

Sunday, May 21
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
130 Tuttle Lane
One Block North of the Willits Post Office

Official Calendar Sponsor

HEART OF THE REDWOODS

Willits

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Est. 1926

MAKING WILLITS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY

Serving the community since 1926

<https://willits.org/>

299 East Commercial Street
Willits, California 95490

Please feel free to visit our office for brochures, maps and additional information about the area

(707) 459-7910

What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, May 18

Howard Memorial celebrates 95 years: Howard Hospital opened its doors in Willits on May 18, 1928. Adventist Health Howard Memorial invites the community to commemorate 95 years serving friends, neighbors and loved ones, with a small celebration on Thursday, May 18, from 11 am to 1 pm, in Roots restaurant on the hospital campus. Ceremony to be held at 12 noon. Enjoy a cupcake in honor of this significant day!

Pop Up Food Distribution: Mendocino Food and Nutrition presents a Willits event, Thursday, May 18, from 2 to 3 pm at 1250 Blosser Lane. www.fortbraggfoodbank.org.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

Willits Chamber of Commerce Mixer: sponsored by the Willits Lions Club at the Scout Hut in the Recreation Grove Park on Thursday, May 18, 5 to 7 pm. Members and prospective members of Chamber and Lions welcome.

Friday, May 19

American Legion Poppy Drive: Willits American Legion Post 174 will be hosting a Poppy Day Donation Drive in May, distributing poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families with medical and financial needs. The American Legion family will be in front of Willits Safeway again on May 19 and 20, from 10 am to 5 pm, and in front of Willits Mendo Mill May 19 and 20, from 10 am to 3 pm. Keep up with the local post by visiting "American Legion Post 174 Willits CA" on Facebook.

Dave Pierce at Brickhouse: Join writer/ guitarist/ vocalist Dave Pierce at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street, Friday, May 19, from 11:30 am to 2 pm, for an afternoon of originals and cover songs in a variety of styles - light jazz, Americana, '60s and '60s pop-rock, blues, folk. Requests and Singalongs encouraged

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon": Opening night for Willits Charter School's first full-length play at the new Performing Arts Complex: "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon," by Don Zolidis, directed by Billy Hetherington. A "wild romp through all the Brothers Grimm fairy tales ... this enchanting play will transport you to a world of magic and wonder!" This first production at WCS' new Performing Arts Complex opens May 19, plays Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm, through May 28. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. \$10 adults, \$5 under 18. Tickets will be available at the school, 30 minutes prior to the show start. "Bring the whole family down for this hilarity and support the next generation of talented performers!"

Los Troubadoux at Shanachie Pub: "Los Troubadoux is a group of the world. With accordion, percussion, bass, and guitar together, it plays original songs in French, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Creole and English, in the styles of Samba, Forro, Kompa, Carimbo, Son-cubano." Friday, May 19, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, May 20

WECS Benefit Golf Tournament: Golf players are invited to sign up for a tournament hosted by Brooktrails Golf Course on Saturday, May 20, starting at 9 am. Proceeds from the event will go toward the Willits Elementary Charter School staff emergency fund. Entry fee: \$40, includes a drink token and lunch. Raffle with prizes donated by Willits businesses. Sign up by calling the Brooktrails Golf Course at 707-367-5465 or emailing jaclyn.christian30@gmail.com.

American Legion Poppy Drive: Willits American Legion Post 174 will be distributing poppies with a request for a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families with medical and financial needs. The American Legion family will be in front of Willits Safeway again on May 19 and 20, from 10 am to 5 pm, and in front of Willits Mendo Mill May 19 and 20, from 10 am to 3 pm.

"How to Build a Sustainable Food Business": Willits Library presents this workshop on Saturday, May 20 from 2 to 4 pm, at the Willits branch, 390 East Commercial. With guest speaker Simone from Smokey's BBQ, who will "share with us some tips on how she is successfully running Smokey's BBQ here in Willits," as well as "great samples of her BBQ and salad." Info: 707-459-5908.

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon": Willits Charter School presents "a wild romp through the Brothers Grimm fairy tales, by Don Zolidis, directed by Billy Hetherington. Saturday, May 20 at 7 pm. See May 19 listing for details.

"Speakeasy IX" at WCT: Willits Community Theatre presents the 9th annual monologue show, directed and produced by Emmy Good. Performances are Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 pm (a more adult version), and Sunday, May 21 at 2 pm (the "family friendly" version). Lineup includes Peter Smith, Pearl Maril, Phaedra Swearingin, Ursula Schlichting, Bill Herr, Linda Posner, Bill Barksdale, Nancy Nelson, Brian Weller, Jeff Shipp and his son, Finn Shipp, Pat Yoxall and Emmy Good. Tickets are \$10 and are available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org. Tickets may also be available at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

Donnie & Friends at Shanachie: featuring our local harmonica (aka "Mississippi saxophone") player Donnie, joined by local friends and fellow musicians possibly including Gary Bouley, Jeff Martin, Rasta Sean and Tom G. among others, playing an improvisational variety of Chicago style blues, rock, funk, Latin, and West African music. Saturday, May 20 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



Grateful Cleaners Plant Sale: Annual sale features Vegetables, Flowers, Fruits, California Natives, Medicinal & Culinary Herbs, and more. Sunday, May 21, 10 am to 3 pm. 130 Tuttle Lane, east of Main Street, a block north of the Post Office - look for the signs. Contributors include Donna D'Terra, Golden Rule Gardens, Mendocino County Herb Build, Morgan Rex, Richard TooTressa Jeske, and Quail Seeds.

Willits Fly-In at the Brooktrails Airport: Come join us for the Willits 11th Annual Spring Fly-In and aircraft display at the Willits airport, Friday, May 21. Fly-in from 11 am to 3 pm. Hosted by the Willits Experimental Aircraft Association. BBQ, served from noon to 2 pm, includes a great burger with all the trimmings, chips, drinks, and Haagen-Daz ice cream. For more information on the Willits Experimental Aircraft Association, which is now in its 17th year, visit <http://www.eaa1027.org/>.

"Speakeasy IX" at WCT: Willits Community Theatre presents the 9th annual monologue show, directed and produced by Emmy Good. The Sunday, May 21 performance at 2 pm is the "family friendly" version. See Saturday, May 20 listing for more details.

Spring L.O.V.E. Fest Vegan Potluck: Hosted by Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience, Sunday, May 21 from 4 to 6 pm, dining starts at 4:20 pm, at the Long Valley Garden Club, 475 Harwood Road, Laytonville. "Bring your favorite vegan dishes and recipes to share with old friends and new.... If you want to experience fine vegan dining at its best this event is for you. Please bring a dish to share that contains no meat, dairy, eggs, gelatin, bone broth or honey, and label if containing gluten, nuts or soy."

"What's Being Afraid Got to Do with It?": A Night of Curative Theater by performance artist Carla Starla at the Grange, part of an every-third-Sunday series. Comedy, Healing, Music, Dance. Sunday, May 21, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Show from 5 to 7 pm; 18+, all ages after 5:30 pm. \$10 at the door. Food provided by Splash Valley Farms.

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon": Willits Charter School presents "a wild romp through the Brothers Grimm fairy tales." Sunday, May 21 at 2 pm. See May 19 listing for details.

Thursday, May 25

Savings Bank Free Shred Event: Thursday, May 25 from 9 to 11 am, in the parking lot behind the Willits branch of Savings Bank of Mendocino County. Bring up to three 35-pound boxes of documents for safe, secure, on-site shredding. To help shred hunger, non-perishable food will be accepted for local food banks. Savings Bank representatives will be available at the shred events to supply information about preventing identity theft and what to do if your identity is stolen.

Sunday, May 21

"A Touch of Mendocino:" A monthly speaker series at the Willits Library covering the local color and culture of Mendocino County, including food, art, history, crafts, and more. This month's talk, Thursday, May 25 from 11 am to 12 noon, is by Corine Pearce, a Pomo basket weaver from Redwood Valley, who will discuss and demonstrate the art and skill of basket weaving particular to the Pomo people. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-5908.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

Friday, May 26

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon": Willits Charter School presents "a wild romp through the Brothers Grimm fairy tales." Friday, May 26 at 7 pm. See May 19 listing for details.

Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: A local Mendocino County jam band, "sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community." Friday, May 26 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, May 27

'Quilty Pleasures': Long Valley Quilters' annual Free Quilt Show at the Fat Quail Quilt Shop, 44550 Highway 101 in Laytonville, is set for Saturday, May 27 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, May 28, from 11 am to 3:30 pm. See Saturday, May 27 listing for more details.

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon": Willits Charter School presents "a wild romp through the Brothers Grimm fairy tales." Closing show: Sunday, May 28 at 2 pm. See May 19 listing for details.

2MuchFun! at Szechuan Restaurant: Musical duo Paul Haley and Dave Pierce will be rocking the hits of the '60s and '70s at Szechuan Asian Restaurant, 47 East Mendocino Avenue, Saturday, May 27, 6 to 8 pm.

Steve Cornell Band at Shanachie Pub: "Stevie is a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist whose roots go back to the vibrant East Bay punk scene of the 1970s." Saturday, May 27, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, May 28

Memorial Day Sunday Car & Bike Show: the Willits Chamber of Commerce presents the 2023 Car & Bike show, Sunday, May 28 at Rec Grove Park. Free admission. The festivities start with a Pancake Breakfast, from 7 to 10 am. \$12; \$7 children; free for kids under 6. The classic cars, motorcycles, lowriders and more will be on display from 10 am to 3 pm. Call 707-459-7910 for more information.

'Quilty Pleasures': Long Valley Quilters' annual Free Quilt Show at the Fat Quail Quilt Shop, 44550 Highway 101 in Laytonville, is set for Saturday, May 27 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, May 28, from 11 am to 3:30 pm. See Saturday, May 27 listing for more details.

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon": Willits Charter School presents "a wild romp through the Brothers Grimm fairy tales." Closing show: Sunday, May 28 at 2 pm. See May 19 listing for details.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

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

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

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

LEGO Club: Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

Writer's Block Group: Wednesdays, from 11 am to noon. "Open to young-adult and adult writers to share their ideas and writings in an environment of supportive and creative suggestions and feedback." Hosted by Librarian Benjamin MacBean. Willits Library meeting room.

Games at the Library: First and third Fridays of the month, 4 to 5:30 pm. "Calling all board, card and tabletop role-playing game players! All ages and player levels welcome. Bring your own games to add to the fun!"

Open Source Design, Artistic Expression, and Engineering Club: Now on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, 11 am to noon. "Open to everyone with an interest in open source and everyone who wants to develop their creative and engineering skills."

Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library from 1 to 4:30 pm. "All skill levels welcome! Spinning circle 1 to 2 pm, Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm."

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Book Club: The Next Chapter'

The Story: Sequel to "Book Club" (2018) finds the gorgeous four Book Club members (Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen, Jane Fonda and Mary Steenbergen) shooting off to Rome, Italy for a pull-out-all-the-stops, wine-soaked, sexy playful double-entendre-filled, couturier-be-draped bachelorette party weekend.

It seems that one of the Quartet who swore she would never tie the knot is at last to be married. Amusing hijinks and a reasonable amount of laughs allow the women to examine their life choices and perhaps alter personal philosophies.

Such emotional growth and change for women in their 70s is actually joyful to see. Also, in the meanwhile, everything in Italy from food to the architecture and the Tuscan countryside is picturesque.

My Thoughts: Initially, I was not excited to see this flick. The trailers implied this was an episode of "Sex in the City," though with bigger stars. But gradually, those very same stars corralled me. As accessess, I do love them all. (Especially Steenbergen and Keaton, who played themselves quite comfortably. Miss Fonda who has always struck me as "high strung" is well-cast and right in character, and as for Miss Bergen, her father was a ventriloquist and gawd knows how that affects a girl growing up ... but she seems quite solid.)

So, this movie won't win any Oscars, but it's a safe and entertaining hour and three-quarters at the movie house, and at the Noyo, wine is available with the feature. And the laid-back electric lounge seats are deluxe. Perfect for this movie.

Parents: Harmless but completely inappropriate for kiddies, and probably boring for them as well.

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

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-NOYO (6696)
www.noyotheatre.com

Starts Friday, May 26:

THE LITTLE MERMAID

Movie Times for May 19 thru May 25

FAST X

(PG13) 2 hrs 21 mins

Fri.: 5:00 & 8:00pm
Sat/Sun.: 2:00, 5:00 & 8:00pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 5:00 & 8:00pm

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY Vol. 3

(PG13) 2 hrs 30 mins

Fri.: 4:30 & 7:45pm
Sat/Sun.: 1:15, 4:30 & 7:45pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:30 & 7:45pm

BOOK CLUB: THE NEXT CHAPTER

(PG13) 1 hr 47 mins

Fri.: 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm
Sat/Sun.: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm

OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners

SPRING L.O.V.E. FEST VEGAN POTLUCK

Sunday, May 21, 4:00 to 6:00 pm
Long Valley Garden Club,
475 Harwood Rd., Laytonville CA

Please bring a dish that gelatin, bone broth or honey or soy. Bring recipes to share.

contains no meat, dairy, eggs, and label if containing gluten, nuts

Dining starts at 4:20 pm.

A labor of L.O.V.E.
Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience

MATEAL COMMUNITY CENTER PRESENTS

SUMMER ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL

JUNE 24TH & JUNE 25TH 2023

COUNTY LINE RANCH

Ukiah Airport Day

Saturday June 3, 2023
9am - 2pm

Come see the many ways the Ukiah Airport serves our community

- Private and Corporate Flying
- Package Delivery
- Air Ambulance
- Fire Fighting
- Search and Rescue
- Local Businesses

THE DAYS EVENTS INCLUDE:

- FLYING DEMOS
- WARBIRDS
- EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT
- CAL FIRE
- CAL STAR
- GENERAL AVIATION
- DJ KEN STEELY

Would you like to show something? Perform? Call the Ukiah Airport 707.467.2855

FOOD AND DRINK BY LOCAL NON-PROFITS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

LOTS OF FUN FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

Join us for

Howard's 95th Birthday!

In honor of an amazing 95 years!

May 18 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the back of Roots

Come enjoy some delicious cupcakes and cake!

We look forward to celebrating this special day with everyone.

HOG FARM HIDEAWAY

SHOOTING SUMMER EVENTS

FEATURING 2 HOURS OF THE STRING CHEESE INCIDENT PLUS RAILROAD EARTH - LEFTOVER SALMON KARL DENSON'S TINY UNIVERSE - PAPA DOSO - KELLER WILLIAMS DIRTWIRE - THE MOTET - LINDSAY LOU - ORGONE - MIDNIGHT NORTH HOT BUTTERED RUM - KYLE TUTTLE BAND - MAGIC BEANS - SNAKES A STARS - BILL & JILLIAN WESHO W/JASON HANK RAINBOW GIRLS - SISTERS - POOR MAN'S WHISKEY - HOBBY WEIRD - SCOTT LAM & FRIENDS - BOSS IN A PILE - DA DRIZZLE - DANIEL RODRIGUEZ PAINTED MANDOLIN - GRATEFUL BLUEGRASS BOYS - TWO RUNNER - TUMBLEWEED SOUL - ALICE DIMICHELE - BROKEN COMPASS BLUEGRASS - HAYLEY JANE DEADWOOD RELIANT - GILBERTY - DANNY GOLDBERG & FRIENDS - BLU EVILTYM - BARBARA SLUG STRING BAND - FISHEYE JONES - BIG FUN CIRCUS - and more!

BLACK OAK RANCH **JUNE 9-11, 2023** LAYTONVILLE, CA

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
707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jernigan
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
•Sound of Soul events
•Membership Discourses
•Spiritual Discussions
•ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

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

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

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

St. John Lutheran Church
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
www.umc@willitsonline.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

Gateway Gymnastics
celebrates 25 years in Willits!

