Brooktrails
board
approves
\$25 stipend
increase

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The first item of business at the June 25 meeting of the Brooktrails Township Community Services District was a public hearing, regarding the "Consideration of Ordinance 166 Increasing the Amount of Directors' Meeting Stipend."

At the May 14 board meeting there had been considerable discussion between the directors about the proposed increase. At that meeting it

Read the rest of Increase

Over on Page 15

#### Willits school board wraps up the year

By Addison Alvarado

On the evening of June 13. the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees convened for its monthly meeting. The agenda covered many topics during the closed and open sessions, allowing the Willits Teacher Association, superintendent. board members, and public to comment on the recently upcoming concerns, lastly, allowing the board and others to acknowledge their appreciation of the efforts of staff and faculty throughout the district.

In their leadership roles, Superintendent Mark Beebe and all board trustees attended

Read the rest of Summertime

Over on page 15

# Ukiah Veterans Services moving back 'home' this week

Submitted by Mendocino County Department of Social Services

Ukiah, CA – The Veterans Services Office in Ukiah is returning to its original location at 405 Observatory Avenue this week. The office was closed on Monday, July 1, and Tuesday, July 2. From Wednesday, July 3, to Monday, July 8, service hours may be limited as the relocation and setup process continues.

For questions or additional information, please contact the Ukiah Veterans Services Office at (707) 463-4226 or fax (707) 463-4637.

Read the rest of Veterans

Over on Page 15









Above, from left: Little Lake Fire's Philip Laurent, left, and Harry So, center, smile with T&T Towing driver Jeramy Stevens at the Willits Frontier Days Truck Pull event. 2019 and 2020 Sweetheart Jaden Doak smiles with WFD's Bruce Cartwright who posed with each past Sweetheart at the dinner. Jason Ingham and Halfbreed lifted up the front wheels during their Friday-night run. Red, white and blue flower arrangements adorned the vases at the dinner, which were made by Wil Gonzalez of Willits Flowers. Below: 2024 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart winner Elena Arkelian, left, smiles with 2023 winner Hazel Cooke, center, and 2024 runner-up Catie Spackman, right.









## Frontier Days Fun Continues

Main events for 98th annual event coming up July 3 through 6 in Willits

Above, from left: Jason Whitby stands with his mom Terry in the pits. Jason, and dad Jeff, both pulled during the Friday night event. It's 'hands up!' to show the MLM Motorsports crew it's safe to unhook the truck from the sled. Doug Bradshaw, driver of Show No Mercy, chats with the MLM crew after pulling 278.75 feet.

Below, left: Spike Reeve's Traction Control put on an unintended fire show as the engine compartment lit aflame, surprising the crowd – and the driver. Past 1992 Sweetheart Amanda Hiatt Hower with Bruce Cartwright at the dinner.











Above, from left: 2023 Sweetheart Hazel Cooke, in pink, and 2024 runner-up Catie Spackman, at right, watch as 2024 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart winner, Elena Arkelian, left, receives her sash from WFD Vice President Marcy Barry. Smoke spills from the in-bed stack of this truck, pulling against the Terminator sled in the Truck Pull event. One of the MLM crew watches from a haze of smoke. Below, from left: Bear Kamoroff certified the results of the Sweetheart ticket count. Chris Neary of Sunny Brook Ranch was one of the sponsors for this year's Junior Rodeo and smiles here with 2017 past Sweetheart Hailey Riley. 2009 Sweetheart Lindsey Bowlds smiles with Bruce Cartwright. Jereme Lopez of Family Tree, another 2024 sponsor, smiles with 2017 past Sweetheart Hailey Riley.









# Willits groundwater report has good results

By B.B. Kamoroff

"You don't miss your water 'til the well runs dry," as the old song goes. But for Willits the well isn't dry. In fact the wells are full of safe drinking water according to the most recent Annual Groundwater Report presented to the city council at their June 26 meeting.

Willits gets its drinking water from two reservoirs near the top of the Ridgewood Grade and from a 200-foot-deep well, the Elias Replacement Well, on the north end of

Read more of Results

Over on Page 2

## Willits man arrested

for Blue Lake Road murder

By Lt. Andrew Porter, for MCSO

On Saturday, at approximately 11:07 am, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Communications Center began receiving calls from several residents in the area of the 5200 block of Blue Lake Road, on the edge of the Brooktrails Township in Callers were reporting a male subject causing a disturbance in the area, with the sounds of yelling and possibly fighting.

Sheriff's Office deputies were not in the immediate area, and they arrived

Read the rest of Arrested Over on Page 4

# CAL FIRE MEU suspends burn permits

Submitted by CAL FIRE MEU

June 28-The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit is suspending residential outdoor burn permits. This suspension took effect on Monday, July 1, 2024, at 12:01 am, and suspends all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris such as branches and leaves.

After another wet winter and above average snowpack, warming temperatures and winds are quickly drying out the abundant annual grass crop. The increasing fire danger posed by the high volume of dead grass and hotter, drier conditions in the region is prompting

Read the rest of Suspends

Over on Page 15

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

#### Willits Food Bank needs community support

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Willits Community Services and Food Bank, I am writing to update the community on the status of our fundraising efforts to save the Willits Food Bank. As of today, we have raised \$36,990 towards our goal of \$100,000 for our summer fundraiser. We are grateful for the support we have received so far, but we still have a way to go to ensure the continued operation of this vital community resource.

