

Willits Weekly

Online & Print



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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 551

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Brooktrails Director Santos says he won't run again

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

All members were present for the Brooktrails Community Services District board meeting on Tuesday, May 24.

Board President Tina Tyler-O'Shea asked if there were any reports from directors. Director Ralph Santos began "I have a couple. First, I received a call from Ben McMillan of the Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts and he noted that from 2015 until now MCAFD involved with Mendocino County Board of Supervisors have seen funding support go from zero to \$5 million annually. The two entities have become an effective partnership that benefits our participants. Our strength and confidence have always been linked to the involvement and enthusiasm of a small, dedicated group of volunteers."

Continuing, Santos said: "Secondly, I want to say that I will not be going for another term as a director. I'd like to thank my co-directors, especially Rick Williams and Ed Horrick. Together, we have approved a lot of ordinances and resolutions over these past 11 years of my tenure, and there's been tough times during that time."

"But, now, in the last five years," Santos continued,

Read the rest of Santos
Over on Page 6

Animal Care Services Community Meeting, May 30

Posted by Animal Care Services

Mendocino County Animal Care Services invites the public to an in-person and online Community Meeting on Thursday, May 30, from 3 to 5 pm, at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 501 Low Gap Road in Ukiah.

- Gain insight into how operations work within our department, including animal rescue, shelter management, and adoption procedures.

- Discover opportunities to get involved through volunteering, fostering, or adopting.

- Share your feedback and suggestions to help us better serve our community's furry friends.

Link to join the meeting via Zoom: <https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/86567377116>. Meeting by telephone, call 1-669-444 9171. ID to join the meeting: 865 6737 7116.



Above, from left: Table settings and decor in the Ag barn reflected the 2024 prom theme "Rustic Romance." Serious dude photo moment for Isaac Rose, left, Philip Cornell and Kason Dondero, right. The prom king and queen received crowns and sashes. Below: The 2024 Prom Queen Kaylee Campbell and King Vann Davis smile for their Willits High School Instagram photo, taken by Sofia Perez.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Rustic Romance at WHS

Last Saturday night, students and their dates attended the annual Junior/Senior Prom at Willits High School and enjoyed a night of dancing and fun inside the Ag barn at the school's farm. The theme, "Rustic Romance," was a perfect fit for the venue, with walls draped in twinkling lights, white tables topped with burlap runners and soft foliage, and hay bales and lights strung up outside under the stars.

Happy attendees came to celebrate at the formal event which ran from 7:30 to 10 pm. Music was provided by Total Bern Productions, and fun, and formal, photos were taken by local photographer Maureen Jennison.

Near the end of the event, the big reveal was made,

naming two students who would take home the title of Prom King and Queen.

Of the nominated group which included first runners-up Logan Sanderson and Hazel Cooke, and second runners-up Neveah Jones and Mason Oltjenbruns, the titles, sashes and the crowns went to Kaylee Campbell and Vann Davis.

The Junior class puts on the event and included committee members Mia Chavez, Aleli Zuniga, Kayden Paullus, Sofia Perez, Danielle Estrada and Esperanza Sanchez.

Photos are available now at: <https://photographpress.zenfolio.com/whsprom2024>

— Maureen Jennison



At far left: Pink and black was the theme for friends Loretta Mertens, Krystina Ojeda, Kaycee Rountree and Amelia Franco. At left: Kooper Dockins and Mariah Rodriguez smile in gold in front of the backdrop.

Below, left: Friends squeeze in close for a hugging photo including, from left: Cassie Esquivel, Kaylee Campbell, Liz Meyer, and Emelia Owsiany. Below, right: Suits and accessories ranged from PAC-MAN to camouflage to red suspenders to Hawaiian shirts for this group of guys, including from left: Wyatt Klee, Jake Grooms, Logan Sanderson, Jesse Sauers, Mason Oltjenbruns, Kady Martin, Rex Davidson, and Ezra De La Fuente.

At bottom, left: Ag teacher Kelley Case stands in the middle of this group of gals who are the Junior class officers and they put on the prom including, from left: Mia Chavez, Aleli Zuniga, Kayden Paullus, Sofia Perez, Danielle Estrada and Esperanza Sanchez. At bottom, right: in red and tan, Loretta Mertens and Clayton Cooley made a dapper pair.



BOS approves special benefit ballots for Sherwood

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The county board of supervisors voted 5-0 Tuesday to approve sending out ballots to property owners along Sherwood Road for a new Sherwood Corridor Special Benefit Assessment District and assessment on their property tax bills. Ballots will go to property owners in Brooktrails, Spring Creek, Sylvandale, and the Gates subdivisions, for their yay or nay on assessing developed lots at \$30.88 a year, and undeveloped lots at \$1.39 a year. Proceeds will fund maintenance, drainage, and flood control for the FirCo and Willits Creek emergency access routes.

These were the emergency routes used during the Oak Fire in 2020 to allow access for emergency vehicles, firefighters, and first responders, so residents could use both lanes of Sherwood Road to evacuate.

Now that the board has approved the process, ballots will be mailed to

Read the rest of Sherwood
Over on Page 6

School board honors WUSD retirees

By Addison Alvarado

During the evening of May 9, the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees convened for its monthly meeting. The agenda encompassed a wide range of topics, including the invaluable insights of the board's student representative, the commendable service of this year's retirees, and the ongoing collaboration with the Willits Teachers Association.

WUSD Superintendent Mark Beebe, board Trustees Jeanne King, Dianne McNeal and Paula Nunez, and Chair Jennifer Sookne were present for the meeting, which provided opportunities for public comment and voting on important issues. This month's meeting was joyous, and many people from WUSD were honored at the end of this school year for all their hard work.

This year, six retirees were honored: Norma Miner, Daniel Haley, Terry McEntee, Trina Seaton, Anne Hammond, and Sharen Reinier. The majority of the retirees worked in the district

Read the rest of Retirees
Over on Page 6

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Re-interpreting cannabis cultivation rule

To the Editor,

Two weeks ago at a meeting of the county's General Government Committee (Supervisors John Haschak and Glenn McGourty) the county's Cannabis Department told the two supervisors that the department and County Counsel had "re-interpreted" certain sections of the county cannabis ordinance and the department would now be allowing a doubling of the size of cultivation areas.

The two supervisors expressed concern about changing the rules now while the Cannabis Department is making headway on processing cultivation licensees, and the state is gearing up to issue annual licenses to local growers. Staff responded by saying that they weren't "changing" anything, just "re-interpreting" the meaning of the ordinance. Furthermore, staff said the memo to the committee was simply informational, and the decision had been made.

Wow! Since when does staff make policy, and then tell the supervisors what to do? (Who did initiate this "re-interpretation"? It clearly wasn't the General Government Committee, or the Board of Supervisors. Was it a private citizen with big cannabis dreams and privileged access to County Counsel?)

Less than two years ago, 100 citizen volunteers gathered over 6,000 signatures in only 30 days on petitions saying they did not support expanding cultivation areas beyond the current maximum of 10,000 square feet per parcel. The supervisors heard that message loud and clear and rescinded a then recently passed cannabis expansion ordinance. They need to act similarly now.

We have asked the supervisors to tell staff to cease implementing this "re-interpretation" immediately. If any person has applied under this "re-interpretation," the application should be returned along with any fees paid.

We feel confident that this "re-interpretation" violates the language and the intent of the county's cannabis ordinance. Our confidence is based on a careful reading of the relevant sections of the ordinance, and on the clear intent and understanding of the lawmakers and the public as recorded

in numerous meetings, discussions, and amendments over the last seven years.

Can an ordinance be changed? Yes, but there must be due process. The issue must be agendized at multiple supervisors meetings where supervisors publicly discuss the issue and take comment from the public. In addition, if the proposal might result in unwanted environmental or human impacts, that potential must be fully examined and mitigated.

Join us. Please contact your supervisor and ask him/her to reject this back-room re-write of the county's cannabis rules.

Ellen Drell and Kirk Lumpkin,
board members,
Willits Environmental Center

Thanks to new Odd Fellows owners

To the Editor:

I wish I had written this letter a month ago to truly capture my feelings as I stood next to the Tri-Counties Bank and looked up at the Odd Fellows building being painted. I saw right away that it was not a "slap-dash" paint job, but one that was being artfully and carefully done with a beautiful yellow and brick red paint. I stood in wonder and said "Wow! What's happening here?"

I first came to Willits as a single woman in 1979 looking for a new home, excited by the spirit of Willits. In all those years, some of our old buildings have never had a single thing done to improve them, even though they are architecturally pleasing. Such a contrast to cities and towns in Europe where the old structures have been rebuilt and repaired and even completely replaced when damaged by fire, flood or war.

So when I looked up at this beautiful paint job, I had a sense of hope, a sense that investing in our past is important and a new future can come out of that. Willits has certainly had a series of major economic blows over the past several years, not the least of which was the 101 bypass and Caltrans' placement of off-ramps. But I am reminded that Willits attracts such creative and resourceful people and that there is every reason to believe that we can continue to flourish as a very special place. Thank you Larry and Ashley for investing in us.

Karen Gridley, Willits

Mendocino Railway's 20th anniversary marks historic infrastructure project

Submitted by Mendocino Railway

Mendocino Railway, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sierra Railroad Company, proudly announces a significant moment in its history as it celebrates its 20th anniversary in May 2024, marking two decades since it revived the California Western Railroad / Skunk Train from bankruptcy. Mendocino Railway is also embarking on a historic infrastructure project, putting its recently awarded Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing loan funds to work, starting on May 28, at Tunnel #1's east portal along the Noyo River.

The journey to this point has been one of revival, resilience, and commitment. In 2004, Mendocino Railway acquired the CWR, reviving it and preserving freight and passenger service for the community. This acquisition marked the beginning of a \$30 million transformation of the line.

Mendocino Railway now stands at the threshold of a new chapter, having secured a \$21 million RRIF loan from the Build America Bureau, a division of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The RRIF loan program exists to further the DOT's policy of ensuring that communities – especially rural and underserved communities – will continue to benefit from freight and non-excision rail service, providing funds to restore and rehabilitate railroad infrastructure. The DOT granted its RRIF loan to Mendocino Railway for those precise purposes. The loan will be instrumental in allowing Mendocino Railway to make necessary line improvements, including restoring Tunnel #1.

Mendocino Railway President Robert Jason Pinoli stated: "This is an exciting time as 2024 marks my 32nd year of railroading. The CWR holds a special place in my

heart, and this RRIF loan brings our combined investment in the line to more than \$50 million. It's a crucial step toward ensuring that the CWR remains capable of providing passenger and freight rail service to our communities for years to come."

The objectives of Mendocino Railway's project include rehabilitating Tunnel #1, replacing rails and ties, making siding improvements, and improving 27 bridges. These enhancements will rejuvenate a vital transportation corridor and help bring economic opportunities to Mendocino County's people and businesses.

Securing this loan is a testament to Mendocino Railway's perseverance and dedication, as the process began nearly four years ago, in May/June 2020, when Mendocino Railway submitted its initial interest letter for RRIF and the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act credit assistance. The Federal Railroad Administration initiated its review of the environmental, legal, and engineering aspects of the project in August 2020, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Despite challenges – including delays caused by the City of Fort Bragg and the California Coastal Commission – Mendocino Railway remained steadfast in its commitment, and the FRA completed a thorough environmental review, culminating in the issuance of a categorical exclusion in July 2022. In response to CCC concerns, the FRA conducted additional review before arming its initial determination. Mendocino Railway emphasizes its commitment to environmental stewardship and assures the public

Read the rest of
Skunk | Over on page 4

PG&E hosts North Coast Town Hall, May 29

Pacific Gas and Electric Company invites North Coast customers to a virtual town hall to learn more about work in your region, wildfire safety program updates, and share resources to keep you safe.