We love our new location at the Grange Auditorium. The Grange family is awesome, and we are grateful to be part of it.

We're wrapping up our winter/spring session this month, and on June 14 we start our summer session.

For more information call Cathy Warren, 707-459-3855.

— Gateway Gymnastics

At left: 2023 Gateway gymnasts gather on the stage at the Grange, for an anniversary team photo.



Above: Winner of the "My Favorite" award at the 2022 Quilty Pleasures quilt show in Laytonville, Sandy Folmar, with her award-winning quilt.

'Quilty Pleasures' 2023

Long Valley Quilters' annual Free Quilt Show at the Fat Quail Quilt Shop in Laytonville is set for Saturday, May 27 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, May 28, from 11 am to 3:30 pm.

More than 60 items will be displayed behind the Fat Quail Quilt Shop, 44550 Highway 101 in Laytonville. There will be quilts for sale; plus raffle baskets and a quilt raffle, with raffle proceeds going

to scholarships for local students; and fire-roasted pizza available next door.

Guests will be able to vote for their favorites in several categories, including "Best Use of Color" and "Quilt You'd Like to Sleep Under."

For more info, entry form and map, visit www.fatquail.com or call 707-984-6966.

Quilty Pleasures 2023

Free Quilt Show
Presented By

Long Valley Quilters
Saturday May 27th 10-4
Sunday May 28th 11-3:30

Fat Quail Quilt Shop
44550 Hwy. 101
Laytonville, CA 95454

Quilts for Sale
Raffle Baskets/Quilt Raffle
Fire-Roasted Pizza

For more info, entry form & map:
www.fatquail.com
or Call (707) 984-6966

Get to know the Workforce of Willits with Willits Weekly's special booklet.

WILLITS
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HEART OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

Meet the Merchants and More!

Publishes as a stand-alone, glossy booklet on June 29, 2023 and will be inserted into that week's paper with additional copies for distribution to advertisers and local businesses

Full page \$325

Yes! This is the one with the photos of the people at the businesses!

Full page ads include a photograph of your business' employees, the outside of your business, and a copy of your business card to go alongside about 200 words about your business. We have a form to help create the text - or send in your own!

GET \$25 OFF the ad price if ad paid by June 12, 2023!

Premium Ad Options: Only one available of each, first come, first served
Two-page center spread: \$775 / Outside Back Cover: \$525
Inside Cover Page: \$425 / Inside Back Page: \$425



Questions: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Call Maureen Jennison
707-972-7047
to reserve your spot

Ad Deadline: June 2, 2023



Mendocino County invites applications for:

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures
\$125,112 - \$152,068

Agricultural/Measurement Standards Specialist I/II/III
\$48,880 - \$72,238

Air Quality Engineer I/II
\$66,476 - \$92,913

Air Quality Technician
\$49,566 - \$60,257

Chief Planner
\$95,846 - \$116,500

Cook
\$47,403 - \$57,595

Corrections Deputy
\$54,184 - \$65,873

Deputy District Attorney I/II/III
\$76,419 - \$122,824

Deputy Probation Officer I/II
\$51,937 - \$69,617

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
\$62,628 - \$87,214

Eligibility Specialist Supervisor
\$60,236 - \$73,216

Environmental Compliance Specialist
\$62,920 - \$76,502

Heavy Equipment Mechanic
\$51,376 - \$62,441

Juvenile Corrections Officer
\$50,710 - \$61,630

Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help
\$24.38 - \$28.22 hourly

Mental Health Clinician I/II
\$59,737 - \$84,011

Network Systems Analyst I
\$74,443 - \$90,459

Planner II/III
\$74,942 - \$95,659

Road Maintenance Supervisor II - Bridge
\$65,936 - \$80,142

Senior Public Health Nurse
\$100,297 - \$121,908

Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D
\$48,942 - \$92,206

Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C
\$70,387 - \$99,028

Staff Assistant III
\$40,726 - \$49,524

Substance Abuse Counselor I/II
\$45,739 - \$64,376

Supervising Public Health Nurse
\$109,720 - \$133,390

Vocational Assistant
\$37,024 - \$38,875

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www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca
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I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.



The rest of Family | From page 3

"We've been helping patients for 28 years," added Sanchez. "The organization is older than I am. We've aided thousands of people."

The Cancer Resource Centers are having their annual fundraiser May 20 at Big River, the Walk and Paddle (and swim), at 9 am, with registration beginning at 8:30 am. The cost of entering this festive and amiable event is \$25 for adults and \$10 for teens. For more information, visit www.crcmendocino.org.

Nuestra Alianza couldn't have picked a better day for their outdoor event. The temperature was warm and the breeze helped keep the air fresh and pleasant. The families had plenty to do to keep the kids engaged.

The organization is looking for more board members (who are paid a stipend) and can be contacted at: 707-456-9418, nuestra.alianza.de.willits@gmail.com. For further information on Nuestra Alianza, visit <https://nuestraalianzadewillits.org>.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW433

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE CITY OF WILLITS

Summary of proposed ordinance of the City of Willits repealing WMC Title 6 entitled "Animals" in its entirety and replacing it with the adoption of a new ordinance at WMC, Title 6 entitled "Animals".

The Willits City Council at its regular meeting to be held on May 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Willits City Hall, will consider taking formal action to repeal Title 6 of the Willits Municipal Code entitled "Animals" and replace it with the adoption of a new ordinance incorporating the provisions of Mendocino County Code Title 10 entitled "Animals." The City of Willits contracts with the County of Mendocino for the County's performance of animal control services within the City. A condition of the contract requires that the City code incorporate the provisions of Mendocino County Code Title 10. The regulations set forth within Title 10 of the County Code proposed for incorporation in the City code include, among other things, the licensing of animals, investigation of animal complaints, impoundment, sheltering, and the quarantine and control of suspected rabid animals.

This summary of the proposed ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code, Section 36933. The full text of the proposed ordinance shall be posted in the office of the Willits City Clerk for at least five (5) days prior to the City Council meeting of May 24, 2023.

/s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
Publication Date: May 18, 2023

WW434

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE CITY OF WILLITS

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLITS REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 8.24 OF THE WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE WITH CHAPTER 8.26 REGARDING LICENSURE OF RETAIL TOBACCO SALES WITHIN THE CITY OF WILLITS.

At its regular meeting to be held on May 24, 2023 at Willits City Hall, the City Council will consider taking formal action to repeal and replace Chapter 8.24 with Chapter 8.26 of the Willits Municipal Code regarding the licensure of retail tobacco sales within the City of Willits. The City's current tobacco retail license ("TRL") ordinance, WMC 8.24, requires issuance of a city license to sell tobacco products. The proposed new, replacement TRL ordinance, WMC 8.26, continues to require city licensure to sell tobacco products, and, as proposed, prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products, including consumption of nicotine or other substances by use of an electronic device known as "Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)". Proposed enforcement of WMC 8.26 includes issuance of monetary fines and potential license suspension, termination and revocation for repeat violations.

This summary of the proposed ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code, Section 36933. The full text of the proposed ordinance shall be posted in the office of the Willits City Clerk for at least five (5) days prior to the City Council meeting of May 24, 2023.

/s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
Publication Date: May 18, 2023

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Counseling / Psychotherapy
Accepting new Medical clients. Divora Stern LCSW, sliding scale available. PHONE SESSIONS only: 707-354-9911. No need for computer / travel, just call. 22-year private practice, CBT, energy psychology, and alternative modalities.

Help Wanted
Senior Center is hiring an office assistant, must be proficient in Microsoft Office/Publisher (40 hours weekly). Email resume with 3 references to wsdirector@willitscenter.com or stop by the senior center to pick up a job description and drop off your resume.

John Ford Ranch Beef
John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$375.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$160.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.

Moving Sale!
Moving Sale at 59 Alameda Avenue, Willits. Saturday, May 20th, 9 am - 3 pm. Sunday, May 21st, 10 am - 3 pm. Furniture, Kitchen Gadgets and more!!