We would like to thank: Rosamond Crowder, Jane McCabe, David Aleiandro Peralta, Robert & Sheri Cronin. David & Cathy Ortiz, Divine Assistants Intl., Henry Rued D.D.S., Kay Wright, J. Francis Schatz, Brent Fraser, Dr. John & Doreen Glyer, St. Francis in the Redwoods, Lynn Dee Johnson & Cynthia Plattner, Carolyn Ponikvar, G&R Bradford Foundation, Peter Dal Poggetto Trust, Aprad & Cindy Peter, Willits United Methodist Church, Norma Jean Hanson, the Willits Lion Club, and the City of Willits. Thank you so much for your donations and support. It makes such a difference in the lives of those we serve!

For 43 years, the Willits Food Bank has been providing essential food assistance to families in need. Currently we are serving over 35% of Willits households and surrounding areas, operating twice a week to distribute food to those who rely on us. Our services are crucial to the well-being of our community, and we are determined to continue our

We kindly ask that your consider making a contribution to support our cause. Every donation, big or small, brings us closer to our goal and helps us continue to serve our community. Your support will be instrumental in ensuring the Willits Food Bank can continue to provide for those who need it the most.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your support. Donations may be sent to: WCS, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.

Kim Tippit, executive director, Willits Food Bank

#### Celebrate safely this holiday weekend

Posted by Sheriff Matt Kendall

As we head into the 4th of July weekend, I am hopeful everyone will exercise caution while celebrating. Please monitor https:// mendoready.org/ for any updates regarding hazards within our county. This is also the location where you can sign up for alerts and warning as well as to receive tips on prevention and preparedness for disasters.

We are moving into a pattern of extreme fire weather, while many people are coming from out of the area to enjoy our beautiful county. If you are going to travel, please realize there will be more traffic on the roads so give yourself a little extra time to reach your destination. Our partners with the California Highway Patrol will be out in force looking for persons driving under the influence to keep our motorists safe over the holiday weekend.

Many folks will be enjoying the lakes, rivers, and our coast due to the heat we are having. Please remember alcohol and water activities including boating don't mix. Keep a watchful eye on all children in and around waterways and pools. We have seen tragedies in the past, so let's not

Please don't engage in the use of any fireworks. With the extreme fire danger we are currently seeing, these items could spell disaster. Ask yourself if a few minutes of excitement are worth the loss of life and property fireworks could cause.

This morning I spoke with CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit Chief Brandon Gunn. Chief Gunn advised that currently he has full staffing in Mendocino County and, luckily, he was able to secure one extra engine and crew as we prepare for this concerning fire

All of our residents have done a great job over the past couple of years helping to keep themselves and their neighbors out of peril from fires. I am asking that we use a little extra caution over the next week and continue our excellent record of making good decisions, which will ensure the safety of our ourselves and others. Thank you.

#### City of Willits releases draft of General Plan Land Use Element for community review

Submitted by Community Development Department

The City of Willits has released the Public Draft General Plan Land Use Element, which is a critical document to ensure that the city is making wise and thoughtful decisions about land use, and appropriately planning to accommodate housing, business, and employment growth over the next 20 years and beyond.

The City Land Use Element has not been comprehensively updated since 1992. The city proposes revisions to the General Plan Land Use Diagram related to zoning as well as Land Use goals, policies, and implementation measures that will guide the location and extent of future development in Willits.

In the coming weeks, the City of Willits will release the associated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Land Use Element Update. This Draft PEIR includes an analysis of the updated Land Use Element, associated zoning changes needed to implement the General Plan, and proposed expansion of the city's sphere of influence.

The community is encouraged to visit the project website at www.willitslanduseupdate.com to learn more about the project, review the Draft Land Use Element, and provide feedback. A hard copy is also available for review at the Willits Library or at City Hall.

#### 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. Drivethrough 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, July 4: Center closed for 4th of July

every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.

Friday, July 5: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Green Salad, Garlic

Monday, July 8: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll Tuesday, July 9: Fish Tacos, Rice & Beans

Wednesday, July 10: Italian Sub Sandwich, Pickle, Chips Thursday, July 11: Al Pastor Taco Salad

Friday, July 12: Western Bacon Cheeseburger, Mac Salad Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class

Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, July 14 next

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

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

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

#### Fireworks are illegal in Mendocino County

of July is synonymous with sun, fun, barbecuing, and fireworks. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit Chief Brandon Gunn is reminding everyone to do their part to have a safe holiday and help prevent wildfires and injuries caused by of July are caused by fireworks.

CAL FIRE is reminding the public of the state's zero tolerance regarding the use or sale of illegal fireworks. CAL FIRE is working closely with local law enforcement and firefighting agencies to seize illegal fireworks and prosecute those found

or using fireworks in Mendocino County is in violation of the law.

Fireworks are inherently dangerous and can quickly change a safe and happy 4th of July holiday into a sad and costly one. Children are at the greatest risk of injury. Any person can be held liable for the fire-fighting costs as well as property damage costs associated with the start of a wildfire. Often, these costs are in the hundreds of thousands and sometimes, millions of

ReadyForWildfire.org and download the ReadyForWildfire app at Google Play or the App Store to receive alerts for wildland fires in your area.