On Wednesday, May 29 from 5:30 to 7 pm, PG&E experts, including Regional Vice President Dave Canny, will provide a brief presentation during which participants will have the opportunity to ask questions. North Coast customers include those of Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Siskiyou, Sonoma and Trinity counties.

The event can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/43S0fmd> or by phone dial-at 1-888-282-0377. Conference ID: 7793612.

American Sign Language interpretation will be available. For the full webinar events schedule, additional information on how to join, and to view past event recordings and presentation materials, visit pge.com/webinars.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is a combined natural gas and electric utility serving more than 16 million people across 70,000 square miles in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit pge.com and pge.com/news.

Lake County gets \$700,000 to study effects of dam removal

Posted by County of Lake

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has been steadfast in affirming Scott Dam remaining in place as a significant matter of priority. Efforts to demonstrate and articulate the regional value of Lake Pillsbury can be strengthened by gathering additional data. 600,000 Californians depend on water releases from Lake Pillsbury and the Potter Valley Project for drinking and agricultural water security, and adequate water supply is essential to every facet of our daily lives.

Further, should Pacific Gas and Electric Company ultimately succeed in gaining Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval to remove Scott Dam, it is essential we understand the potential effects and threats that may accompany that profound change.

With the intent of protecting regional water security at the forefront, the County of Lake is excited to announce the California Department of Water Resources has

Read the rest of
Removal | Over on page 6

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Thursday, May 23: Chicken Salad Sandwich, Potato Salad

Friday, May 24: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

Monday, May 27: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Veggies

Tuesday, May 28: Cold Cut Roast Beef Sandwich, Potato Salad

Wednesday, May 29: Hawaiian Chicken Sandwich

Thursday, May 30: Ground Beef Tacos, Rice & Beans

Friday, May 31: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll

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

Pancake Breakfast: every second Sunday, June 9 next month.

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

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

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



Above, from left: Alondra prepares a plate of taquitos with lettuce, sour cream, cheese and salsa. The kids hop as fast as they can during a sack race. A participant hits a water balloon with a plastic bat.

At far left: There is no shortage of volunteers when Clown Joel Hernandez wants to demonstrate a magic trick.

At left: Charlea shows off the flower she planted at one of the activity booths.

Below: A group of kids play a classic game of musical chairs.

At bottom, left: Prior to announcing the bike raffle winners, some of the kids are invited to sing the ABC song to the attendees.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Dia de la Familia

Families participate in a day of games, food, face painting and more at Nuestra Alianza event in the park

Nuestra Alianza is the local Latino community organization with offices at the Willits Grange. They provide assistance to the community through vital services, including tax preparation (available to everyone regardless of ethnicity), legal help for immigrants, consultation, social services assistance, COVID-19 testing, English as a Second Language classes, parenting support, and more at no cost (or minimum filing fees).

Currently, under the leadership of Sergio Perez, the new executive director (having taken over for founder Dina Hutton), the organization is trying to become more visible in the community, so that the people know what programs are available to them. To this end, Nuestra Alianza has a plan to show up at more events, as well as creating their own. The Dia de la Familia, which took place from noon to 4 pm at Recreation Grove Park on Saturday, was one such event.

Throughout the afternoon, families arrived to participate, to eat some tasty Taquitos Durados with sour cream, salsa, lettuce, and cheese, drink some traditional beverages such as Agua Tamarindo and Agua Jamaica, play games with clown Joel Hernandez who kept the kids entertained for the four hours, and enjoy the perfect weather with family and friends.

As the families arrived, they were given a slip with the numbers of the informational booths that were formed in a circle around the area, which they needed to get punched at each station. Once their slips were completed, meaning that they had

visited each booth, the slip was entered into a raffle to win children's bicycles.

According to Perez, Nuestra Alianza is heading, in addition to their vital services, in some new directions. "Right now, we have a lot of big projects. One of the biggest ones we're working on right now is outreach to give information about workers' rights: how to apply when you get injured in your job so your employer is not able to retaliate against you, prevention for people who work outside. It is for the heat and to make sure that if they're feeling sick, they can take a break.

"The employer has to give the workers a place to take breaks where it is sheltered. They have to give the workers water, fresh and clean water to drink. They should be drinking water a lot while they're working. A small amount, but a lot of times during the day when they are working. That's one of the topics we're going to emphasize today about workers' rights.

"We also have other topics," said Perez. "For example, sick time. Now, in California, sick time is five days, not just three. All employers are required to give you five days. If you work for them at least 30 days in a year and you have been employed by them for 90 days, they have to pay you five days of sick time. It's a law in California. We're putting out that information in Spanish because there are a lot of people out there who don't speak English. Our goal is to give that same information but in Spanish."

One of their current projects is the

Read the rest of
Family | Over on page 13



Above: This young girl had her face painted as a beautiful butterfly.

At left: The girls are pitted against the boys in this game of tug-of-war during the Nuestra Alianza Dia de la Familia.

Feds propose rule to re-classify cannabis
Posted by Office of Public Affairs
The Justice Department announced May 16 that the Attorney General has submitted to the Federal Register a notice of proposed rulemaking initiating a formal rulemaking process to consider
Read the rest of
Cannabis | Over on page 6

The Rules: **LETTERS**
Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters to the editor from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.
Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

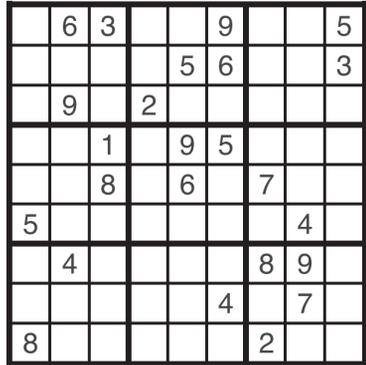
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willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com
Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633
Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographer / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-972-7047
Jackie Cobbs, features editor
Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer
Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter
Annie Everts, reporter / features writer
Danya Davis, Police Log
Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter
Sheri Dockins, sports reporter
Ava Dockins, sports photographer
April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / willitsweekly@gmail.com
Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits Mini Storage
Giant Yard Sale
Bring a wagon to carry all the treasure you will find! Multiple units participating.
261 Franklin Ave.
Senior Center will be doing hot dogs & soda.
June 8, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

97.6 million
That's how many Americans have **PREDIABETES**
The good news is that getting diagnosed, and control of your diabetes with regular care and screening tests such as the retinal exam, can give you enough time to change the outcome.
TAKE THE ONE-MINUTE RISK TEST
Scan the QR code or go to: dolhaveprediabetes.org
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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



Level: Intermediate



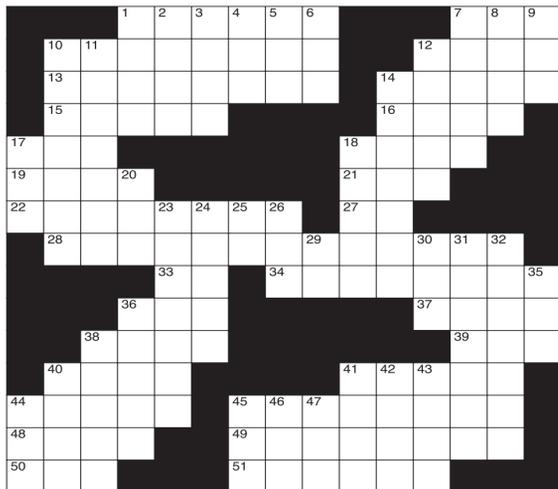
HOW TO SUDOKU

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!

FUN NIGHT OUT WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|----------|------------|
| APPETIZERS | DINING | FRIENDS | PLAY |
| BABYSITTER | DOWNTOWN | GAME | POPCORN |
| BILL | DRINKS | GROUP | RESTAURANT |
| CHEERING | ENJOYMENT | HOSTESS | SPORTS |
| CITY | ENTERTAINMENT | LAUGHING | STADIUM |
| CLUB | EVENING | MEAL | TAXI |
| DANCING | FAMILY | MUSIC | THEATER |
| DATE | FESTIVE | MUSICAL | TICKETS |
| DESSERT | FORMAL | PARTY | TOURIST |



CLUES ACROSS

- Lunatic
- Doctor of Education
- Able to make amends
- Tight-knit group
- Gland
- Intestinal pouches
- Fungal spores
- Erstwhile
- Engine additive
- Nasal mucus
- Fit a horse with footwear
- Consumed
- Settle
- Larry and Curly's pal
- Basketball's GOAT
- Exclamation of surprise
- Made tight
- Before
- Actor Nicolas
- Not hot
- Talk
- Pledge
- Abandon a mission

CLUES DOWN

- How one feels
- American Nat'l Standards Institute
- Information
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Keyboard key
- Born of
- Choose to represent
- Small European freshwater fish
- Everyone has their own
- Line from the center of a polygon
- Lebanese city
- Type of watercraft
- A way to twist
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Greek island
- Medical practitioner
- DeGaulle, French President
- Partner to 'oohed'
- Atomic #52
- Santa's helper
- Rapper ___ Rule
- Month
- Word formed by rearranging letters
- Nullifies
- Young woman ready to enter society
- Unemployment
- Weight unit
- Formal party
- Computer language
- Residue formula in math
- Duty or responsibility
- Part of (abbr.)
- Time zone
- Body part
- Nucleic acid

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

May 6 to May 19

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **82 incidents** in this 14-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 6

10:29 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road.

7:57 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Central Street and East Oak Street and issued a warning.

May 7

No incidents to report.

May 8

1:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 400 block of South Main Street.

May 9

1:51 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of South Main Street.

1:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

May 10

3:16 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 600 block of Crest Drive.

May 11

9:59 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

10:51 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of Mill Street.

1:37 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

8:36 pm: BONILLA, Alberto (42) of Healdsburg was contacted in the 100 block of West Commercial Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher, driving while privileges are suspended, vehicle hit and run with property damage, providing false identification to an officer, and violation of probation.

May 12

5:33 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

May 13

8:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 500 block of South Main Street.

The rest of

Skunk From page 2

that the FRA conducted a comprehensive review of the project, fulfilling its NEPA responsibility.

This monumental achievement reflects upon the CWR's profound transformation since 2004: From the brink of closure to record-breaking milestones, this journey symbolizes the strength of Mendocino Railway's vision and the unwavering support of its staff, visitors, and supporters. This journey would not have been successful without the added support of the DOT and BAB, for which Mendocino Railway is grateful.

Marking the 20th anniversary of the CWR's revival, President Pinoli, reflects: "The transformation of this iconic railway stands as a testament to perseverance and dedication. It's a journey that showcases the remarkable spirit of our team and the enduring legacy of the railroad. We are pleased to be able to improve our infrastructure so as to maintain our rail services to the community."

As Mendocino Railway marks this milestone and embarks on this historic endeavor, it extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who have been a part of this extraordinary journey, especially the FRA and BAB. Mendocino Railway looks forward to together ushering in a new era of transportation excellence, ensuring the CWR remains an integral part of our community for years to come.