PEO Yard Sale
PEO Yard Sale set for Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. 63 Northbrook Way

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

Willits Food Bank Open
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the front office at 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits CA 95490 - knock or leave in the locked mailbox in front. Food distribution is available at the back door on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks! Send in yours today!

LEGAL NOTICES

WW432

CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS
PROJECT NO. 2023-03

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed bids for: THE WORK SHOWN ON THE PROJECT PLANS ENTITLED: CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PROJECT PLANS

For:
West Mendocino Avenue Improvement Project-Phase I - Project No. 2023-03

Installing 644 feet of new 18" HDPE storm drain pipe and drainage structures at West Mendocino Avenue, Spruce Street, Easy Street, and Camp Lane, replacing 500 feet of 18" HDPE storm drain pipe and drainage structures: 8 manholes, 8 inlets, 1 junction box, and 1 headwall on West Mendocino Avenue, replacing 130 square feet of sidewalk curb and gutter, filling 155 square feet of street shoulder, removing 3 culverts and a rock channel, minor grading to realign approximately 15 feet of channel embankment, and installing 110 feet of 24" wide valley gutter.

IN
City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California &
The work described in specifications books entitled: CITY OF WILLITS - BID BOOK & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS CITY OF WILLITS - PROPOSAL PACKET CITY OF WILLITS - AWARD PACKET

For:
West Mendocino Avenue Improvement Project-Phase I - Project No. 2023-03

IN
City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California will be received by a designated representative, of the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, until the hour of 2 p.m., June 1, 2023, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers, of the City of Willits, located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California.

Key Dates:

- Pre-bid Meeting: Thursday, May 18, 9:00 a.m. (on site)
- Final Questions from Bidders: May 23rd, 2023, by 5 p.m.
- Final Addendum Issued: May 25, 2023
- Bid Opening: June 1, 2023, 2 p.m.
- Project Start Date: July 5, 2023
- Project length: 40 calendar days

THE ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS IS: \$633,643.

Bid packets can be obtained by contacting the Public Works Department at 707-459-7143 or by emailing bsanderson@cityofwillits.org

CITY OF WILLITS: s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
Publication Dates: May 4, 11, & 18, 2023

Willits Weekly

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

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home



Chummy Chesney

Chesney came to us from Anderson Valley Rescue where he lived with his siblings for three years. He is a sweet, slim and handsome fella who enjoys naptime and companionship with other cats. He likes to have the radio on, and is not picky about the station you choose.

Chesney needs to be indoors only, and live as a single cat or with other FeLV kitties. FeLV is only contagious to cats, so he can live with dogs, and any other non-feline animals. He needs a nutritionally complete and balanced diet as this is one of the best ways to help keep your FeLV kitty healthy.

FeLV cats deserve all the love as any other cat and we are hoping to help take the fear out of FeLV. On average, FeLV cats can live long, happy and healthy lives - no matter how many years he has, we want him to spend all of them in a home with a family that loves him.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendocinohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Loyal Tilly

Tilly needs to be in the country to be at her best self, she is best suited to go to a home with a large fenced yard. She sometimes enjoys hanging out indoors, but chooses most often to be in the great outdoors, though sleeping nearby in a protected (ideally) area attached to the home. Tilly enjoys the proximity of a pal dog or two but she is basically a loner who is also slow to engage with new people and dogs.

Tilly is not a dog for a social family who wants a dog engaging with their visitors, nor is she a dog to be urban and happy on a leash out in the world. She is pretty true to her breed – a guardian of people and place – not good with livestock or small animals such as cats.

To learn more about Tilly 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 510-900-2275.



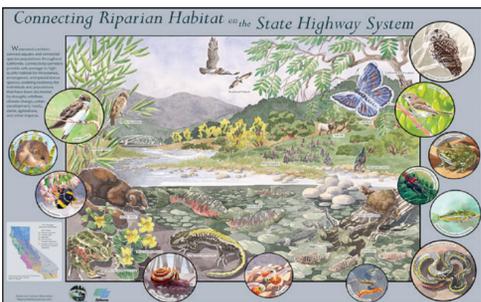
Velcro Greg

Greg loves to meet new friends and wants to be close to his people! He would like potential adopters to know that he's an indoor kind of dog, and will be happiest being a real part of his family / pack. Greg is young and needs some basic training and more confidence, but he's a smart guy and eager to learn new things. We think Greg would enjoy a canine friend. And – this guy is a looker, with a gorgeous, shiny coat.

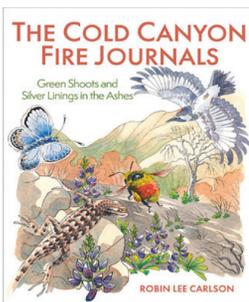
The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Greg or our other feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinoshelter.com.

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Above, left: A poster by Robin Lee Carlson gives a peek into life in a stream habitat. Above, right: "The Cold Canyon Fire Journals" is a book based on Robin Lee Carlson's years of research after a devastating wildfire.



Natural Fire Cycle

Robin Lee Carlson discusses her book which chronicles how wildfires are essential to many plants and animals

With global climate change causing hotter, larger, and more frequent wildfires, people are looking to both science and history for understanding and solutions. Robin Lee Carlson is an evolutionary biologist who combines her scientific knowledge with her love of drawing. She communicates an evolving understanding of the processes that plants and animals undergo as fire transforms our landscapes.

Carlson gave a fascinating presentation at the Willits Center for the Arts to celebrate the publication of her beautiful book, "The Cold Canyon Fire Journals: Green Shoots and Silver Linings in the Ashes," based on her years of research and the journals that she used to record her studies.

An avid nature journalist, Carlson grew up near the Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve, later attending UC Davis, where she continued to visit the reserve.

"Cold Canyon was always a dear and important place to me," Carlson remembered, adding that when the Wragg Fire erupted at Lake Berryessa in the summer of 2015, the canyon was a landscape destined for wildfire. "I went into the Cold Canyon Reserve about a month after the initial wildfire. At first I was devastated at the sight of the blackened landscape full of burned trees. It slowly dawned on me that this would be the perfect place to study the effect that the fire had in the region."

The reserve's management had decided to do what was necessary to maintain the trails, and that everything else would be left to recover on its own. Carlson used the Cold Canyon Reserve as her laboratory and art studio, returning to the reserve on a monthly basis for the next five years.

"At first I was shocked by the exploded rocks, downed trees, and dead foliage. But by about six months in, things had already started to green up," she said.

Carlson's quick sketches tell the story of the reserve's recovery, and include scientific and popular names for flora and fauna. From insects to birds, seedpods to trees, she told the story of the wildfire in a direct and colorful way. She

returned home to research her findings and learn and write more about what she had seen.

Carlson explained that the savannah, chaparral, and oak woodlands that make up the canyon environment held many surprises. "I discovered many seeds that actually needed fire to germinate. Many animals are reliant on a burned habitat. Relationships between birds, insects and plants are complex, and depend on a natural fire cycle."

She listed countless plant species whose new growth rely on underground creeks and root systems. Woodpeckers and other birds use dead and dying trees for their habitat, and some wasps and beetles are actually attracted to fire, needing weakened trees for their larvae. She even told the story of a newt that was observed walking straight toward flames with no apparent reaction, developing a foam around its body to provide insulation to the extreme temperatures.

Carlson emphasized that we have a lot to learn about fire and the natural processes that it engenders. She explained that although fires have become much more frequent, Earth does in fact experience much less fire now than in the thousands of years before the human population came to dominate the natural landscape.

She credits indigenous people for the multitude of knowledge that they have retained despite the trauma and displacement of the last 200 years, and is heartened to see CAL FIRE and other firefighting agencies are beginning to incorporate Native knowledge and wisdom into current systems.

"The Cold Canyon Fire Journals: Green Shoots and Silver Linings in the Ashes" is a beautiful and inspiring book which offers an intimate yet scientific view into how wildfires affect natural cycles within the landscapes we share with the rest of the natural world.

Carlson's book talk in Willits, sponsored by Ellen Drell and the Willits Environmental Center, with cooperation from Sherwood Firewise and Willits Economic Localization, provided an illuminating look into post-fire landscapes and a snapshot in time of the role that fire plays in ecology and evolution.