Have a safe 4th of July, and help prevent unwanted fires.

military coup and ending American democracy.

"The prospect of an aspiring dictator like Donald Trump

wielding unfettered Presidential power with impunity

should alarm every person in America, especially since

Trump and the MAGA extremists behind his Project

2025 "war plan" make no secret of their authoritarian

"The door to dictatorship was just opened wide by six

Over on page 15

unelected, unaccountable Supreme Court justices. This

SCOTUS

Submitted by CAL FIRE MEU

Mendocino County – The Fourth fireworks. Two out of five fires on the 4th

in possession of them. In Mendocino County, all types of fireworks are illegal, and their use is punishable by law. Anyone possessing, transporting,

For information and tips to prevent wildfires, visit www.

"One Less Spark means One Less Wildfire."

#### The Rules: LETTERS Rep. Huffman on SCOTUS Presidential immunity ruling

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

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



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More of the valley. Willits' From page 1 Results main supply of

water comes from the reservoirs, known as surface water, which was not included in the report.

Submitted by the Office of Rep. Jared Huffman

States ruling on Trump v. United States:

Washington, D.C. - On Monday, U.S. Representative

Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) released the following

statement regarding the Supreme Court of the United

"Today, American democracy was dealt a crushing

blow by a radical and corrupt Supreme Court. With its

sweeping new 'absolute immunity' rule, the Supreme

Court is all but inviting a President to abuse power in

ways that have historically been unthinkable, including

not just ignoring laws and flouting Congress, but taking

bribes, jailing or killing political rivals, even ordering a

The Elias well, which contains the "groundwater" in the report, is a secondary source of water and currently not being pumped, but it is available for backup needs. The city has the authority to use the Elias well anytime it wants, full-time if it wants, which it has done in the past. The groundwater report showed that, from April through July 2023, an average of 2 million gallons a month were pumped out of the Elias well and into our drinking water.

According to the current and previous groundwater reports, contaminants in the groundwater in the Little Lake Valley include manganese and arsenic, although they vary dramatically from well to well, and at different depths. Some wells have little or no contaminants, some wells have a lot. Deeper wells, starting about 100 feet, are much more likely to have contaminants than shallow wells.

Which is why both the city council and members of the public expressed relief that the water quality laboratory results, reported by Brian Wallace, project engineer with EBA Engineering in Santa Rosa, showed very low levels of

manganese and no detected arsenic at all in the Elias well. This confirms the same results from prior groundwater reports during the years that the Elias well has been in use.

One issue the EBA geologists researched, which no one had looked into before, was possible arsenic contamination from long-ago sawmill operations in the valley. Some sawmills in other areas treated lumber with arsenic. The EBA geologists poured through old records and local histories and talked with mill owners, and determined that no local mills used arsenic. According to EBA's Wallace, "We found no human sources of arsenic."

The presence of naturally occurring arsenic in some deep wells in the Little Lake Valley has been documented for years. In 2006, an extensive study by West Yost & Associates, engineering geologists commissioned by the City of Willits, confirmed that the water in our valley's aquifer contains arsenic. The West Yost report stated, "Arsenic is a health concern in drinking water." At a subsequent hearing, the city council was informed that the U.S. Department of Health ranks arsenic as "the highest health hazard on the substance priority list."

The city two Read the rest of Results deep wells

Over on page 15









Above, from left: The bronze statues are moved into place on the concrete pad. War Admiral was laid down on the parking lot before the install, while adjustments were made to the supports. Margie Handley, chair of the Howard Foundation board, stands in front of the Seabiscuit statue, which was still attached to the transport trailer. At left: Beda Garman works the forks of the lift alongside the watchful eye of Handley, at his side, while his proud parents Bud and Sharon Garman watch their son work from behind the orange safety fence. Below: The statues are crafted by Atlas Bronze Casting and owner and sculptor, Stanley J. Watts.



## **Statues Installed**

'Match Race of the Century'-inspired bronzes now stand on Howard Hospital campus

Howard Foundation by the families of Mike Murano, Jason Emerson, Matt Shoda, and Nathan Petersen of Beechtree Diagnostics LLP, there's two new Atlas Bronze statues featuring Seabiscuit and War Admiral in their amazing 1938 race. The statues were created by Stanley J. Watts and were installed on Thursday, June 27.

Amazingly, of the eight possible legs available for contact with the ground, only one - War Admiral's left front - is making contact with the cement pad. The rest

After a generous donation to the Frank R. of the load-bearing efforts are housed in strong inner structures which bolt horse to horse, and horse to racetrack rail. The rail's angle to the ground, and strong foundational supports allow the statue to appear weightless and showcases the speed in which the pair were running in that amazing race.

Come by and see the statues just off of Marcela Drive, on the east side of the road at the driveway into the Jann Lamprich Center parking lot.

- Maureen Jennison



Above: The new statue featuring the "Match Race of the Century" stands near the entrance to the Jann Lamprich Center parking lot. At far left: The Seabiscuit statue is carefully placed onto the supports by Beda Garman, manning the forks, with the help of Colter King and Iodd Stubberfield. At left Margie Handley, left, stands with Garman family members including, from left: Sharon, Beda and Bud.

Below, from left: It takes many hands to line up the statues and the supports just so, allowing for the statue to be installed. Additional temporary supports were in place to help align everything properly. Beda Garman, left, and Colter King, chat during the install.