California Western Railroad / Skunk Train, located in the redwood forests of Northern California's Mendocino County, is a heritage railroad that has offered and provided freight and passenger service since 1885. Initially used to move redwood logs from the rugged backcountry to coastal

8:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

8:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

May 14

8:20 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Alder Court.

May 15

1:04 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

2:53 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

May 16

8:39 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

May 17

10:39 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued a warning.

2:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1600 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:45 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:47 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Redwood Avenue.

May 18

1:14 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Redwood Avenue.

4:11 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Redwood Avenue.

1:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

May 19

11:06 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of South Main Street.

2:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of unwanted subjects in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

4:13 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

Editor's Note: WPD arrests for April 29 through May 5 have not been available.

At right: Toward evening, groups of riders, wanting to get to Fort Bragg before nightfall, group up through town. Below: This group of intrepid bikers stops to help their friend who blew out his rear bearings.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Sheetiron 300

Five hundred motorbikes pass through Willits during group ride from Stonyford to Fort Bragg

The mighty roar of 500 motorbikes coming through Willits at once did not happen, as anticipated by some.

Instead, the Saturday parade of ADVs (adventure bikes) hummed down East Commercial Street, as they entered town one by one or in small packs of five or so vehicles, many of the riders standing to get a better look, waving at the passersby, and thinking where they were to spend the evening on the last leg of the day's journey to Fort Bragg.

The Sheetiron 300 (named after a mountain route that was formerly utilized for the run) is a tradition of the Oakland Motorcycle Club, in operation since 1907, the third oldest motorcycle club in the United States, behind the second oldest, the San Francisco Motorcycle Club, and the oldest, the Yonkers Motorcycle Club in New York.

"The ride has been super popular for years. It gained a lot of popularity back in the late-'90s, early-2000s," explained Duffy Collins, in charge of publicity for the run. "We used to have people mail in their entries and we would send the flyers out to the previous year's riders and then they would make copies and distribute them to their friends. But after a while it became so popular that people started bringing them to the address, to the gentleman's house that was administering the sign-ups. These people would start showing up on April 1, at midnight, which was the deadline to begin getting them in.

"The last year we did analog entries, we had 300 people show up at midnight at the house in San Ramone," said Collins. "People were lined up in trucks and cars. We get riders in from Australia, from Europe, from all over the USA. Nowadays, it's mostly local riders. Five hundred riders is our limit, although we could easily take more. It's already quite the job to administer 500 riders.

"This is the 29th running of this event. It goes from Stonyford, the Grindstone Forest Service District, all the way to Fort Bragg, by way of mostly dirt roads. The bigger bikes that are not really capable of off-road can take mostly road or fly roads. The lighter bikes, the smaller bikes, all

Read the rest of **Sheetiron** Over on page 13

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At right: A rider stands up on his bikes as he passes through town.

Below: These riders are in the equivalent of a pit stop at the ball fields.

At bottom, left: Riders make their way along East Commercial Street on their way to the coast.

At bottom, right: This rider checks his loose bearings as his friend calls for assistance with his bike.



WILLITS HORSEMEN'S
BARBECUE & RODEO
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Lunch included
JUNE 2ND
Annual Barbecue 11:30 - 2
Adults \$20 Kids \$10
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Free Childrens Events
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Boogie, Mystery Scramble
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Garman Construction
Sparetime Supply
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General Info Rodeo:
Karen (707) 529-6884
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Paul Riley (707) 272 - 6261

The rest of **Sherwood** *From page 1*

area property owners in early June, and are due back by July 23. The next step is a public hearing and ballot count at the board of supervisors chamber in Ukiah, set for July 25.

Total estimated revenues will be about \$56,700 a year to maintain the emergency routes. The earliest the special assessment could appear on the tax rolls would be fiscal year 2024-25, and the assessment sunsets after 20 years. The annual assessment will be adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak introduced the agenda item, and moved its successful passage, noting the persistent efforts to find a way to self-assess property owners to raise funds for improvements like the Willits Creek and FirCo emergency roads that benefit their own neighborhoods. "We've been at this for a long time," Supervisor Haschak said. "You can see it started in January 2021; we tried to go the LAFCO route, and we found a better route to go.

"This item is considering a special benefit assessment for these emergency access routes for the Sherwood Road area," Haschak said. "It would put this to a vote of the people who own property in that area, and they would be able to vote on whether they want to be assessed to maintain the emergency access routes."

Haschak reminded his colleagues that Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall said, after the 2020 Oak Fire evacuation, that it was "the most efficient and effective evacuation that they'd ever had."

Consultant Douglas Dove from California Bartle Wells Associates, who wrote the Engineer's Report for the "Sherwood Corridor Emergency Access Roads Benefit Assessment" said it had "been a pleasure to work with county staff on this innovative funding method for the maintenance and improvement of emergency access routes – two of them – for the Sherwood area.... We identified special benefits which accrue to the parcels that are being assessed; those include life-safety benefits, emergency access route benefits, protection of property, and insurance savings."

Dove added that the assessment area had about 6,500 parcels total, 1,600 improved parcels, and 4,900 unimproved parcels. A complete roll of addresses inside the special benefit area, can be found as a link in the agenda for the May 21 BOS meeting, which can be found here: <https://mendocinolegistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

"On May 28," Haschak said, "we'll be doing a presentation at the Brooktrails Township Community Services District at 7 pm. If anyone wants to see this in more detail, and be able to ask about any of the specifics, that's another opportunity for community outreach."

Haschak also noted the page on the county's website with more information about the Sherwood benefit assessment, including a map showing which parcels are inside the special assessment area: www.mendocinocounty.gov/business/economic-development/special-benefit-assessment

Supervisor Haschak thanked county staff and project consultants for stepping up to get the proposed plan ready in time for the assessment to appear on the rolls by 2024/25, if approved by a majority of property owners who return their ballots. He then talked about his hope that other areas may adopt this special benefit funding method. "Remember this is a pilot program," he said. "The idea is that other areas can now replicate it, and it will be a more efficient process. We know how to do it."

"I want to congratulate John on this," Supervisor Glenn McGourty then commented. "It's been a long-term project. I can see the application to other neighborhoods that also have fire safety issues with limited ingress/ egress, I'm glad we found a way to be able to address those. There's certainly places in my district that could benefit."

McGourty also recognized the county team "for working pretty hard on solving what sometimes seem like unsolvable problems, so congratulations to everyone who's been successful in getting this across the finish line."

"I would also like to offer my congratulations and appreciation for all the work that's gone into this by our own team, from Supervisor Haschak and from the consultants," said Chair Maureen Mulhern.

The rest of **Santos** *From page 1*

"with our new general manager, who I think has really improved the district tremendously and, I believe, will continue to do so after I'm gone, the district will build up what we've got going. Thank you very much for being my co-directors and friends."

Director Ed Horrick responded: "Thanks, Ralph. You'll continue to be with us for a while as you're not leaving office until November."

Santos noted that anyone interested in applying to run for his seat can throw their hat in the ring this summer. Filing deadline for the November 5 election starts July 15 and runs through August 9 – with the deadline extended through August 16 for any race where the incumbent does not file.

Brooktrails Counsel Chris Neary remarked: "With Ralph's announcement I'd like to take the opportunity to comment on Ralph's tenure here. He started as a very interested and questioning member of the public, concerned regarding rates. He showed up meeting after meeting, so we suggested to him that he run for the board. So, he ran and won, and he's been involved and has evolved into being one of the best directors we've had. I congratulate you, Ralph, and am glad that you'll be around until November."

The other Brooktrails board member whose seat will be up for election in November is President Tyler-O'Shea. Directors Joanne Cavallari, Ed Horrick, and Vice President Rick Williams are serving terms through 2026.

There were two items on the Consent Calendar, and the board unanimously approved the first item, the Accounts Payable report in the amount of \$277,062.68.

The second item was entitled, "The City of Willits Quarterly Wastewater Report." Director Horrick noted that there were several big projects listed in the report that amounted to significant dollars (over \$720,000) and he said, "I wonder how much of that, which of these projects will our district share in?" Counsel Chris Neary advised, "In Section 10 of the 2015 agreement that Brooktrails entered into with the City of Willits, there is a requirement that the city is to present the plans to the district for approval prior to city council approval. [The district can pay from 23% to 36% share of the cost of a project depending on the category in which it falls: An operating expense or a capital projects expense.] So, by these descriptions here, we can't really tell what they are. There are projects that fall into the category of maintenance, rather than operating expense

The rest of **Retirees** *From page 1*

for over 10 years. Most notably, from Brookside Elementary, Anne Hammond was praised by many at the meeting for her teaching career and for having worked in WUSD for 27 years.

Hammond taught special education to grades one through six and general education for kindergarten and first grade, and she also served as an administrator for a year during her career at Willits Unified.

A member of the audience sang her praises, describing watching her in the classroom as like "watching Snow White teach." Hammond also received praise from board member Jeanne King: Hammond had taught both her grandchildren and she'd had "the pleasure of volunteering in her classroom" while students were present. King applauded Hammond for her impact on the community and commitment to her students.

All the retirees were honored for their careers and their impact on the district, youth, and the community, and received a plaque from Superintendent Beebe.

Another individual honored at the meeting was student representative on the school board, Esperanza Sanchez Orozco. Esperanza, a current Willits High School student, has just completed her second year in this esteemed position. Superintendent Beebe informed the meeting that this is not a role that is simply handed out; it is one that requires students to campaign and be selected by the board to represent the high school and youth of WUSD.

Esperanza's dedication and commitment to her role were evident, and she expressed her intention to run again next year. She also updated meeting attendees on events at the high school, including several fundraisers and student events in the coming weeks.

During the meeting, Willits Teachers Association President Brandon Ludwig announced the faculty receiving the WTA Educators of the Year awards. This year's recipients range from every school in the district, two locations resulting in a tie. Receiving this year's award are Sarah Luckey from Brookside Elementary School, Ellie Miller from Blosser Elementary School, a tie between Teresa Hall and Annapurna Steffen from Sherwood Elementary School, Katherine McCay from Baechtel Grove Middle School, a tie between John Horton and Tony Cassidy from Sanhedrin High School, and Kenneth Petterson from Willits High School.

WTA President Ludwig congratulated all recipients this year, and also informed the board that he would be stepping down as president after this year. The union election for new WTA president will be held in the following weeks.

This month's board meeting also included official business, such as comparing this term's attendance rates to last month's, approving the minutes and registers from the previous month's meeting, approving employee changes, approving board policy reads, and approving the revised 2024-2025 District Calendar.

This month's meeting was filled with celebration as it marked the approaching end of the school year, and reflected on the accomplishments and milestones some of the WUSD staff achieved along the way.

Congratulations to all WUSD staff who received praise, honor and awards this month. Thank you to all staff for keeping the school system running smoothly and to the board for their hard work this school year.

or a capital expense. After looking at the plans for all of the items, we would make a determination whether we have an agreement regarding a capital expense or an operating expense. This report is basically appropriate to call our attention to these plans, and we will respond that we are glad to have received the report in advance and are looking forward to viewing the plans."

Next up was "Agenda Item for Discussion and Possible Action: Consideration of Resolution 2024-05 Amending Resolution 2014-17 and Changing the Compensation Amount of the Board Meeting Stipend."

General Manager Tamara Alaniz stated: "If the board approves this resolution, basically that is saying to me, bring the ordinance forward so we can approve the ordinance. I don't make a recommendation; I just recommend that the board discuss the impact of the adoption of the ordinance and have discussion, followed by a roll call vote."