At left: A journal sketch of Nuttall's woodpecker by Robin Lee Carlson. Above: Here are Robin Lee Carlson's materials and tools for use in her artistic and scientific journey. Below, left: Robin Lee Carlson speaks to a rapt audience at the Willits Center for the Arts.



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The rest of Stations | From page 1

bringing back a more finalized version of the application and what the county will be seeking at the next BOS meeting on May 23.

The board had already directed in April that \$250,000 be set aside from the county's "Carbon Reduction Fund" – which came from PG&E fire settlement money – to use for that 20% match, but at the May 9 meeting Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams urged the board to give staff leeway to use more funding if necessary.

Williams said one of the long-term goals should be to provide enough infrastructure to allow for the county's entire fleet of vehicles to switch to electric, especially with California set to phase out the sale of new gas-powered cars by 2035.

"If all we get is a couple of Level 2 chargers in this county, we won't be able to electrify our fleet," said Williams. "And I think the board was looking at 316 vehicles at a maintenance cost of \$3,700 a year on average, plus fuel.

"We want to be able to electrify going forward, and we know that's the direction the state as a whole is going," he added. "It's a rare opportunity that there's state and federal dollars that will cover 4/5ths of the cost of installation. I think what we previously approved won't provide enough of a match to carry out the work that's necessary to get the infrastructure in place for us to electrify our fleet."

The Level 2 versus Level 3 types of chargers was debated a bit during the discussion. Level 3s are much faster – typically charging an EV from empty to full in about 30 minutes, as opposed to around 5 hours for Level 2 – but they are also much more expensive to set up.

In the executive office report, they estimated that the infrastructure for a Level 3 two-port station would cost around \$361,500 (including \$100,000 in "PG&E equipment upgrade costs"), compared to just \$67,680 for a Level 2 station.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde felt that the county should focus its money on installing Level 2 chargers at the places where their vehicles reside, whereas Williams maintained that the faster chargers were necessary given the long distances between some towns in the county.

"I've been driving an electric car for probably, I don't know, 5 years or more," said Williams. "I don't want to stop for 6 hours to charge my car, so I don't even look at where those Level 2 chargers are. And I imagine the county may be in the same situation.

"If we have a social worker or a code enforcement officer down on the south coast, I could see them plugging in for half an hour," he continued. "But I don't want to see our county staff waiting hours for a vehicle to charge so they can make it back to Ukiah. So my thought here is if we're going to do this, we really need to do it. We need the distribution, meaning every 50 miles or so, there needs to be a place to charge, and it needs to be fast-charging."

Jordan Blough, grant funding / development manager for LACO Associates, who the county is working with on the grants, also weighed in on the debate.

"One of the things I think is worth noting is these chargers must be publicly accessible," said Blough. "So putting in Level 2 chargers ... if those are in locations where the public cannot pull up and charge essentially at almost any time, they're not going to be a fit for this program. So we do need to be thoughtful about that."

Supervisors Gjerde and Williams did agree that the county should focus on finding private partnerships to cover the 20% match for the grants whenever possible.

"I don't want to see us provide the other 20% knowing these companies are going to make a profit at essentially no cost other than assisting us in receiving the funds and implementing the program," said Gjerde. "I think ... any company that's engaging in this should be stepping up, given the fact that our state and federal government are providing 80% of the cost."

As detailed in the executive office report, the CFI grant is split up into two categories for the county to potentially receive funding for charging stations.

One is the "Alternative Fuel Corridor Program" which would be for stations on or near Highway 101 or Highway 1, would have a minimum grant amount of \$1 million, and would require that the county "contract with a private entity."

The other is the "Community Program," which would be for stations at "publicly accessible locations" such as "schools,

parks, parking facilities, businesses, etc.," would have no minimum amount, and the county would have the option of utilizing a private entity.

"Communities being evaluated for EV charging include Gualala, Point Arena, Philo, Boonville, Laytonville, Covelo, Willits, Hopland, and Highway 20 between Willits and Fort Bragg, but no installation sites have been evaluated or selected," the report read.

The report listed some of the advantages of working with a private vendor such as ChargePoint, which they seem to be considering, to help set up and run the charging stations.

"There are numerous benefits to leveraging information from vendors where possible," the report read, "including support in site analysis and selection as well as connections with private capital which may be interested in funding the 20% matching share and operating the infrastructure long-term."

The report also said the county will be looking at partnering with private property owners to widen the range of potential locations for the EV stations, and will "coordinate with neighboring counties" on their plans.

Blough emphasized "that the intent ... is to structure this project in such a way that the county's matching share is as minimal as possible.

"So if we are successful in identifying private entities, private landowners who want to have this infrastructure on their property," he said, "as well as identifying partnerships with vendors who can come in and bring that capital and be the 20% match, if we're successful in that approach, the county's outlay would be staff time in working on the grant and spending in compliance with the grant. It would not be for the actual infrastructure installment of the thing."

Board Chair Glenn McGourty asked Blough if the EV stations could also be a potential source of revenue for the county.

"The discussion right now has not oriented around the county seeing this as a revenue stream so to speak," he said. "The general intent here is that these are chargers that expand the infrastructure and make it more available to the community."

Gjerde and Third District Supervisor John Haschak both pointed out that they would like for the county to make sure they can maintain enough funding and resources for other carbon-reduction projects in addition to EV charging stations.

"One of the issues we're talking about is this carbon reduction money from the PG&E settlement, and we had \$2 million in there," said Haschak. "I think we spent about \$250,000 on a solar panels match, and then we committed another \$250,000 or so for this grant. When Supervisor Gjerde and I met with [General Services Agency Director] Janelle Rau ... we looked at where we could convert and reduce our carbon footprint and there were some really great recommendations there.

"And so it's kind of a question of where are we going to put our resources," he continued. "Are we going to kind of put them into this one project of EV chargers, or are we going to do it where we really are reducing our carbon footprint for the county, with converting HVAC systems and those sorts of things that would have a really quick payoff too? So I guess I'm hesitant, I'd like to see more information on it."

Peter McNamee of the Grass Roots Institute said that he and the organization supported the efforts of the board, and, like Williams, he warned of the coming changes in California and the need to prepare for more EVs.

"First I want to commend the board for having this discussion," said McNamee. "In many ways, it's a real huge step forward that we are talking about how we're going to electrify our transportation fleet rather than if we're going to electrify our transportation fleet. That question has been answered," he said.

"As Supervisor Williams pointed out, there are already over a million vehicles on California's highways that are electric vehicles," he continued. "By 2035, all new passenger and light vehicles sold in California will have to be zero emission vehicles. Most of them will be electric. There will also be an estimated 12 million vehicles by 2035 on our streets and roads."

"They'll all need charging, and it's imperative that Mendocino County and all counties in California step up to that challenge of ensuring that that fleet has easy and quick access to electric vehicle chargers," he added. "And the institute wants to applaud the board for taking the initiative."

The rest of Letters | From page 1

community gardens throughout the city on the many unused plots within city limits, lifting zoning restrictions and giving land owners incentives to develop gardens or allow them to be developed. NCO's Gardens Project, which manages 24 community gardens around the county, could help out.

The city land use plan should designate these areas as "agricultural" or "horticultural" or "community garden" to help ensure they be used in this way. As the city considers its "sphere of influence" for possible annexation, it should add the principle that not one square inch of farm or pastureland should be converted to other uses. And the high school could develop a "garden corps" of students willing to help residents convert yards to gardens and maintain them.

We could do more. Our restaurants, as a couple of them have already done, could get used to paying the real costs of food produced here – instead of in distant deserts watered irresponsibly and harvested using the lowest-wage labor. We should encourage food and farming businesses. We could legalize and encourage food trucks serving foods of all sorts around the city.

We could find the Farmers Market a permanent – and prominent – home. Our civic organizations and churches could adopt a farm or two, commit to distributing its bounty to their members in exchange for regular stipends for farmers. Landowners and organizations could devote land to new, more-intensive farming operations around the area. And the city could use the power of eminent domain to replace absentee owners of derelict buildings with a landlord, the City of Willits, willing to rent to food-related and other small businesses.