Photos by Maureen Jennison









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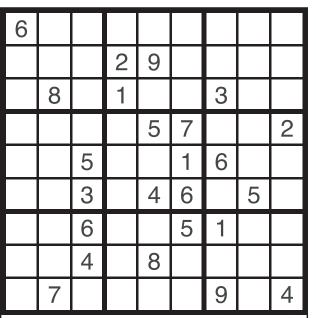


Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

icholas Casagrande, E

## Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



**AMERICA** 

**BACKYARD** 

BURGER

**CELEBRATE** 

DESSERT

FLAG

**FOURTH** 

**FRANKFURTER** 

53

56

**CLUES ACROSS** 

5. Invests in little enterprises

1. Six (Spanish)

11. Gored

Large dung beetle

13. Partially paralyzed

15. Still a little wet

company

17. Not working

16. Legal field media

19. 500 sheets of paper

23. Small drink of whiskey

38. Political action committee

39. Middle eastern nation

41. Hair-like structure

21. Church structure

22. Sheep disease

25. Weaving tradition

26. Pestilence

27. Body part

31. Places to stay

33. Witnesses

34. Looked for

36. Arranges

(alt. sp.)

29. Nabs

**GATHERING** 

**GRILLING** 

**GUESTS** 

**HOLIDAY** 

**ICE CREAM** 

**INDEPENDENCE** 

LEMONADE

**POOL** 

43. Parts producer

46. Subway dwellers

52. Clean a floor

54. Canned fish

56. Inspire with love

57. Sent down moisture

59. Partner to carrots

4. Self-immolation by

5. Parts of an organism

6. Person from England

7. Tropical plants of the

**CLUES DOWN** 

53. Vied for

58. Wrest

1. Mounted

2. Assign

3. Wrath

fire ritual

pea family

9. Practice boxing

11. Contrary beliefs

8. Body part

10. Containers

48. Norm from 'Cheers'

44. Greek city

## 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

ROCKETS

SKY

**SPANGLED** 

STAR

**SUMMER** 

**SUNSHINE** 

UNITED

WARM

12. Bleached

14. Pre-Islamic Egyptian

15. A group of similar things

18. Innermost spinal cord

24. A restaurant's list of

34. Highly decorated tea urn

membranes

20. Cassava

offerings

28. Orchestrate

30. Z Z Z

32. Astute

26. Annoy constantly

35. Teach to behave

40. Barbie friend dolls

43. Man-eating giant

45. Jewish calendar month

49. Husband of Sita in Hindu

50. Lump of semiliquid

substance

51. Lying in wait

55. Cease to exist

37. Endurance

38. Urinating

42. Repents

47. Accelerated

ordered one after another

the 100 block of South Lenore Avenue and issued a citation

4:33 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

**Summary of Active Investigations** 

6:28 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

700 block of South Main Street and issued

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**POLICE LOG** 

June 17 to June 23 By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police of suspicious activity in the 200 block of

6:43 pm: LEON, Levi Manual (36) of

Willits was contacted near the intersection

of South Street and Central Street. He

was arrested on misdemeanor charges of

8:00 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

8:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

8:28 pm: MABERY, Jessica Louise (45)

of Willits was contacted in the 300 block

of North Main Street. She was arrested on

misdemeanor charges of driving under the

9:55 pm: Officers responded to a

5:28 am: Officers responded to a report

4:30 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

3:26 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

3:41 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

the 1500 block of South Main Street and

9:42 pm: Officers responded to a report

12:17 am: Officers responded to a report

12:15 pm: Officers responded to a report

of illegal camping near the intersection of

West Valley Street and South Main Street

6:21 pm: PORTER, James Bryan (46)

of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block

of Willow Lane following a disturbance. He

was arrested on misdemeanor charges of

10:30 pm: Officers responded to a report

of vandalism in the 1100 block of Magnolia

of suspicious activity in the 400 block of

of suspicious activity in the 800 block of

the 1500 block of South Main Street and

issued a citation

issued a citation.

South Main Street.

South Main Street.

and issued a warning.

domestic battery.

200 block of South Humboldt Street and

of vandalism in the 100 block of Nancy

disturbance in the 800 block of Coast

influence of alcohol and drugs.

300 block of South Main Street and issued

800 block of South Main Street and issued

violation of probation.

a warning.

Department handled **59 incidents** in this North Main Street and issued a warning.

7:07 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

#### June 19

7-day reporting period.

and Arrests

June 18

6:42 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street

9:33 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 300 block of Creekside

1:56 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Blosser Lane and West Highway 20 and issued a warning.

1:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop in near the intersection of South Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:26 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued

7:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of

8:48 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 500 block of West Mendocino Street.

9:02 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Commercial Street and issued a warning.

2:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:20 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:59 pm: Officers responded to a report

The rest of Arrested

approximately 20 minutes after the initial calls to

Dispatch. Upon arrival, and at the request of one caller, responding deputies went to a house in the 5200 block of Blue Lake Road to check on the resident. Upon arrival at the residence, Deputies observed that the front windows appeared to be broken out, and there was apparent blood in and around the front of the house.