Board Vice-President Rick Williams commented that the amount of compensation involved would be an additional \$50/month per director and that would be a total of \$250/month for the district. Director Joanne Cavallari stated: "None of us are here because of the money. We are here because of community service. But because we are not on the district's payroll, we are paying the full 15% Social Security and Medicare (which is a new taxpayer expense) and that is why I would be in favor of increasing it to help offset that expense. We are required to report the additional funds as self-employment income."

Attorney Neary said: "For such a small item, surprisingly, the IRS has made it a point of interest, a priority."

Board President Tyler-O'Shea weighed in, saying that she did not support raising the amount of the stipend. "I don't feel that my decision-making part in this group should benefit me financially. It should benefit the district." Director Santos pointed out that all of the directors serving on the board, except for Tyler-O'Shea are retired.

This was the first time in recent years that the board did not unanimously approve an item on the agenda. It was agreed that they would agree to disagree as they called for the roll call vote. Prior to voting, it was noted that the stipend amount had been set at \$100/ per director per meeting since the 1980s. All of the directors except Tyler-O'Shea voted in favor of the resolution to raise the stipend amount to \$125/meeting.

The rest of **Removal** *From page 2*

committed \$700,000 in Water Shortage Management Program funding to support the "Lake County Resource Assessment, Impact Analysis, and Adaptation Strategy Evaluation Project." This project will provide for analysis of the potential effects of PG&E's proposed decommissioning of Scott Dam across domains including the following:

- Recreation
- Wildfire suppression
- Ecosystem
- Power
- Sediment
- Water supply
- Infrastructure (e.g., roads)

Funding will likewise support the following tasks:

- Identify Potter Valley Project decommissioning and climate change scenarios
- Perform modeling of existing conditions, plus one or two decommissioning scenarios. Perform climate change modelling and include scenarios that explore extreme drought and flood conditions in the Upper Eel River watershed.
- Evaluate Impacts to resources and develop adaptation strategies
- Technical impact analysis includes hydrological, hydraulic, and sediment modeling of the Upper Eel River and Lake Pillsbury; recreational impacts analysis; GIS and bathymetry data analysis; and economic modeling. Once impacts are identified, potential adaptation strategies will be developed.
- Evaluate adaptation strategies for potential implementation
- Evaluate factors like technical complexity, cost, environmental concerns, social, and other considerations related to implementation of adaptation strategies.
- Report findings
- Summarize the process, results, and key findings.

A request for proposals has been issued, RFP No. 24-32, seeking qualified firms to further define and conduct this critical analysis.

This is truly an opportunity to make a difference in Lake County and California's future, and we are seeking firms to help ensure studies and analyses are highly effective, and can inform efforts to ensure the most responsible decision-making possible in 2025's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) P-77 Proceedings.

Interested parties are encouraged to visit <https://lakecountyca.gov/Bids.aspx>

Lake Pillsbury is a Lake County gem: To see the beautiful landscapes, some of the wildlife that call Lake Pillsbury home, learn more about the community that has grown around Scott Dam, and more, watch this video, presented at an October meeting of the Russian River Water Forum: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8MRLElIOZ4>

The rest of **Cannabis** *From page 2*

moving marijuana from a schedule I to schedule III drug under the Controlled Substances Act.

Marijuana has been classified as a schedule I drug since Congress enacted the CSA in 1970. On October 6, 2022, President Biden asked the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to launch a scientific review of how marijuana is scheduled under federal law.

After receiving HHS's recommendations last August, the Attorney General sought the legal advice of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel on questions relevant to this rulemaking. In light of HHS' medical and scientific determinations, and OLC's legal advice, the Attorney General exercised his authority under the law to initiate the rulemaking process to transfer marijuana to schedule III.

The rescheduling of a controlled substance follows a formal rulemaking procedure that requires notice to the public, and an opportunity for comment and an administrative hearing. This proposal starts the process, where the Drug Enforcement Administration will gather and consider information and views submitted by the public, in order to make a determination about the appropriate schedule. During that process, and until a final rule is published, marijuana remains a schedule I controlled substance.

The notice of proposed rulemaking submitted by the Department can be viewed here, and the OLC memorandum regarding questions related to the potential rescheduling of marijuana can be found at <https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/Scheduling%20NPRM%20508.pdf>

Learn more about the rulemaking process at https://www.federalregister.gov/uploads/2011/01/the_rulemaking_process.pdf



From far left: Rory, applying white clown makeup, prepares for his character in the show. Daniel Nickerson plays the accordion in the show's intro. The kids attending the performance in Rec Grove Park seem mesmerized by the performances. Below, left: Tayloranne, Daniel and Rory warm up the attendees with some music on a saw, accordion and harmonica. Below, right: Tayloranne Finch leads the attendees in a dance after the show.



Puppets in the Park

Cowtown Serenaders perform an entertaining and educational show full of music and marionettes

It was billed as a puppet show, but it was much, much more. Last Saturday at Recreation Grove Park, there were crows flying high on stilts, a giant salmon, lady bugs, and a pooping cow. In a zany, heartfelt, and informative program for kids and adults, the talented Northern California duo of Daniel Nickerson and Tayloranne Finch have created a piece of entertainment with a message about the environment in which we all live.

Along with their two friends and cohorts, Domla and Rory Cullifer, the troupe, known as the Cowtown Serenaders, travels to schools, parks, and other venues to bring a message about how all aspects of the environment in conjunction with the human residents, should work in harmony to create a sustainable planet.

"Tayloranne and myself have been doing Cowtown performances for almost 10 years, and doing puppet shows for longer than that, as long as we've known each other," explained Nickerson, who, along with acting as the occasional bovine, plays a multitude of instruments. "We met in college in Portland. We've done various community theater projects. We call them puppet shows but there's a lot of clowning, a lot of various devices used.

"We were like a band for a while and we'd play concerts, but we'd have puppets and projections going on while we played and then, in 2019, we started making a travel-ready Cowtown show, which involved a marionette stage and some marionette puppets. We performed it in 2020 in March, down in the Bay Area, a series of performances, and then we had to cancel performances due to the pandemic."

This show, "Greetings from Cowtown," is a project funded by a grant from the Upstate Creative Corps, the same group that funded a series of projects at the Willits Center for the Arts. "We've been cooking on how to improve on that traveling-show model since then," continued Nickerson. "When the Upstate Creative Corps funding was announced, we thought that it would be the perfect way to fund a more ambitious project.

"We got granted that money and were able to hire a lot of friends, over 10 artists from Humboldt, to help create elements

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At top: Scrapy the Skunk, one of the marionettes, is a crowd favorite. Above: Domla as The Crow confronts Rory Cullifer. At left: This is an emotional moment as they realize the sun is starting fires.

Photos by Mathew Caine

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY MAY 31
MONSTER TRUCKS & MUDD BOGGS 6:00pm
Wicked Strong, Survivor, Playing For Keeps, Scattered, and Skull Crusher

LIVE MUSIC
Warehouse 21 6-10pm

SATURDAY JUNE 1
MONSTER TRUCKS & MUDD BOGGS & BOAT RACES 6:00pm
Wicked Strong, Survivor, Playing For Keeps, Scattered, and Skull Crusher

LIVE MUSIC
While We're Young 6-10pm

SUNDAY JUNE 2
LIVE MUSIC
Grupo SG
La Nueva Historia
X-Plosiva Banda de los Ninis 6-10pm

FREE FAIR ADMISSION!
Gates open at 3pm on Friday Noon on Saturday & Sunday
Parking: \$10
*Grandstands require a ticket

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Available at all Mendo Mill Stores in Mendocino County.
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Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
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Acts 2:37
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Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:8:00 p.m.

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Modified Worship Service 10 a.m.
Other ministries suspended for now.
For appointments call: (707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
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Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadann
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
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The Rev. Betsy Bruncame

St. John Lutheran Church
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24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

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

Thursday, May 23

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, May 23, at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, May 24

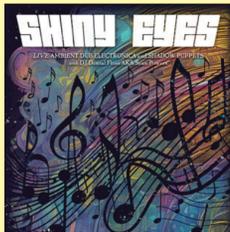
Willits Food Bank Open House: Come visit Willits Community Services and Food Bank's new location at 344 Railroad Avenue, on Friday, May 24 from 5 to 7 pm. Say hello to staff and volunteers, including new WCS Executive Director Kim Tippit. If you can, bring a donation or mail one to: Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Donations can also be made online at <https://www.willitsfoodbank.com>

Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: A local Mendocino County jam band, "sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community. We're the Cosmic Family Band and so are you." Saturday, May 24 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, May 25

Memorial Flag Placement: American Legion Post 174 members will place flags on the graves of veterans in Willits on Saturday, May 25, beginning at 10 am. Willits Cemetery (Highway 20 - West) and Little Lake Cemetery (East Hill Road). Come give us a hand. Following the completion of flag placement, participants are invited to a Hot Dog BBQ at the Veterans Memorial building, located at 189 North Main Street.

Y'ART Sale at WCA: Willits Center for the Arts presents the annual Y'ART Sale fundraiser, on Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26, in the rear garden from 10 am to 5 pm. Check out new and used art and craft supplies at super-low prices, other things art-related, and yard sale items. All proceeds to benefit WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Still seeking donations of used and unused studio items; donations can be left at WCA with the host during gallery



Shiny Eyes at Shanachie: Shiny Eyes Shadow Puppetry & Music, the serene world of ambient music meets the captivating realm of shadow art, Saturday, May 25, 8 pm. "A unique performance by Sean Powers, aka DJ Dental Flodd, that melds the soothing sounds of analog synthesizers with an ethnic flair and rhythmic drum beats." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Paws and Tales at the Library: Animal-themed story time with special guest, Casey the therapy dog. Saturday, May 25, 11 to 11:30 am. All ages welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolib.org or 707-459-5908.

Quilty Pleasures Quilt Show in Laytonville: the Long Valley Quilters present the annual Quilty Pleasures Quilt Show behind the Fat Quail quilt shop, 44550 Highway 101, on Saturday, May 25 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, May 26 from 11 am to 3:30 pm. Quilts on display from around Mendocino County, raffles for baskets of goodies, and this year's opportunity quilt, as well as quilts for sale. Info: www.thefatquail.com or 707-984-6966.

42nd annual Willits Car & Bike Show: Memorial weekend annual Car and Bike Show is set for Sunday, May 26, from 10 am to 3 pm, downtown this year, on Main Street between J.D. Redhouse and Commercial Street. Classic car enthusiasts, families, and friends will gather on Main Street to marvel at a stunning display of vintage vehicles, to enjoy music, shopping from our many great retailers, delicious food from our local restaurants, and activities for all ages. Info on registering a vehicle or becoming a vendor at the event, contact the Willits Chamber of Commerce, 299 East Commercial Street; director@willits.org, 707-459-7910. Day of event registration is first-come, first-served.

Y'ART Sale at WCA: Willits Center for the Arts presents the annual Y'ART Sale fundraiser, on Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26, in the rear garden from 10 am to 5 pm. See Saturday, May 25 listing for details.

Quilty Pleasures Quilt Show in Laytonville: the Long Valley Quilters present the annual Quilty Pleasures Quilt Show behind the Fat Quail quilt shop, 44550 Highway 101, on Saturday, May 25 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, May 26 from 11 am to 3:30 pm. Quilts on display from around Mendocino County, raffles for baskets of goodies, and this year's opportunity quilt, as well as quilts for sale. Info: www.thefatquail.com or 707-984-6966.