We could make Willits a Garden City and a good food capital of northern California and revitalize our economy at the same time. But it will take work and leadership. We're asking Willits' leaders to help provide just that. To join the effort you can contact me at foley.mw@protonmail.com.

Michael Foley, Willits

'Quilty Pleasures' in Laytonville

To the Editor:
Our annual "Quilty Pleasures" Free Outdoor Quilt show is coming up, Saturday, May 27, from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, May 28,

Residents urged to take transit survey

Submitted by LSC Transportation Consultants

Mendocino Council of Governments and Mendocino Transit Authority have partnered with LSC Transportation Consultants to explore potential new locations for a transit center in Ukiah, CA.

LSC Transportation Consultants, in partnership with MCOG and MTA, are currently working on the Ukiah Transit Center Feasibility Study. The study includes an analysis of six different potential transit center site locations in Ukiah, a public outreach effort, and some initial schematic transit center designs.

Ultimately, the feasibility study will pave the way towards a modern facility in a central location for passengers to transfer between MTA and interregional bus services.

The study is currently in the public outreach phase and community members are encouraged to visit the project website at <https://www.mendocinocog.org/ukiah-transit-center>.

Once there, please take the survey, watch the virtual workshop video, and review the current Technical Memorandum (Tech Memo). This first Tech Memo provides a summary of transit center needs, possible locations, and an overview of existing MTA and other transit services.

MCOG and MTA are looking forward to hearing what the community thinks about a new transit center in Ukiah, and are committed to improving transit services for Ukiah, Mendocino County, and beyond.

11 am to 3:30 pm.

Over 60 items will be displayed behind The Fat Quail Quilt Shop, 44550 Highway 101, in Laytonville. Proceeds from the Quilt raffle and raffle baskets will fund scholarships for local students.

Our local 4-H will have a display of their fabric creations.

Guests will be able to vote for their favorites in several categories, including "Best Use of Color" and "Quilt You'd Like to Sleep Under."

This year fire-roasted pizza will be available right next door!

Call The Fat Quail at 707 984-6966, or visit www.thefatquail.com.

Hope to see you there!

Deb Kvaka, member of Long Valley Quilters

Spring Vegan Potluck

To the Editor:
Hello veg enthusiasts! Spring has finally sprung, and it's time to celebrate with our Spring L.O.V.E. Fest Vegan Potluck hosted by Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience.

Bring your favorite vegan dishes and recipes to share with old friends and new at the Long Valley Garden Club, 475 Harwood Road, Laytonville on Sunday, May 21 from 4 to 6 pm.

If you want to experience fine vegan dining at its best, this event is for you. Look forward to seeing you there!

Jon Spitz, Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience

A wild romp for the family

To the Editor:
The Willits Charter School is proud to present its first full-length play in our brand-new Performing Arts center. The play, "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon," written by Don Zolidis, is a wild romp through all the Brothers Grimm fairy tales.

Tickets will be available 30 minutes prior to the show start at the school, 1431 South Main Street.

Bring the whole family down for this hilarity and support the next generation of talented performers!

Billy Hetherington, Willits Charter School

Free admission, extended hours at Museum

Mendocino County Museum will honor Memorial Day with extended hours and free admission on Sunday, May 28, from 10 am to 4 pm.

The Museum invites the public to visit the 2023 Car Show and Community Festival, held across the street at Recreation Grove Park from 10 am to 3 pm, where a special entry from our education collection will be on display.

Enjoy the car show, then mosey on over to the Museum and check out our new exhibit "Gadgets Galore!" with hands-on activities for the whole family. We can't wait to see you there!

For more information, please visit www.mendocinocounty.org/museum or contact the Mendocino County Museum at museum@mendocinocounty.org or 707-234-6365.

MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM
"Telling Our Story"
Mendocino County Museum will participate in the Bob Hansen Memorial Car Show & Community Festival on Memorial Day weekend in Willits. Come see a real classic beauty and learn all of her specs!
The Museum will offer Free Admission & extended hours on Sunday the 28th, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in honor of Memorial Day.
Enjoy the car show, then mosey on over to the Museum and check out our new exhibit Gadgets Galore! with hands-on activities for the whole family.
400 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490 | (707) 459-2736
museum@mendocinocounty.org | www.mendocinocounty.org/museum
Open W. Th. Fri. 10 am - 5 pm, Sa & Su 12 - 4 pm

At right: First and second grade students of the month gather for a photo: Forrest Cook, Madison Tuttle, Harper Sage Sherman, Harley McCulloch, Joel Calderon, Johnny Mandujano and Jonathan Dockins-Duarte.

At far right: Second-grader Caleb Parlegreco and first-grader Samantha Allen are April students of the month at Brookside Elementary School.



Brookside Elementary School April students of the month

By Jaclyn Luna for Brookside Elementary School

Spring is in the air at Brookside Elementary School. While enjoying the warmer weather and sunshine, staff continued to recognize students of the month who exemplify school rules and are safe, respectful, responsible and kind. April students of the month by grade level were:

Transitional kindergarten: Keatyn Beck and Victoria Medina Mexicano

Kindergarten: Brynlee McCulloch, Trystan Whitehurst, Emary Betts, Raelyn Neely and Cayden Bolander

First grade: Forrest Cook, Julian Loza, Samantha Allen, Madison Tuttle and Harper Sage Sherman

Second Grade: Jonathan Dockins-Duarte, Caleb Parlegreco, Joel Calderon, Johnny Mandujano and Harley McCulloch

Aside from celebrating student success, the Brookside community continued learning and enjoyed some special events in April. Thanks to the PTO, there was a school-wide Xtreme Science Assembly that entertained and engaged students with hands-on science experiments. The PTO also put on a student talent show that was enjoyed by students, staff and families. Participants in the talent show displayed a variety of skills from singing, dancing, gymnastics, karate, jokes and guitar playing. Several staff members performed the YMCA song.

PTO president Jenny Nelson explained it was the first talent show held in person since 2019 and they were finally able to use the beautiful banner that was created at the time. She said of the event, "It went really well, it flowed nicely. The community was a big help with organizing." Ace Copy expedited printing the programs and also offered a discount. Nelson said, "I am very thankful for our community, our school, the amazing staff, and all the kids that participated. I can't wait to do it again next year."

The kindergarten classes ventured on a field trip to the Mendocino County Museum, Willits Library, and Recreation Grove Park. They are also caring for caterpillars in the classroom and will soon release butterflies.



At far left: April student of the month from Anne Hammond's first-grade class was Julian Loza.

At left: Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten students of the month for April smile for the camera: Emary Betts, Cayden Bolander, Raelyn Neely, Brynlee McCulloch, Victoria Medina Mexicano and Keatyn Beck.



Sonoma County's Face2Face nonprofit with its all-electric van.



Santa Rosa nonprofit, the LIME Foundation, with its electric vehicle.

Sonoma Clean Power offers rebates for EVs to local nonprofits

Submitted by SCP

Nonprofits in Mendocino and Sonoma counties can make the switch to electric vehicles and vans with a reimbursement of up to \$22,500 by Sonoma Clean Power, the area's public power provider.

The rebate can assist with the purchase or lease of a new or used EV or plug-in hybrid with a battery range of at least 25 miles.

Nonprofits can receive up to \$15,000 for a passenger vehicle and up to \$22,500 for a vehicle with a payload over 1,500 pounds.

"We found that a lot of nonprofits in our area, especially those that provide mobile services or deliveries directly to clients, were interested in medium-duty electric vehicles, like vans and pickup trucks. So, we decided to increase our incentive amount to help more organizations make

the transition to electric," said Brant Arthur, program manager at Sonoma Clean Power.

Since launching the program in 2018, 17 local nonprofits have obtained an electric vehicle with the help of Sonoma Clean Power's rebate. The vehicles must be purchased from a dealership by the registered nonprofit and are intended to be shared among the members of the organization.