From page 1

Deputies checked the residence and located a female victim inside the living room who appeared to have suffered injuries likely caused by a violent assault. Deputies ensured there were no further victims or individuals in the residence and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation and administered first aid while summoning emergency medical

The 77-year-old female victim succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene. While deputies were at the scene, a vehicle arrived and the suspect, Michael Andrew Coleman, 41, of Willits, was in the passenger seat. Deputies determined there was evidence that Coleman was involved in the violent assault and detained him at the scene Mendocino County Sheriff's

Michael Andrew Coleman

Office detectives were summoned to the scene to take over the investigation. Coleman was ultimately booked into the Mendocino County Jail on a charge of Homicide (187(a) PC), where he is being held on a no-bail status. This case is actively being investigated and will likely result in additional charges being requested the Mendocino through County District Attorney's

Office. The final cause and manner of death is pending an autopsy and toxicology

Investigators from the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office, Ukiah Police Department, Willits Police Department, California Highway Patrol, CalFire Prevention Law Enforcement personnel, the California Department of Justice Crime Lab in Santa Rosa, and Department of Justice Criminalists from Sacramento are all assisting with this ongoing investigation.

Anybody with information related to this investigation is encouraged to call the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Communications Center at 707-463-4086. Information can also be provided anonymously by utilizing the nonemergency tip-line at 707-234-2100.

## Felony arrest for crimes against child

#### Submitted by WPD Interim Chief Dewey

On June 29, 2024, at approximately 8:30 pm, Willits Police Department received notification of a sexual assault of a 14-yearold victim that had occurred earlier that

Michael Santos DeJesus (a 33-year-old male resident of Laytonville) had contacted the Sheriff's Office dispatch to request that he be arrested at his home for sexual assault of a minor, which had occurred in Willits earlier in the afternoon.

The responding Sheriff's Office deputy

later transported DeJesus to the Sheriff's Office Willits Substation, where officers of the Willits Police Department conducted an

During the investigation and contact with the victim, it was determined that DeJesus had committed the violations of Penal Code 288(A) – lewd and lascivious acts upon a child at least 14 years old; Penal

Read the rest of Felony |

Over on page 15



Above: Patsy Brixie, left, and Robert Permenter share perspectives at their WCA art opening last week.

At right, top: The WCA gallery glows with Patsy Brixie's colorful poured acrylic paintings. At right: "Mam'aw," a portrait of his beloved grandmother by Robert Permenter. At far right: "Self Portrait" by Robert Permenter. At right, below: Robert and his wife, Gabee Vallejos-Permenter, smile with their beloved service dog, Charlitos. At far right, below: Patsy Brixie stands in the WCA gallery with her unusual poured acrylic

# **Portraits** and Light

Robert Permenter's intimate images and Patsy Brixie's colorful pour paintings line the walls of the WCA gallery this month

The Saturday night opening at Willits Center hand. She fermented vegetables and fruits for the Arts, featuring paintings by Robert from the family garden. She made sure the Permenter and Patsy Brexie, presented a whole family had a good meal. She loved all contrast in both style and substance. Brixie's of us unconditionally and was happy to share

Margi Gomez Guhde

light-filled work glowed in the

gallery, and Permenter's realistic paintings in WCA's front gallery presented intimate images of himself and his family of friends through the past and the present, with his own imagination adding to the images

Permenter has pursued art since early childhood. "As a child I would sit and watch both my sister and my uncle draw. My sister was really my first art teacher," he recalled. In his later life, he shared that his wife, Gabee, has played an important role in encouraging him to pursue his dreams.

"I took painting at the College of the Redwoods, later Mendocino College, in Fort Bragg. After moving to Willits and mentoring with Willits artist Cynda Valle, I learned the techniques of oil painting from Cynda," he explained. "Now I realize I have always been an artist at heart."

Permenter said his experience in the military during Desert Storm brought both positive and negative experiences to his life, and helped him see the world and experience other cultures.

"I often say that art is my best therapy," he said. "The canvas gives me a place to put all the negative energy from the effects of PTSD and have a place to express frustrations and suppressed memories, replacing them with color and joy."

Inspiration also comes from the people in Permenter's life, and they often become models for his paintings. Many of his pieces are tributes to others, including his "Mam'aw," a painting of the beloved grandmother from his home town in Mississippi.

Permenter told the story of this painting, with manifest affection for his grandmother: "In the Deep South, your mam'aw is your grandmother. My grandmother made a lot of my clothes, by that love. How can you describe love? Maybe,

Permenter also draws inspiration from the natural world. "Willits offers a beautiful natural environment to satisfy nature lovers and artists alike. I am both! The hills, trees, and diverse wildlife offer me a needed 'welcome home," he said. "I love to paint people and landscapes, but I often incorporate the natural world and my imagination. I often use photos for reference, because those wonderful natural resources are not always readily available."

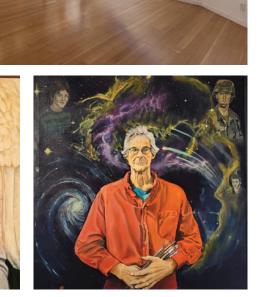
Brixie's colorful poured acrylic paintings are immediate and spontaneous. She has worked in many mediums, with painting as her principal focus for now. "I have always been up to my neck with art projects," said Brixie. "I have moved through storytelling, clothing design, pattern making, and sewing and quilting. My primary love has always been sculpture, which is still a big influence."