DJ Dental Flodd, that melds the soothing sounds of analog synthesizers with an ethnic flair and rhythmic drum beats." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



What's Happening Around Town

Sunday, May 26

Grange Pancake Breakfast: Join your friends at the monthly Little Lake Grange Breakfast on Sunday, May 26, from 8 to 11 am. "All you can eat pancakes (choose our Sourdough Wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-free), Beeleer's Quality Bacon, Organic Local Farm Fresh Eggs (Due to expected increased attendance, we will be serving scrambled eggs only), Real Butter, Juice, Organic Coffee or Tea." \$10, \$9 for seniors, \$5 children under 10. Also: extra sides of Organic Fruit \$2, Amish Organic Maple Syrup \$1, Fresh-made fruit syrup \$1, Extra Beeleers Bacon \$1. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of Main Street. After you enjoy your pancakes walk to Main Street to enjoy the Car and Bike show!



Willits Daily Bread Benefit: This second musical benefit to help Willits Daily Bread continue to feed the hungry in the Willits community features Deanne California's Variety Show with Bunny & the Drums. Deanne is singer/percussionist with the Willits Farmers Market Band, teaches children music, and will teach songwriting during June at the Willits Art Center. This Variety Show, a treat for the whole family, is set for Sunday, May 26 from 3 to 5 pm at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Commercial and Main streets. Admission by donation. Soup & bread dinner, \$5. Donations can be mailed to: Willits Daily Bread, P.O. Box 1826, Willits, CA 95490.

Scott Ireland Album Release at Shanachie: Scott Ireland's 60th birthday and album release, Sunday, May 26, with vegan potluck at 3 pm, and music from 5 to 8 pm. "Tall Guy Short Songs" with special guests. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Monday, May 27

Happy Memorial Day Holiday!

Memorial Day Ceremonies: On Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, American Legion Post 174 members will conduct memorial ceremonies at the Willits Cemetery at 10 am (Highway 20 - West), and at the Little Lake Cemetery at 11 am (East Hill Road). Please join us as we pay tribute to our departed comrades in arms.

Tuesday, May 28

Sherwood Corridor Benefit Assessment: a presentation on the proposed Sherwood Corridor Special Benefit Assessment, by project staff and Supervisor John Haschak, during the Brooktrails Community Services District's board meeting, Tuesday, May 28, 24860 Birch Street, at 7 pm. The assessment, if approved by property owners in the area, at \$30.88 annually for developed lots, and \$1.39 for undeveloped lots, will fund maintenance, drainage and flood control for the FirCo and Willits Creek emergency routes. These were used during the Oak Fire in 2020 to allow access to emergency vehicles and first responders, so residents could use both lanes of Sherwood Road to evacuate. More info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/business/economic-development/special-benefit-assessment

Thursday, May 30

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, May 30, at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, May 31

Book Lovers Discussion Group: Meeting monthly at the Willits Library to discuss books, authors and genres. Come talk about why you love books! All adults welcome. Friday, May 31, from 12 to 1 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolib.org or 459-5908.

'Mothers and Sons' opens at WCT: Terrence McNally's famous play of lifestyle and generational conflicts, "Mothers and Sons," opens Friday, May 31 and runs through June 9 at Willits Community Theatre. Veteran Director Bill Barksdale brings the McNally masterpiece of character and insightfulness to life with a select cast of actors. An aging mother seeks to end her bitterness over her son's death and lifestyle choices while visiting his former same-sex partner and his new husband, and their young son. The play shows at the WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane, on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays, at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20; available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.



Sunday, June 2

Willits Horsemen's BBQ & Rodeo PlayDay: Willits Horsemen presents the annual event on Sunday, June 2 at the Horsemen's Arena, 901 East Commercial Street. Barbecue is from 11:30 am to 2 pm; Adults \$20; kids \$10. Rodeo starts at 1:30 pm. Free to spectators. Event registration 8 to 11 am. Limited entries for events. **Guest the Steer's Weight tickets, \$5 each.** **Free children's events: Stick Horse Race, Boot Scootin' Boogie, and Mystery Scramble.** **Cornhole Competition (lunch included):** Contact Paul Riley. 707-272-6261. **General rodeo info call Karen at (707) 529-6884.**

'Mothers and Sons' at WCT: Terrence McNally's famous play of lifestyle and generational conflicts, directed by Bill Barksdale, with a select cast of actors. Sunday, June 2 at 2 pm at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse. See Friday, May 31 listing for more details.

Friends Anonymous at Shanachie: a Punk Rock band from Northern California – they like to plug in, go loud and proud, and put on a good time. Their music is fun but also full of complex emotion. Saturday, June 1, at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street
Saturday Scramble: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B. Bring any instrument you can play and sign up to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. "Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!"

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

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



Tracorom at Shanachie: A blend of southern rock, soul, honky tonk, and roots Americana with elements of funk, Latin-Caribbean and gospel stomp in their spirit filled, energy charged, eclectic live shows. Friday, May 31, at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, June 1

'Mothers and Sons' at WCT: Terrence McNally's famous play of lifestyle and generational conflicts, directed by Bill Barksdale, with a select cast of actors. Saturday, June 1 at 7:30 pm at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse. See Friday, May 31 listing for more details.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senior Dance Hall: Fridays from 2 to 3 pm. Seniors ages 55 and older are invited to bring your dancing shoes to enjoy jazz, pop, swing, and ballroom selections. Don't feel like dancing? Please come and enjoy the music, catch up with friends new and old, and share some light refreshments.

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

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



American Legion Memorial Weekend events

American Legion Post 174 in Willits will be placing flags on the graves of veterans on Saturday, May 25, beginning at 10 am. Come give us a hand. Following the completion of flag placement, participants are invited to a Hot Dog BBQ at the Veterans Memorial building, located at 189/190 North Main Street.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, American Legion Post 174 members will conduct memorial ceremonies at the Willits Cemetery at 10 am (Highway 20 - West), and at the Little Lake Cemetery at 11 am (East Hill Road). Please join us as we pay tribute to our departed comrades in arms.

— American Legion Post 174

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Kids' Ceramics Classes with Nancy New

5 Tuesdays 10:30-11:45pm starting June 11
7 years and older
\$200 plus materials
register online
<https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/>

TALL GUY SHORT SONGS

Scott Ireland's 60th Birthday & Album Release Party!

3:00pm - Vegan Potluck!
5:00pm - Tall Guy Short Songs with Special Guests!

5/26/24 3-8pm @ Shanachie Pub

Willits Song Circle, June 5

The next first Wednesday-of-the-month Willits Song Circle will be June 5, from 5 to 6:30 pm at Willits Methodist Church, School and Pine Streets. The song circle is for people who like to sing together, a community of song. Open to all! What kind of songs? Rounds, popular songs, folk songs, simple part songs – anything that can be learned easily. This month, we'd especially welcome songs celebrating Summer.

Anyone can lead or request a song. If possible, please send the lyrics for songs you request to its2fran@aol.com in advance so we can print up copies. You're also welcome to join with instruments: guitar, ukulele, drum, shaker – anything that you can sing along with. This month's song leaders will be Don Willits, Fran Gardner, and Madge Strong.

KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (PG13) 2 hrs 25 mins
Fri.: 5:00 & 8:15pm
Sat.: 1:45, 5:00 & 8:15pm
Sun.: 12:45, 4:00 & 7:15pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:00 & 7:15pm
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners

IF (Imaginary Friends) (PG) 1 hr 44 mins
Fri.: 4:45 & 7:15pm
Sat.: 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15
Sun.: 1:15, 3:45 & 6:15pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 3:45 & 6:15pm

FURIOSA: A Mad Max Saga (R) 2 hrs 28 mins
Fri.: 5:15 & 8:30pm
Sat.: 2:00, 5:15 & 8:30pm
Sun.: 1:00, 4:15 & 7:30pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 7:30pm

Movie Times for May 24 thru May 30
Masks Optional
Tightwad Tuesday Title for May 28 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!

Ongoing Events

'The May Show' at WCA: the first juried exhibition to grace the galleries of Willits is featured at Willits Center for the Arts in May. Visitors can cast their votes for the coveted "People's Choice Award," after viewing the carefully curated selection of artworks. Gallery hours at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, are Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 am until 5 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Sack lunches served at the City Park (or across the street in case of rain) every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm. Come early to be assured a lunch! Provided by various churches and community organizations.

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

The Redwood Empire Food Bank: Twice-monthly drive-thru food distribution in Willits, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, located in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields, 9:30 to 11 am. Groceries to go, senior basket (for low-income seniors 60 or older), and diapers.

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

Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym: Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers free classes for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street, on Thursday evenings. "We teach Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu Karate, Kenpo Youth/Adult Self Defense, Bully and Abduction Awareness/Defense, and Small Child PreSkills." Little Dragons Small Child "PreSkillz" karate class, 6 to 6:30 pm, ages 3, 4, 5, 6 (7) year-olds. Beginner/intermediate class, 7/8 years and above, 6:35 pm to 8 pm. Intermediate/advanced class, all ages, 8 to 8:45 pm, There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). More info: call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0565.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'IF'

Dan Essman *Columnist*

The Story: A quite charming fantasy parable for children and/or for grown-ups who forgot that not so long ago they once were children. Twelve-year-old Bea (Cailey Fleming) is afraid. She's living with her Grandmother (Fiona Shaw) while Dad (John Krasinski) is in the hospital awaiting surgery for what he calls "a broken heart." Her mama is dead.

Now come the spoilers: Bea meets an enormous furry beastie named Blue (Steve Carell). It talks. It's an Imaginary Friend, and it's pretty much lost because children grow up, and it doesn't have a child anymore with whom to be a partner and comforter.

Bea decides she's going to try and help poor lonely Blue (who's actually purple). She now has a quest, a purpose, that will help her to be less afraid. As she gets deeper into the worlds of IF's, Bea will meet a host of other quite unusual Imaginary Friends. But no more spoilers; as I said, it's all quite charming.

My Thoughts: At last, a flick without violence, slapstick or otherwise. I have zero quibbles with this fine movie. I believe children will love the adventure, and adults will appreciate (writer/director/actor) John Krasinski's artful and kind storytelling. Special shout out to young Cailey Fleming; she's in pretty much every scene and she shines! As a side note, it struck me (and maybe just me) that within the sound production, the gently melodic film score was unusually noticeable.

Parents: Bring the kids. Maybe watch it with them. Or maybe let them watch it alone. Or watch it by yourselves.

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

WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS HOMETOWN CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST 5PM - 9PM

LIVE MUSIC BY: Palmer Anthony

AERIAL SILKS
CLIMBING WALL
MECHANICAL BULL
DUNK TANK
BOUNCE HOUSE

FACE PAINTING
HENNA ARTIST
ARTISAN VENDORS
FOOD TRUCKS & MORE!

A free community event, kicking off the Frontier Days tradition!
MAIN STREET, WILLITS
wfd.hometowncelebration@gmail.com

Just come into the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street, and ask for a parks pass. Each pass can be checked out for 21 days with your library card.

Learn more at: www.mendolib.org/borrow/california-state-library-parks-pass

Beverly Easterday

Beverly Lorraine Easterday, born October 27, 1940 in San Francisco, passed peacefully during the morning of May 14, 2024.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Eldon G. Easterday Jr., sons Eldon Easterday III and Randall Easterday, grandchildren Randy Easterday II, Cindy Easterday, Eldon Easterday IV, and Amber Easterday, and six great-grandchildren.