Interested nonprofits are encouraged to visit Sonoma Clean Power's website at <https://sonomacleanpower.org/> for more details.

About Sonoma Clean Power

Sonoma Clean Power is the public power provider for Sonoma and Mendocino counties, serving about half a million people. In downtown Santa Rosa, SCP operates the

only Advanced Energy Center in the United States dedicated to helping customers transition to 100% renewable energy for their homes, businesses, and vehicles. SCP is also the only power provider in California offering 100% local, renewable electricity 24 hours per day, every day of the year. To learn more, visit <https://sonomacleanpower.org/> or call 1-855-202-2139.

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Benefit for beloved Train Singer on the Skunk Train, June 3

Submitted by Mendocino Railway

Celebrate the contributions and work of cherished Train Singer Greg Schindel on a special Skunk Train excursion, on Saturday, June 3. All proceeds from the event will benefit the well-known Willits singer, now battling cancer, who has entertained tens of thousands of passengers on the Skunk Train since 1988.

Schindel was diagnosed with stage four metastatic prostate cancer earlier this year, and the community has come together to help raise funds and support for their beloved member. All proceeds from the Skunk Train event will go toward financial support and medical treatments.

"Greg is an iconic part of our Skunk Train experience. His musical talent and remarkable spirit have brought joy to so many for decades," said Skunk Train General Manager Efsthios Pappas. "We, and the community, want to express our support and love. We are hoping that everyone comes out to this special event."

The benefit train will depart from the Willits depot at 1:30 pm. The train ride is a 2-hour, 16-mile round trip through the beautiful redwoods, traveling to the Noyo River Canyon and back with a brief stop at Crowley.

Schindel became involved in the California music scene in the 1960s and 1970s. He developed an original sound described as "Northern California Transcendental Folk Jazz" and was also the lead singer for the band "Kindred Souls."

The rest of **Ballots** | From page 1

the next board meeting."

The board unanimously approved the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$153,495.84.

Next up was agenda item: "Discussion of Brooktrails Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment District Ballot Measure and Community Investment in the Fire Department."

The general manager said that the fire benefit assessment ballots had been mailed and that most of Brooktrails property owners should have received their ballots in the mail.

Clarification regarding how the ballots will be tabulated was provided by Chief Noyer who said: "In order for the measure to pass, whatever ballots are received has to be 50% plus 1. There seems to be some confusion regarding how the assessment will be collected, and some people asked if this was going to be something on their water bill every month. I explained to them that it will be in their yearly tax assessment, and we've had really positive feedback.

"Some questioned why the ballots needed to be signed," Chief Noyer added, "and the answer to that is that it affects the individual property owner's parcel."

The general manager reminded everyone that a zoom meeting was set for the following Tuesday, May 16 for folks who live out of town or who could not attend the open house.

The rest of **Dream** | From page 7

chocolate cookie with chocolate chips and rolled in powdered sugar.

Dancing began for some, even prior to the featured band. Brian Weller and Freddie Long started off with an elegant and fluid couples dance to Frankie J's mellow jazz piano, soon to be joined by Da Grand Pooba himself, resplendent in a white-striped suit from an earlier era, as he took to the floor with Margie Handley in a classically styled, exquisite red dress.

Finally, it was time for the Velvet Vipers to take the stage with their deftly performed songs of the era. Sarah Ryan was the perfect front woman as she lent her beautifully toned voice to the accompaniment of the band.

The entertaining evening was a fundraiser for the Little Lake Grange, a local organization with nationwide roots, which has provided services for the farmers and residents of the Willits area for many years. Recently, they had to take out a sizeable loan (over \$100,000) for asbestos mitigation which was performed last year. The grange's kitchen has been home to many food businesses in Willits that without the use of the community facility would probably not exist.

The rest of **Horsehair** | From page 5

of your horse with you after they're gone, in a stylish, practical way, is something this is ideal for."

While short hair is a little more challenging, Knight notes it's not impossible to use smaller, shorter amounts, or mix in some memorial locks with additional hair she has available to her, too.

"I was able to make some earnings out of a small amount of hair," said Knight. "It was hard, but it worked, and I was really

Schindel moved to Willits in 1983 where he worked for the Willits Unified School District as a visual and performing arts director. In recent years, he has continued to work as a substitute teacher in addition to his role as the Train Singer.

To book your ticket for this benefit please go to:

<https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/skunktrain/items/122326/availability/1199295547/book/>

Located in the redwood forests of Northern California's Mendocino County, the California Western Railroad / Skunk Train 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; 30 bridges; and an 840-foot tunnel.

The railroad has retained all of its original charm – minus the pungent smell that the engines used to emit, when people would say, you could "smell the Skunk before you could see it." Operating year-round, the Skunk Train is a multi-generational experience, and riders can even bring along the family dog. For tickets and more information, visit www.SkunkTrain.com or call 707-964-6371.

The rest of **FEMA** | From page 1

or copy new information or documents needed for case files.

A FEMA Mobile Registration Intake Center will operate in the North County towns of Laytonville, Leggett, and Piercy to register residents in those areas. The sole function of MRICs is to register survivors for FEMA Individual Assistance. MRICs move around regularly and may be in an area for a short period of time to reach survivors who need registration help only. Additional information on locations and hours of operation for the MRIC operations will be released as soon as it is available.

Residents do not need to visit a DRC or MRIC to apply. Here are other ways to apply:

Go to DisasterAssistance.gov; use the FEMA mobile app; or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. (If you use video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service.) Helpline operators are available from 7 am to 11 pm daily. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for an interpreter who speaks your language.

For an accessible video on how to apply for disaster assistance, go to youtube.com/watch?v=WZGpWl2RCNw.

"[The Grange Community Kitchen] was started years ago," explained Radice. "It used to be a commercial kitchen. It was a big community project before my time. The Little Lake Grange, North Coast Opportunities, and the Willits community got together and applied for a grant to make this an actual commercial kitchen space. It's been home to a lot of food businesses in Willits.

"I think it's really inspiring," Radice said, "because we, as a community, can show that we can have successful projects together and this kitchen project is a huge success. People worked on it. It was hard but now it's home to all these food businesses. If our businesses had to pay for their own individual commercial kitchens, it is highly unlikely that any of us would be in business. By sharing the space together, it's a solution for some of the roadblocks we find living in a rural community. It's fun to see what other people are cooking. I get to work with Michelle Costa [of Mendocino Ferments] all the time. I get to work with Grant [of Grants Goodies]."

The auditorium at the Little Lake Grange is available for rent for events and shows. Call 459-9716 or visit their Facebook page for more info.

The rest of **WUSD** | From page 1

and protections for homeless youth, and on the state of foster youth. Many foster children lack a fixed address, moving between five to eight times per year, living in cars, motels, campgrounds, or couch surfing with friends.

The speakers spoke to educational barriers for those in foster care, the rights afforded to these students, including the right to a free and appropriate education, and items provided to them, including backpacks, clothing, and school supplies. They praised site principals and secretaries for their diligent attention to the needs of foster children, and took questions from board members.

Sanhedrin Principal Chavez offered a "Differentiated Assistance Plan" presentation, with graduation data showing English learners and homeless students at the lowest percentile. Noting that she herself grew up in the foster care system, she referenced the Maslow Hierarchies of School Needs, that states that if basic needs of food and housing are not met, students will not be able to achieve scholastically.

Chavez named positive connections, tiered layers of support, and proactive attention to truancy and absenteeism as the most important ways to support graduation. She emphasized that having plans in place to engage students and parents for students who are showing higher than 10% absences is key.

A lively discussion followed, with peer and mentor support, counselors, tribal representatives, family liaisons, and inter-agency networking all under consideration.

California State Employee Association comments were given by Secretary/Registrar Heather Miya, who praised classified staff, including cafeteria and janitorial staff, school nurses, campus supervisors, bus drivers, and more. She expressed the importance of their contributions to student achievement, stating that she is honored to work with such a diverse group of employees.