Brixie has been painting for about 10 years, and is drawn to the bright colors and the easy movement of acrylic paints. "My colors are chosen for both their intensity and transparency. The paint is poured and gravity does the work," she explained.

"My art chooses to be what it is, and my job is to provide time and place, then let go and go with the flow," Brixie related. "It's a pouring out of light to brighten a dark corner or empty wall, and it's also a reminder not to take things so seriously. I don't intend to make a point with my work. It does not want an explanation or need to be accepted, just enjoyed. Joy is always around us. We just need to look for it!"

The Permenter / Brixie exhibit will be up at the Willits Center for the Arts until the end of July. To see art-making in action, visit the gallery on Saturdays, when Permenter will be in the gallery doing live painting. WCA is open 11 am to 5 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and









Below, left: Robert Permenter's "The Siren's Sona" with Gabee as model. Below right: Patsy Brixie's painting "Queen's Torch." Photos by Margi Gomez

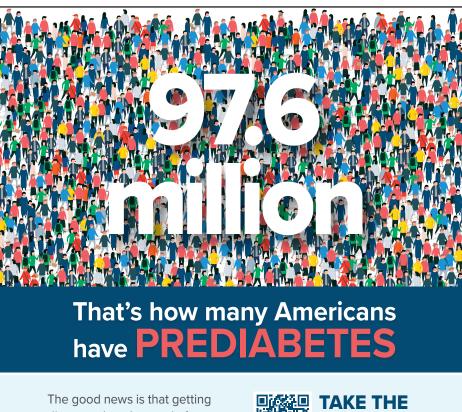
talks with

visitors to the

WCA opening







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Pg. 5

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Above, from left: The display at Bell Plastic's August open house is filled with all sorts of creations made at the factory. Stella Atom, installed just this week at Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios on Route 66 in Tulsa, Oklahoma is a perfect example of how great a Wilma could look. Willy stands at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds, awaiting his Wilma.

## Let's welcome 'Wilma' to Willits

A proposal for Willits to rally together to get Willits Frontier Days' 18-foot statue, Cowboy Willy, a cowgirl friend

When trying to decide what my stamp on Willits will be Cowboy Willy, who currently resides on the north side of for future generations, I wonder,

will it be our Willits Weekly Maureen Jennison newspaper? Will it be for having villitsweekly@gmail.com the cutest baby ever? Will it be having the ultimate genetic lineage combo of Volkswagens

and desserts? Will it be for marrying the man with the bestlooking red beard in town?

Maybe.

But, what I really want is for it to be getting Cowboy Willy his Wilma -- by the 100th year anniversary of Willits Frontier Days in 2026.

Bell Plastics in Hayward not only manufactures these iconic Muffler Men (like Cowboy Willy), but also several of his large-scale fiberglass friends, too. One of these additional items is the 16-foot "Uniroyal Girl" which would make an absolutely perfect match to stand alongside our \$20,500 for the standard set-up.

the grandstands at the Willits Frontier Days grounds.

While she comes standard wearing a bikini. Bell Plastics offers a version with a skirt and shirt, both which could be customizable with the color or pattern of one's choice. She also has several additional customizable options including hair color, eye color, nail polish color, clothing color, etc. She is also posed in the perfect position to have a lasso draped from her left hand, which rests near her hip, up to her right hand, which is above her head. She comes with heels, but cowboy boots could also be added, as could a hat, belt buckle, tiara, sash and other accessories which could all be purchased as optional additions.

Fundraising to get her made and delivered in time for the 100th year celebration is the big hurdle. While she's a dainty lady, she does come with a hefty price tag: around

Adding many of the accessories: hat, boots, details, etc. would likely add somewhere up to another \$8,000 to \$10,000 in cost.

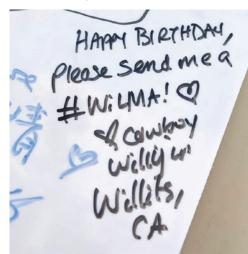
Hopefully, most of the fundraising for Wilma can be achieved by selling and sponsoring various components for specific charges, allowing the paying public to participate in the design process.

Sponsorships and specifics would be on a first-come, first-purchase basis and will include the following options, and perhaps more as the project progresses: Help decide hair color: \$2,500; help decide eye color: \$2,000; help decide lipstick color: \$1,000; help decide fingernail polish color: \$500; help choose her shirt color \$1,500; help choose sleeve length of shirt: \$500; add a vest to the shirt: \$1,500;