A resident of Santa Rosa for 28 years and of Willits for 40 years, Bev will always be remembered as a loving and caring individual.

A memorial and grave-side service will be held on May 25, 2024 at 2 pm at Santa Rosa Memorial Park, 1900 Franklin Avenue, Santa Rosa. Thoughtful flowers or donation to Hospice or your favorite charity.



Spring Fair at Ukiah Fairgrounds

Get ready for monster trucks, mud boggs, boat races, and more, May 31 to June 2

Submitted by Redwood Empire Fair

"Fair season begins as we welcome spring to the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds! Join us for rides, food, and plenty of fun!" boasts the Redwood Empire Fair's home page, encouraging everyone to come down to the Ukiah Fairgrounds May 31 to June 2 for the annual event.

The schedule of events includes fun on the fairway and in the grandstands, including events with big trucks and live music, and a variety of carnival rides and of course, fair food.

On Friday, May 31, the Monster Truck and Mudd Boggs show will start at 6 pm where attendees can see "Wicked Strong," "Survivor," "Playing for Keeps," "Scattered," and "Skull Crusher" in the arena. Live music will be provided by Warehouse 21 from 6 to 10 pm.

On Saturday, June 1, the Monster Truck and Mudd Boggs shows will be joined by the additional Boat Races show, all of which start at 6 pm. Live music will be provided by While We're Young from 6 to 10 pm.

On Sunday, June 2, Live music will be provided by Grupo SG, La Nueva Historia, and X-Posiva

Banda de los Ninis from 6 to 10 pm.

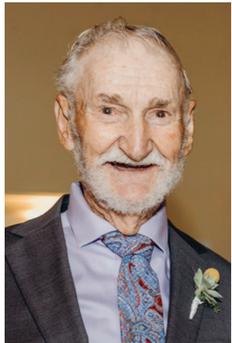
Admission to the fair is free, but tickets are required to enter the grandstands where the shows are held. Gates will open at 3 pm on Friday and at noon on Saturday and Sunday. Parking is \$10 each day.

Tickets are available presale, as well as at the gate.

Grandstand tickets are available presale for \$23/adults (12 and up) and \$19/child (3-11) and are available for sale at all Mendo Mill stores in Mendocino County. If they're purchased at the gate, grandstand tickets will be \$27/adults (12 and up) and \$22/child (3-11).

Carnival wristband tickets are also available presale for \$30 each and are available for sale at all Mendo Mill stores in Mendocino County, Ukiah Taco Bell, Raley's, Chavez Market, and Creative Workshop. If they're purchased at the gate, carnival wristband tickets will be \$37 each. All wristbands are good for one day only.

For more information: 707-462-FAIR or visit www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com



OBITUARY |

Marvin Wagner

Marvin Eugene Wagner was born on May 10, 1927 to Eugene and Artie Wagner near Greenville, Kentucky. The family moved to Willits in 1937, crossing the Golden Gate Bridge just months after its completion. Marvin celebrated his 97th birthday with buttermilk biscuits and blackberry jam, passing on a few days later on May 14, 2024 with family by his side.

He was predeceased by his parents and his siblings: Mamie Johnson, TH Wagner, Jerline Kroh, and Glenwood Wagner; by his son Ronald Wagner, and by his beloved companion, Billie Driscoll.

He is survived by his son Robert (Rachel) Wagner, granddaughter Maia (Jacob) Bates, grandson Jared Wagner, great-granddaughter Aurora Bates, sister Mae Sundstrom, brother Elwood Wagner, dear friend and nephew Don Kroh, and many many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Marvin worked for 44 years in local sawmills, and following his retirement worked another 30 years on his mountain home, taming the forest and cherishing his vegetable garden. He was known for his generosity in sharing his time and talents with family and friends on a variety of construction projects, from fences, roofs, decks or concrete work to new home construction. And if there was a problem tree to be dealt with ... call Marvin.

Much appreciation to Hospice Services of Lake County and Dr. Kirk Andrus.

Interment will be at Little Lake Cemetery on Thursday, May 23 at 11 am.

OBITUARY |

Donna Figg-Hoblyn



With sadness, we say goodbye to Donna Lynn Telemchuk Figg-Hoblyn, on April 5, 2024, after a long fight with several illnesses. She was born September 24, 1959, to Don Telemchuk and Karen Figg-Hoblyn in San Francisco.

Donna lived in Hayward when she was young, moving to Laytonville/Branscomb and then to Willits, where she went to elementary school through high school, graduating with the Class of 1978.

Donna was married and had a son, Richard, in 1981. He was the love of her life. To him, she passed down her love of hair design.

After graduating from Willits Hair Academy in 1985, Donna pursued a career in cosmetology. She worked in various beauty shops in Willits before opening her shop Mane Effects Hair Design, where she worked her magic until her recent hospitalization, on December 31, 2023, the day she was to retire after over 35 years of dedication to her craft.

She loved gardening and grew beautiful flowers; she loved making

floral arrangements, gifting them to the special people in her life. She also loved rock collecting; her friends always brought back a special rock for her when they traveled.

Donna was always a positive person, happy and upbeat, she could get you out of the worst moods. She was a great listener and offered so much encouragement. She reminded you of all the good things in life. She also had a smile and laugh that could turn your world around. Though she had many health problems, she was brave until the very end. Her smile and laughter will surely be missed.

Donna is survived by her son Richard Figg-Hoblyn of Willits, her partner of 40 years April King, her mother Karen Figg-Hoblyn, and brothers Mark Telemchuk and John (Jessica) Way. She is also survived by her nephews and niece Stephen, Bradley, and Ella, and Uncle Dave Blanchard.

She was preceded in death by her father Donald Telemchuk, brother David Telemchuk, Aunt Mille Blanchard, and cousin Elaine Castle.

A Celebration of Life will be planned for later this year.

Donations to help cover Donna's end-of-life expenses can be made at www.gofundme.com/please-help-this-family-during-a-health-emergency

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photography by maureen jennison

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Serving areas of Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties

WILLITS COMMUNITY THEATRE presents its 2024 Season

MOTHERS and SONS

written by **Terrence McNally**
directed by **Bill Barksdale**

May 31 - June 9
Fri/Sat: 7:30 pm; Sun: 2 pm

tickets: \$20. www.wctperformingartscenter.org
or at the door - 37 W. Van Lane, Willits - 707-216-1826

We proudly serve
Bonterra Winery • Mendocino Spirits • Northspur Brewery

LEGAL NOTICES

WW486
SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
(CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): 24CV00401)
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): RONNIE PUTNAM, a single man, FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY, a Florida Corporation, all persons unknown, claiming any legal or equitable right, title, estate or lien, or interest in the property described in the complaint adverse to the title of the Plaintiff, or any cloud upon the Plaintiff's title thereto; DOES 1-150, inclusive.
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): TIMOTHY T. McISAAC and PIARIVA McISSAC, as Trustees of the Mclaac Revocable Trust dated July 29, 2015.
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Website (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.
NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
iAVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formao legal correcto si desea qua procesan su caso en la corte. Es posible qua haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible qua cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda deshechar el caso.

WW487
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: PATSY NELL PHILLIPS AKA PATSY PHILLIPS
CASE NO. 24PR00078
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: PATSY NELL PHILLIPS AKA PATSY PHILLIPS. A Petition for Probate has been filed by TAMRA L. PHILLIPS in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that TAMRA L. PHILLIPS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: June 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.
If you object to granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner: Alexander C. Rich, CARTER RICH PC, 716 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490 Telephone: 707-456-9210
Publication Dates: May 16, 23, and 30, 2024.

WW488
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0237
The following person or persons are doing business as The Whistle Stop, 280 East Commercial Street, Willits CA 95490; 707-354-2539.
Registered owner: Imagination Station Preschool & Childcare Center, 11 North Marin Street, Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 2, 2024.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 2, 2024.
/s/ Saprina Rodriguez, CEO & 100% Owner
Publication dates: May 16, 23, and 30, June 6, 2024

WW489
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0249
The following person or persons are doing business as Forest Valley Farm, 16750 Walker Lake Road, Willits CA 95490; 707-354-1252.
Registered owners: Evelyn Angouli Fisher and Adrian Christopher Fisher, 16750 Walker Lake Road, Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a married couple.
The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 13, 2024.
/s/ Evelyn A. Fisher and Adrian Fisher.
Publication dates: May 16, 23, and 30, June 6, 2024

Willits Weekly
Online & In Print

LEGAL NOTICES

WW486
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0192
The following person or persons are doing business as It's A Shore Thing, 262 North Main Street, Fort Bragg CA 95437.
Registered owner: Kevin M. Silva, 43193 Caspar Little Lake Road, Mendocino CA 95460.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on April 4, 2024.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on April 4, 2024.
/s/ Kevin M. Silva,
Publication dates: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024

WW487
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0249
The following person or persons are doing business as Forest Valley Farm, 16750 Walker Lake Road, Willits CA 95490; 707-354-1252.
Registered owners: Evelyn Angouli Fisher and Adrian Christopher Fisher, 16750 Walker Lake Road, Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a married couple.
The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 13, 2024.
/s/ Evelyn A. Fisher and Adrian Fisher.
Publication dates: May 16, 23, and 30, June 6, 2024

WW488
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0221
The following person or persons are doing business as Noyo Theater, 57 East Commercial Street, Willits CA 95490-3101.
Registered owners: James Patrick Devine and Michelle Lynn Hutchins, 1801 Hearst-Willits Road, Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a married couple.
The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 15, 2024.
/s/ James Patrick Devine
Publication dates: May 23 and 30, June 6 and 13, 2024

WW489
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0237
The following person or persons are doing business as The Whistle Stop, 280 East Commercial Street, Willits CA 95490; 707-354-2539.
Registered owner: Imagination Station Preschool & Childcare Center, 11 North Marin Street, Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 2, 2024.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 2, 2024.
/s/ Saprina Rodriguez, CEO & 100% Owner
Publication dates: May 16, 23, and 30, June 6, 2024

Willits Weekly
Online & In Print

LEGAL NOTICES

WW488
CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING FORMAL BIDS
PROJECT NO. 2024-01
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed bids for: The work shown on the project plans entitled: **CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT PROJECT PLANS** For: **2024 Pavement Preservation Project - Project No. 2024-01** The work for this project includes pavement improvements on portions of Blosser Lane, Locust Street, and Walnut Street totaling approximately 46,500 square feet and approximately 10,000 square feet of asphalt digouts on East Commercial Street. It also includes construction of new sidewalks, curb and gutter, asphalt dikes, pedestrian ramps, and driveways within the project footprint.
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 - EXAMPLE AWARD PACKET
For: **2024 Pavement Preservation Project - Project No. 2024-01** 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 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2024, 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.
THE ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS IS: \$886,755.89
The contractor shall possess a Class A license at the time this contract is awarded.
Key Dates:
• Pre-bid Meeting: May 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m. (on site)
• Final Questions from Bidders: June 5, 2024 by 5:00 p.m.
• Final Addendum Issued: June 11, 2024
• Bid Opening: June 20, 2024 2:00 p.m.
• Project Start Date: July 8, 2024
• Project length: 120 working days (Completion: 3/2/2025)
Interested bidders should contact the following to obtain electronic copies of plans and other bid documents:
Brandy Sanderson
bsanderson@cityofwillits.org
(707) 459-7143
CITY OF WILLITS: s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
DATED: 5/16/2024
Publication Dates: May 16, 23 and 30, 2024

WW489
BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct a Public Hearing on Ordinance 166 increasing the Board Stipend from \$100 to \$125, effective July 1, 2024.
The public hearing will be held in person and remotely (hybrid meeting) at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 25, 2024. Information on remote access to the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda at its publishing. At or prior to this time, any interested person, including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may appear personally or submit a written presentation on any matter relating to the proposed Ordinance.
DATED: May 15, 2024
Tamara Alaniz, General Manager/
Secretary to the Board of Directors
Publication Date: May 23, 2024

WW490
BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
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DATED: May 15, 2024
Tamara Alaniz, General Manager/
Secretary to the Board of Directors
Publication Date: May 23, 2024

Willits Weekly
Online & In Print



Above, from left: Sober Grad's Rachel Cash, far left and Davina Sentak, far right, smile with the two \$1,000 scholarship winners, Grant Forrester, left, and Penelope Maidrand, at the 2023 event. Alice Ford helped supervise the carnival game area last year. 2023 Graduate Alyssandra Garcia Carrillo won the M&M jar count with a guess of 1,280, only 51 off, and the closest to the total of 1,229.