Brandon Ludwig gave Willits Teachers Association comments via Zoom. He named the 2023 Educators of the Year: Reading Specialist Diane Johnson, Physical Education Teacher Mallory Rose, Counselor Toni Cassidy, Special Education Teacher Conan McKay, English Teacher Katrina Hall, Independent Study Teacher Jessie Rees, and K-2 Teacher Julie Muzzy.

Ludwig emphasized the critical issue of attendance, and the importance of counselors for social emotional learning, graduation planning, prevention of cyber-bullying, and more. He pointed out that currently third- to fifth-graders have no counselor on staff, and urged the board to consider a remedy. It ended with a big thank you to his fellow teachers, staff, and administration for a challenging but positive school year.

Superintendent Beebe gave his superintendent comments, expressing an emerging pattern of problem-solving and creative solutions, and his impression that, for all staff at all levels, the needs of the children always come first, concluding, "This is the team I want to work with, and I thank you for all that you do."

In board comments, Trustee Jennifer Sookne reported on an LGBTQ training that she attended, given by the American Psychiatric Association, with the goal of helping all children feel safe and wanted. Trustee Alex Bowlds stated that the budget continues to be his main focus, having attended a webinar on the current state budget,

Trustee Jeanne King gave an appreciation for the retiring WUSD teachers and coaches, and complimented Superintendent Beebe for his well-researched answers to her many questions. She thanked President Nunez for her work on the superintendent's assessments. She described an enjoyable open house at

Blosser Lane, and her participation in a webinar for school board members from the Foundation to Defend Against Racism and Intolerance.

Board Clerk Dianne McNeal reported on a number of positive happenings at Baechtel Grove, including a successful fundraiser hosted by the new Parent Teacher Association, an FFA student presentation on careers in agriculture, a WHS boosters' eighth-grade taco fundraiser and a presentation by counselor Nicole Burke on graduation and college entry requirements.

Advancement Via Individual Determination students wrote resumes and filled out sample job applications, and California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress Testing has been completed. BGMS softball and soccer seasons are in full swing, and Baechtel Grove now has a new flag on its flagpole.

Board President Nunez expressed gratitude about the new MOU developed with Nuestra Alianza, which recently celebrated their Dia de la Familia in Rec Grove. Nunez also attended a dinner with the California Teachers Association, which she said has been instrumental in encouraging diversity.

No public comments were offered, and the board moved on to a discussion about in-house mechanics for the WUSD fleet versus current maintenance by Les Schwab, Willits Rentals, and Ron's Muffler. Required advanced training and CHP certifications were cited as reasons to stay with the status quo. Superintendent Beebe brought up the electric car transition that is beginning, noting that when electric cars and buses come online, the district will be facing a new situation. He stated his expectation that there will likely be funds coming from the state to make these changes.

President Nunez questioned the purchase of Chromebooks for students. Director of Fiscal Services Melissa Ragsdale confirmed that the Chromebook is one of the least expensive options, with Trustee Bowlds confirming that the Chromebook generally lasts 4-6 years.

The consent agenda was passed unanimously.

The adoption of new science and social studies textbooks was discussed and approved, with positive feedback coming from reviewing teachers and parents. The superintendent's employment agreement was ratified. A change to the organization of grade levels at Sherwood School was also approved after a discussion about parent concerns. The small school will go back to its original grade levels of K-5.

Artificial Intelligence was discussed, with Trustee King expressing concerns about its impact on education. Members agreed that the technology has the potential for both good or evil, and that there are currently few or no guardrails. Teaching students to check sources thoroughly and the changes that AI will bring to the workforce were cited as crucial considerations. Teacher Brandon Ludwig stated that he is in the process of creating a new class called "Technology and Humanity," which currently has a waiting list of 32 interested students. Both Trustee Bowlds and Superintendent Beebe offered to help Ludwig in any way possible.

The Willits City Pool and its mutual use by WUSD and the City of Willits was discussed. Superintendent Beebe expressed hope that the situation will be resolved, noting that this will likely be a slow bureaucratic process.

Upcoming graduations were considered, with Superintendent Beebe noting his expectations that board members will attend as many graduations as possible. Summer school offerings were discussed, with all sites presenting a summer session.

The May 10 meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Ranch farmstand and through the Willits Center for the Arts, and will have a booth at the Willits Frontier Days events, with proceeds going back to benefit the Ridgewood Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center at Ridgewood Ranch and the horses there, who also are donors to her premade hair options which are available to purchase as well.

For more information, contact Knight at: Mustangcalgirl@gmail.com.



Public invited to 11th annual Spring Fly-In

Submitted by Willits EAA

Come join us for the Willits 11th Annual Spring Fly-In and aircraft display at the Willits airport, Sunday, May 21. Fly-in from 11 am to 3 pm. Hosted by the Willits Experimental Aircraft Association.

Enjoy a great burger barbecue with all the trimmings, chips, drinks, and Haagen-Daz ice cream; barbecue served from noon to 2 pm.

For more information on the Willits Municipal Airport, located at 1320 Poppy

Drive in Brooktrails, visit www.cityofwillits.org/135/Airport/

For more information on the Willits Experimental Aircraft Association, which is now in its 17th year, visit <http://www.eaa1027.org/>.

Display your aircraft for the Aircraft of Historical Significance aircraft property tax exemption. Display forms and sign offs available. Check O28 NOTAMs for fuel availability.



Above: A lineup of mostly Pipers and Cessnas entice attendees to take a closer look at 2022's fly-in.

At left: Lilo enjoys her time in the air, strapped in to avoid accidents.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Save money and the wait in line! Buy your grandstand show and carnival wristband tickets early!

For more information about the Spring Fair, visit us online at www.redwoodempirefair.com

WECS says farewell to beloved third-grade teacher

By Christine Felton

Third-graders at Willits Elementary Charter School will be the last class to have Mr. Joe Madden as their teacher. Madden has taught third grade at WECS since 2013, a year after the school was established.

"I've always tried to create a classroom environment that is rigorous and focused on learning," said Madden, "but where students feel personally valued and have plenty of opportunities to share their creativity and original thinking. Third grade is a wonderful grade to teach because they are so enthusiastic and so invested in their classroom community."

"We will really miss him," said lead teacher Cristina Balthrop, who teaches fourth grade. "I was on his hiring committee when he interviewed. I could tell immediately by his sample lesson that he was a competent teacher with a lot to offer."

"We are positive there is another teacher out there with the same kind of commitment to student success," added Balthrop about the now-open position. "They might be a veteran teacher or someone younger with great ideas. We just need to find that person!"

WECS third-graders have consistently performed better than state and county averages on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress exam in English and math. The state testing begins in third grade, so Madden has been tenacious in preparing his students to succeed on the exam.

What will Madden miss the most? "I think some of my favorite memories," said Madden, "have been introducing students to local birds and seeing their eyes light up when they see a species they recognize."

Madden said he enjoyed watching third-graders nurturing their kindergarten buddies as they read aloud to them. "I think I'll just miss the vibe in the classroom when everything is running smoothly and everyone feels comfortable, confident and engaged."

Founded by parents in 2012, the public charter school has grown from a dirt lot to a lively campus with a lush garden. Along with core subjects, students learn Spanish, music, art, gardening, and physical education.

Under the guidance of Ashley Sherf, teachers have been working this year to implement a robust literacy program to address learning loss due to the pandemic. All teachers are doing professional development in the "Science of Reading" to support student learning. Students returned from distance learning with more social and emotional needs, so teachers have also completed professional development in trauma-informed teaching. For more information about the third-grade teaching position, call 459-1400.



Mr. Joe Madden



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- Fawns naturally lie still and lower their head when approached. The fawn is not sick or injured, he is simply trying to hide.
- Mothers will leave their fawn for several hours at a time while she forages for food. She will not return to her fawn if humans are in the area.
- If the fawn is tucked away and laying quietly, leave it alone and leave the area!
- If you find a fawn with open wounds, broken bones, is crying out for an extended time or laying flat on its side, it may need help.
- Please call Mendocino Fawn Rehab for advice before moving a fawn. 951-852-0513 or 707-984-6363.

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