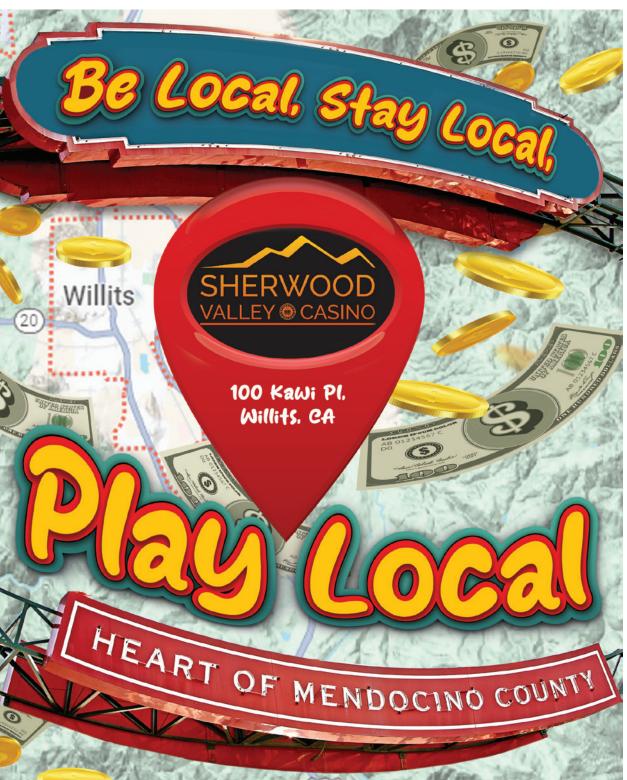
fringe detail to Read the rest of

Below, left: The map on RoadsideAmerica.com shows where each known Muffler Man (and friends) resides. Below, center and right: In 2019, Maureen and Matthew Jennison traveled to Bell Plastics for their annual open house, and left a hopefully prophetic note on the large birthday card displayed at the event. The gal can also be made with a bikini, instead of the shirt and skirt outfit.

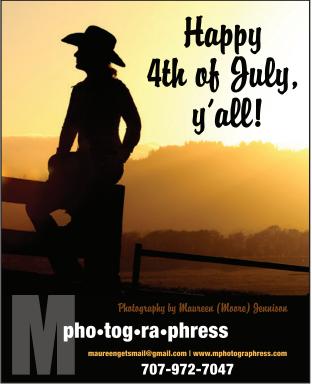
















Above, left: The 2024 Willits Frontier Days tiara sits on the prize table before being placed on the hat of the 2024 winner. Above, right: The past Sweethearts in attendance at Sunday's dinner gather together for a group photo, including, from left: 2023 winner Hazel Cooke; 1993 winner Amy Ford, holding daughter Hannah Fuller; 2000 winner Olivia Grupp; 2022 winner Danielle Barry; 2007 winner Courtney Figg-Hoblyn, holding daughter Lilly Duncan; 2004 winner Tina Holguin; 2005 winner Ashtan Bloomquist; 2009 winner Lindsey Bowlds; 2008 winner Kinzie Barlow; 2017 winner Hailey Riley; 2021 winner Claire Case Brackett; and 1974 winner Kathy Persico Graves. In front, from left: 1992 winner Amanda Hiatt Hower; 1988 winner Nicol Persico Kunka; 1985 winner Tracey Ford Moody holding Hadley Vogel; 1979 winner Liz Persico Day; and 2019 and 2020 winner Jaden Doak.

## **Sweetheart Dinner**

Elena Arkelian crowned 2024 Sweetheart winner at Sunday event

For the first time in several years, a two-cowgirl contest made attendance at the annual Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Dinner feel all the more exciting, as both Elena

Maureen Jennison

Arkelian and Catie Spackman - and their family and friends waited for the announcement of who would win the 2024 title.

After the scores from the Poise and Appearance and Horsemanship judging contests were tallied, and their ticket sale totals added into the totals, Elena Arkelian came out the winner and received the 2024 crown. Along with the crown, silver spurs, silver belt buckle, silver pins, flowers, a sash, and more were bestowed upon Arkelian, who smiled for photos with family and friends after the big announcement.

With the two-participant contest back in play, the winner also received a saddle, something that has been removed from the winnings list on years when only one contestant

Arkelian will also wear the perpetual America-themed chaps that have been worn by past Sweethearts, signed, and then passed down to the new winner each year.

While Arkelian's total score cinched her the overall win. she came in second in the amount of ticket sales made. still reaching an impressive \$35,567 total. It was Spackman who took top numbers with her ticket-selling efforts, selling a whopping \$42,697 in rodeo tickets, truck pull tickets, barbecue tickets, raffle tickets and more.

Every year, it is reiterated, however, that the contest isn't won just by the girl who sells the most tickets, it also counts on the other factors on the judges' sheets which include giving a speech, modeling western clothing, riding a horsemanship pattern, performing a queen run, demonstrating knowledge of horse and rodeo life, and answering interview questions.

Over on page 12

At right, top: Event emcee Kathy Graves speaks to the gathered crowd at Sunday's Sweetheart dinner. At right: 2024 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart winner Elena Arkelian smiles with her goodies; flowers, sash, silver pins, silver spurs, silver tiara, and custom saddle. She also is bequeathed perpetual chaps, worn and signed by the winning Sweetheart each year. Below, left: Willits Frontier Days Juniors auction off a quilt made by Rachelle Butler to Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital for \$400. 2023 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart, Hazel Cooke, left, stands with 2024 runner-up, Catie Spackman. Below, right: WFD Juniors also raffled off a quilt made by Jenn Drew to Sparetime Supply for \$1,000 with all funds going to support the club and their projects.