Willits Sober Grad Presents
Sweet Dreams
 a candyland pajama party
 celebrating the class of 2024

Thursday, June 6th at 9pm
 Willits Charter School
 1431 S Main Street
 Willits, California

DOORS CLOSE AT 11PM

Guests must be approved by your school office.

(2) \$1,000 CASH PRIZES

QUAD BUNGEE RUN **Cornhole Tournament**
Henna Tattoos **CASINO GAMES** **Live DJ**
RedBull Slushes & Candy Bar
CARNIVAL GAMES **CASH & PRIZE DRAWINGS**
Pizza & Nacho Bar **Mechanical Bull**
\$100 for ALL Seniors at 4AM

WILLITS SOBER GRAD
Rabble Basket

Basket Includes

Basket is filled with wonderful spring items, Flourish & Flow 1 month membership, Oil Change from NorCrawl, Pampered Chef Deep Stone Dish & Focaccia Bread Mix, Good Guys Gym (2) 3 month memberships, Frontier Days Ticket Family Pack, Full Color Service from Hair by Winter Wilson, Beach Blanket, Picnic Backpack, Bamboo Cutting Board, a load of rock from Northern Aggregates and much, much more!

\$5.00 per ticket

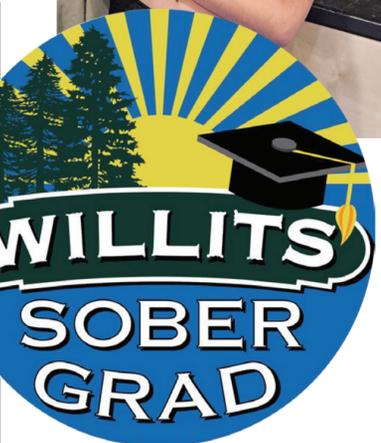
Tickets available from WHS seniors, or come see the basket at the Sparetime booth at the car show this weekend!

T and T TOWING

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 (707) 841-2001 • WILLITS, CA



Willits Sober Grad Party coming up June 6

Submitted by Carrie Lambert, for Willits Sober Grad

Countdown to graduation! While our seniors are putting the finishing touches on their 12th grade year, Willits Sober Grad is pulling together the final details for our Grad Night Party. We would like to encourage every graduating senior to attend!! WSG is planning for a night packed full of activities, entertainment, food, and of course cash and prize drawings.

This year's entertainment will include carnival and casino games, mechanical bull, bounce house, henna tattoos, photo booth, live DJ, and more. With over \$23,000 budgeted for prizes and cash drawings, every senior who attends will win a gift valued at \$50. Seniors who stay until 4 am will receive \$100 cash and a chance at winning two \$1,000 cash prizes. Other prize drawings include gifts valued at \$150 and \$200, and each senior is entered for a chance to win.

The party will take place at Willits Charter School on Thursday, June 6. Doors open at 9 pm and close at 11 pm. Seniors must stay until 4 am to be eligible to collect cash prizes. If you have questions about the party, please send us an email at willitsobergrad@gmail.com.

If you are interested in volunteering at the party, please reach out to Wendi Kvasnicka or email willitsobergrad@gmail.com.

Prizes for the 2024 party fill the trunk of a car on one of the shopping days, prepping for the party.

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 willittpower@gmail.com Fax: 707 459-6369

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 Agent
 Cantua Insurance Agency
 16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490
 786 Redwood Drive
 Garberville, CA 95542
 Tel 707.459.3276
 Tel 707.923.2179
 Fax 707.923.9550
 rcantua@farmersagent.com
 0C57822

Foxy Roxy

Roxy is looking for a family to call her own. This gorgeous girl is intelligent and agile. She is good with dogs but would probably do best in a home being the only dog.



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

Searching Chula

How is Chula still here? Are you looking for a sweet, active best friend? Well Chula may just be the girl for you! Chula has had a long life already and she is only 3 years old. Her journey started with us back in 2021 as a young puppy. She was adopted after a struggle with kennel cough that sadly turned into pneumonia. After weeks of antibiotics, steam treatments, and a loving foster home, she was on the mend. Shortly after, she was adopted. Unfortunately, this home did not work out, at no fault of her own.



Chula has been back with us now since Jan 2023. Chula is a long-term resident and would love nothing more than a loving family to call her own. Chula gets along well with other doggie friends and is a rock star in our play groups. Chula is on the slower side when it comes to making friends, but once you make friends with her, you're friends for life!

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

Gentle Pacino

Pacino was brought to the shelter by an Animal Protection officer. You can see that he has lots of scars that look like he was in a dog fight. We found Pacino to be very friendly and outgoing with people. With other dogs he was not reactive but also not trusting. Pacino will have to meet any potential dog housemates. Pacino walks nicely on leash and enjoys going for walks.



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

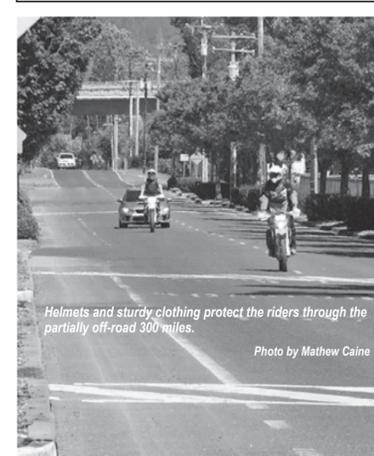
MENDOCINO COUNTY

Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Auditor/Appraiser** \$68,515 - \$83,283
- Cook** \$47,881 - \$58,177
- Corrections Deputy** \$55,369 - \$67,308
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner** \$75,878 - \$93,142
- Director Social Services** \$143,083 - \$173,908
- Juvenile Corrections Officer** \$50,710 - \$61,630
- Mental Health Clinician I/II** \$60,340 - \$84,843
- Program Specialist I/II** \$51,396 - \$68,931
- Senior Program Specialist** \$62,504 - \$75,982
- Staff Assistant I/II** \$37,398 - \$41,121
- Supervising Legal Secretary** \$49,296 - \$59,945

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
 EOE

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 (707) 459-2775
 245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits
 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.



Helmets and sturdy clothing protect the riders through the partially off-road 300 miles. Photo by Mathew Caine

The rest of **Sheetiron** From page 5

have to be street legal. It's a dual-sport ride. They have to be able to do street and dirt. They have to be licensed.

"It's 150 miles in," Collins continued. "It's pretty tough if the riders take the hard splits, which are the single-tracks, the tighter trails through the woods. Nobody's boondocking. It's all on trails that are designated. They're all on maps, on roll charts or GPS tracks. Hopefully, no one gets lost, although some do, but they always seem to make it somehow to Fort Bragg and back. We've rarely ever had someone who has gotten lost and had to spend the night in the woods."

After spending the night in Fort Bragg, either camping or in motels, the run made its way down the coast and back to Stonyford, to share their experiences on the road, laugh with members who had minor mishaps, and pack up their gear for the next run.

Information on the club and the run can be found at: <https://oaklandmc.org/>.



The rest of **Family** From page 3

COVID-19 Workplace Outreach Project in which "the state interviewed the community to find out how the community wants them to spend money," continued Perez. "Before, they always made the decision of which projects they should do. This project was so the community could give their opinion on which projects we need in our community."

"Nuestra Alianza did 25 interviews in the community to hear from them what we need in Mendocino [County]. People have been deciding what Mendocino needs but they don't even know Mendocino. There are people in Sacramento making decisions. This project is for people to say what is needed. These interviews were done throughout California, through all the state. We're the only one of the 10 organizations in Mendocino that did the interviews in Spanish."

"We're becoming more political, more activist, trying to give Mendocino what it needs," said Perez. "We need the Latino community to be more involved in the political sphere."

In addition to visiting the informational booths, there was a station where the kids could pot their own flowers to take home and a face-painting table to brighten up the occasion. The clown, Joel Hernandez, kept the kids entertained with magic, balloon animals, and games (water balloon toss, tug of war, musical chairs, races, and other diversions). Parents enjoyed the free food and drinks and helping the kids get their slips punched at the booths (WIC, Cancer Resource Centers, Nuestra Alianza, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services of Mendocino County, and others).

For more information on this organization, visit their Facebook page, their website <https://nuestraalianzadewillits.org>, call 707-456-9418, or email nuestra.alianza.de.willits@gmail.com.

CLASSIFIEDS
 30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks

Free Furniture
 Free to good home. Large, wood dining table, 5 chairs, and matching china cabinet. Older, but in good condition. Pick it up, it's yours! 707-459-3702/

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>

Indoor Yard Sale
 Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, May 18 from 8 am to 4 pm.**

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

Weed Eating
 Reliable and efficient. Senior discount. Call Mike at (707) 354-5650.

'Would You Like to Take Problem-Solving to the Next Level?'
 Let's explore ways we can use spiritual ideas to unlock the possibilities for effective problem-solving. Join us to share in the discussion or just listen on Saturday, June 1st from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Willits Library. Sponsored by Eckankar in California

Moving Sale
 Professional Exercise Bicycle \$50, Kitchen Aid Mixer (only used 4 times) \$50, Ice Machine, \$30, Tooled Leather Purse \$35, Tooled Leather Wallet \$5, 2 Beekeeping Jackets with attached Hats, 2 Gloves \$50. (408) 500-8754

Willits Food Bank at new location
 Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, pantry staples, hygienic products, and more, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, at their new location at 344 Railroad Avenue. Food distribution is available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Open House set Friday, May 24 from 5 to 7 pm - come say hello to staff and volunteers, and check out the new location. Info: 459-3333.



Above, left: Sergio Perez, the new executive director of Nuestra Alianza, stands next to one of the banners depicting the results of a survey. Above, right: A 2-year-old is mesmerized by the constant flow of bubbles. Below: This little girl won the first bike in the raffle. At bottom: Clown Joel Hernandez twists balloon animals to fascinate the kids.



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



Generations collide in 'Mothers and Sons' at Willits Community Theatre May 31 to June 9

By Steve Hellman for WCT

Terrence McNally's famous play of lifestyle and generational conflicts, "Mothers and Sons," opens May 31 at Willits Community Theatre. Veteran director Bill Barksdale returns to the WCT stage to bring the McNally masterpiece of character and insightfulness to life, through a select cast of actors he says have felt their own lives changed by their work in the production.

The time is 20 years after Katharine Gerard's son Andre has died. She remains bitter over his death and her offence taken with his lifestyle in a same-sex partnership. She's also bitter over her own failed marriage. Now in her 70's, she's making an unannounced visit to her son's former partner, Cal Porter, in the hopes this desperate act can help her find a way out of her aggrieved misery.

In the role of Katharine, expert actor Kathy Vellis brings her trademark sharpness and power, making clear from the get-go how strongly she disapproved of her son's choices.

In her standoffs with Cal, played by Christopher Martineau, and his new loving husband, Will Ogden, played by Greg Martin, Katharine questions how they can dare be so happily married and parent a 10-year-old son.

In a play that touches the heart with its raw humanity, and brings about unexpected humor, the generations collide – as Katharine questions the very values and character of these young men. However, she's about to find out just how much she actually has in common with them, so that ultimately there might be some glimmer of hope in the end.

Having been in several WCT hit shows, Martineau brings his own sure depth of character to Cal Porter to match Katharine with her resentments. Greg Martin makes his debut appearance on the WCT stage as Cal's partner. Veteran child-actor Finn Shipp appears as their son, Bud Ogden-Porter.

Barksdale is known for his outstanding work in developing actors into their roles. He says, "I've had great satisfaction with every play I've ever done. But this play is something else. It will be an experience that touches the heart of everyone coming to see it."

The play runs May 31 through June 9, with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door. Production sponsor for the show is Eclectic Solar of Willits. Season sponsors for Willits Community Theatre are the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, NC Financial Group, Sparetime Supply, and KZYX Radio.



CalFresh

Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits. Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify. 707-459-6826

HARBOR SENIOR CENTER
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FREE COMPOST!
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

LOCATED AT 550 FRANKLIN AVENUE, WILLITS, CA 95490
OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

TESTING AND CERTIFICATIONS CAN BE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP NOW AT OUR WILLITS TRANSFER STATION!!

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES COMMUNITY MEETING MAY 30, 2024 4-5 PM

Join us for a Community Meeting inside Board Chambers located at: 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah, Ca 95482

- Gain insight into how operations work within our department, including animal rescue, shelter management, and adoption procedures.
- Discover opportunities to get involved through volunteering, fostering, or adopting.
- Share your feedback and suggestions to help us better serve our community's furry friends.

Zoom: https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/86567377116
+1 869 444 9171
ID: 865 6737 7116

MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER AND HONOR

WE THANK & CELEBRATE YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

MONDAY, MAY 27: MEMORIAL DAY GARDEN SET DRAWING!
EARN RAFFLE TICKETS FROM 11 AM TO 5 PM
DRAWING AT 6 PM. MUST HAVE 10 ACTIVE SESSION POINTS AT TIME OF RAFFLE OFFER.

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



Deanne California's Variety Show featured at next Willits Daily Bread benefit, May 26

This second musical benefit presented by St. Francis Episcopal Church to help Willits Daily Bread continue to feed the hungry in the Willits community features Deanne California's Variety Show with Bunny and the Drums.

The April benefit featuring the Cosmic Family Band was "so happy and successful that we have decided to continue these concerts more or less monthly, featuring our young musical talent," said Bill Bruneau, who is helping organize these shows. "Our long-term goal is to host consistent family-friendly performers that you may never have heard play."

The rest of Puppets | From page 7

of the stage, the costumes, and the puppets and the stories," said Nickerson. "Two of them are traveling with us. The show was inspired by what the upstate Creative Corps was asking for. They were trying to have artist projects that were engaged with and focused on different difficulties rural communities are facing, so we're focusing on environmental issues.

"We wanted to make a show that was really kid friendly, could visit schools and do performances, speak to kids on their level, entertain them, make them laugh, but also get into how kids are feeling and reacting to environmental disasters like earthquakes, floods, fires that have been heavily affecting our communities as long as I've lived in Humboldt. And it's only getting more extreme."

Nickerson's partner, Tayloranne Finch, has enjoyed putting the show together and performing with her friends all over northern California. "This has been a lot of fun," said Finch. "It's really brought us together, closer, making a show together and writing the story together. We've done a lot of research and thinking and asking and listening, all sorts of research around 'what does it mean to be resilient in rural communities?'"

"We all live in a rural place up in Humboldt County," Finch explained, "realizing just how much we rely on each other, even how much we relied on our community, to learn about stories, what people are thinking about, worried about, and

looking towards the future in their community.

"We have lots of other show ideas," shared Finch. "You learn so much when you build a puppet. They have their own story to tell, too. Already, we're thinking that Salmon has about a four-minute scene, but King Salmon could have a whole show. We have Scrapy the Skunk. He has a few lines, but where does Scrapy live and what does he do? That's something we've been asking after the show when we've been doing puppet petting zoos or just opportunities to talk to community members. We've asked who they want to hear more from. What stories do you want to hear from Cowtown?"

After the show – which included marionettes, giant salmons, Commedia dell Arte style clowning (two of the cast are graduates of Dell Arte School of Physical Theatre near Eureka), a talking sun and moon, a giant crow, the aforementioned pooping cow (a kid favorite), a forest fire, rain, and some wonderful creatures – the kids were invited up to try on a cow's head, try their hand at manipulating the marionettes, and generally have time to ask questions of the performers.

For more about the troupe, to ask questions, or to arrange to book them for schools or other appropriate venues, visit www.greetingsfromcowtown.com or check out their Instagram and Facebook pages. They also have music on all of the streaming sites.



Willits Daily Bread presents Deanna California's Variety Show
Sunday May 26, 2024 3:00 - 5:00

SOUP & BREAD DINNER \$5.00

St Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church Commercial & Main Street Admission Donations Accepted
To Help Willits Daily Bread continue to feed the hungry in our community

Willits Daily Bread
P.O. Box 1826 Willits, CA 95490

Above: At the April Fools Pool Club benefit earlier this year, Deanne California sings with guitarist Richard Tootreesse Jeske, also of the Willits Farmers Market Band. Above, center, top: Early on at the Art Center's Halloween Gala, Deanne California took to the floor to dance with her hula hoop. Above, center: Deanne California entertains attendees and passersby at the "This is Willits" exhibit last summer at the Art Center.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
MAY 25-26
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10 AM - 5 PM / 71 E COMMERCIAL ST
DONATIONS NEEDED NOW
Donate your new/used art and craft supplies to benefit YOUR arts center!
Drop off donations at the gallery desk
Friday - Sunday 11am - 5pm
Need help bringing in your donations?
We may be able to help. Contact Margi at: margi@mcr.org

willitscenterforthearts.org



We will present art supplies and yard sale items along with all things art-related, with a great selection of art and craft supplies at super-low prices. This sale will be great for artists, home crafters, teachers and schools, and all proceeds will benefit the Willits Center for the Arts.

We are also asking for members and friends for donations of used and unused studio items for this popular fundraiser. Donations can be left at the WCA with the host during gallery hours through Friday, May 24, or call WCA to make an appointment or to volunteer to help with the sale, at 707-459 1726.

Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are 11 am until 5 pm, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

2024 LAYTONVILLE RODEO Weekend

CCPRA Rodeo Grand Entry 1PM
Junior Rodeo Grand Entry 10AM

SAT JUN 8th | **SUN JUN 9th**

DJ Ken Steely to play Saturday after the rodeo.
Food, drinks and goods vendor's both days.

Raffle to be drawn at Rodeo
Need not be present to win

Adult \$10 | Child \$5
Ticket good for either day

Tickets Available at Pour Girls Coffee

Event | 101 Trailer & Sponsors | Family Tree Service

WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS HOMETOWN CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST 5PM - 9PM

LIVE MUSIC BY: Palmer Anthony

AERIAL SILKS | **FACE PAINTING**
CLIMBING WALL | **HENNA ARTIST**
MECHANICAL BULL | **ARTISAN VENDORS**
DUNK TANK | **FOOD TRUCKS & MORE!**
BOUNCE HOUSE

A free community event, kicking off the Frontier Days tradition!
MAIN STREET, WILLITS
wfd.hometowncelebration@gmail.com

**Willits Center for the Arts
announces winners
of the People's Choice Award**

Submitted by Willits Center for the Arts

The Willits Center for the Arts is pleased to announce the winners of the People's Choice Award for the May show, which featured the exceptional works of 40 talented artists. The community had the opportunity to view and vote for their favorite pieces, resulting in the selection of three outstanding winners.

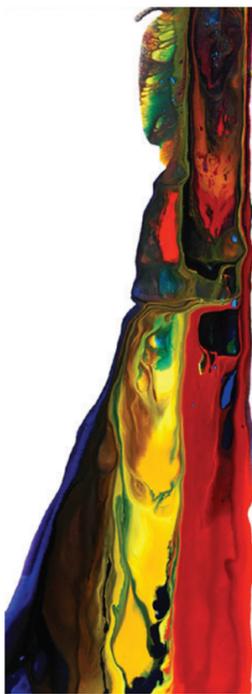
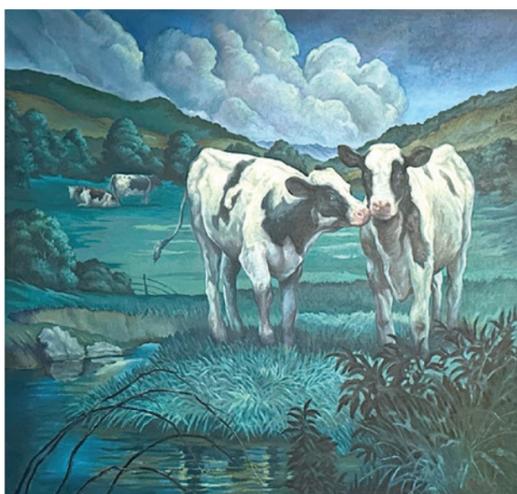
In first place is Daphne Gillian's "Jury of My Peers." Made of ceramic and steel, Gillian's winning piece is a fun look at 12 ceramic animals. The second-place winner is Gail Rushmore Nidros' "Warrior." This piece is a brilliant use of collage with newsprint, maps and acrylic, which form a portrait of an African warrior. In third place is Don Ponte's "Two Cows," an oil painting of a pasture with two friendly cows. An honorary mention goes to Patsy Brixie for her colorful vertical abstract painting, "Mystic Princess."

"We are thrilled to recognize these artists who have made a significant impact on our community through their exceptional artistry," said WCA Curator Gary Martin. "The People's Choice Award is a special honor as it reflects the preferences and admiration of our local art enthusiasts."

The May show, which runs throughout the month, showcases a diverse range of artistic styles and mediums, providing a platform for both emerging and established artists to present their best work. The exhibition has attracted numerous visitors, fostering a deeper appreciation for the arts within the Willits community.

The Willits Center for the Arts extends heartfelt congratulations to all the participating artists and expresses gratitude to everyone who attended and voted in the exhibition. The continued support and engagement of the community are vital to the success of our programs and events.

For more information about upcoming exhibitions and events, please visit the Willits Center for the Arts website at www.willitscenterforthearts.org or contact Gary Martin at 707-972-3326. The WCA gallery, located at 71 East Commercial Street, is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.



Above, left: Don Ponte won third place for his painting, "Two Cows."

Above, right: "Warrior" by Gail Rushmore won second place in the WCA People's Choice Awards.

At left: "Mystic Princess" received an honorable mention. Below: First Place People's Choice Award winner is Daphne Gillian's "Jury of My Peers."



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