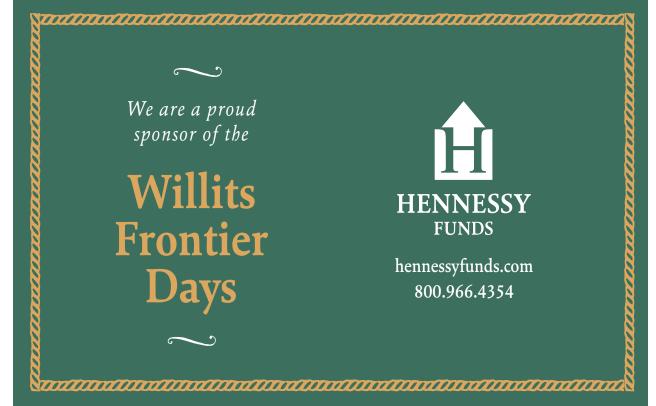
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Pg. 7

#### Wednesday, July 3

**Dungeons and Dragons at the Library:** Wednesdays and Thursdays in July, starting July 3, 10 to 11:30 am. "Our local Dungeon Master is putting forth a new campaign for beginning players and veterans alike. No experience or materials necessary to join. Dropin players welcome. Choose one of our premade characters to play, or make and bring your own using the 5e rules set." Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Summer Storytime in the Park: Wednesdays in July, starting July 3, the Willits Library adds an outdoor Storytime, from 11 to 11:30 am. "Join us at Recreation Grove Park for a midmorning dose of sunshine, shade, and stories!"

"In the Kitchen: the Colli Creamery" at the Museum: This summer, the Mendocino County Museum presents family friendly themed crafts and activities inspired by the permanent gallery exhibits on Wednesdays from

11 am to 3 pm. In July, the theme is: "In the Kitchen: the Colli Creamery," and the July 3 program is "Hold it Right There Refrigerator Magnets." 400 East Commercial Street. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission. Enjoy free admission on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. Info: www.mendocinocounty. gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty gov or 707-234-6365.

Willits Song Circle at Methodist Church: The first-Wednesday-of-the-month Willits Song Circle is for people who like to sing together, a community of song. Open to all; Free. This month's Wednesday, July 3 circle,

5 to 6:30 pm at Willits Methodist Church, School and Pine streets, song circle organizers "would 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. This month's song leaders will be Don Willits, Fran Gardner, and Madge Strong. Donations accepted for the use of the hall. More info: dwillits@mcn.org or its2fran@aol.com.

WFD CCPRA Professional Rodeo: California Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association presents first of two rodeos as part of Willits Frontier Days 2024. Wednesday, July 3, 7 pm, at the Jack Tharp Arena on East Commercial Street. Tickets: Box: \$25; Adult: \$20; Child (12 & under).

WFD Western Dance: Willits Frontier Days presents the Western Dance, featuring Chad Bushnell, Wednesday, July 3; starts after the rodeo ends; free.

#### Thursday, July 4 Happy Independence Day!

Willits Farmers Market is on holiday for July 4th

WFD Horseshoe Contest: annual Willits Frontier Days contest, Thursday, July 4 at 10 am at the Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street.

Willits 4th of July Parade: annual Willits Frontier Days 4th of July Parade. Downtown Willits. Starts at 11 am; Staging on East Commercial Street; turning south on to Main Street. 2024 theme is "Cowboys and Cadillacs."

WFD Country Music Rodeola: annual Willits Frontier Days musical event. Thursday, July 4 at the Rec Grove Park, East Commercial Street, at 12 noon

WFD Beef Barbecue: Willits Frontier Days annual 4th of July beef barbecue feast, noon at the Rec Grove Park. Tickets: Adult: \$20; Child (12 & under)/Senior: \$12. WFD CCPRA Professional Rodeo: California Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association presents the 4th of July Rodeo at Willits Frontier Days 2024. Thursday, July 4, 4 pm, at the Jack Tharp Arena on East Commercial Street. Tickets: Box: \$25: Adult: \$20:

#### Friday, July 5

HISTORY MAKERS

mendocino County Myseym

CREAMERY

In the Kitchen-The Colli Creamery

Child (12 & under).\$10.

WFD Willits Lions Club Cowboy Breakfast: Willits Lions Club members serve up the Willits Frontier Days Cowboy Breakfast, Friday, July 5 at 7 am at the Rec Grove Park, East Commercial Street, The menu

> this year: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Link Sausage, and Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, Tickets: \$13 adult; \$9 child (12 & under): \$9.

What's Happening

**Around Town** 

WFD Junior Rodeo: Willits Frontier Days Junior Rodeo, Friday, July 5 at 8 am, at the Jack Tharp Arena, East Commercial Street. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$5 child 12 & under. Events for Junior contestants include: Team Roping, Barrels & Poles, Calves To Bulls, Mystery Scramble, and Steer

Daubing. Willits Lions Club will be selling Breakfast Burritos in the stands at the Junior Rodeo.

Party Time at the Pool: Willits City Pool presents a Friday Night Pool Party, Friday, July 5, 6 to 8 pm. Admission:\$5. Willits City Pool is located on the north side of the Willits High School campus at 299 North Main Street. Info: 707-

#### Saturday, July 6

Craft Saturdays in July: Join the staff of the Willits Branch Library for a variety of fun-filled, creative crafts for the whole family, every Saturday in July, starting July 6, from 11 am to noon. Willits Library Meeting Room, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www. mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Flourish & Flow Free Walking Group: Flourish & Flow Wellness and Fitness Studio hosts a free walking group meetup every Saturday this summer. "Willits Wilderness Wanderers" is open to everyone. Saturday, July 6, meet at the Brooktrails Parcourse, 24530 Birch Street at 11:30 am.

Pirate Jack Spareribs at the Library: Pirate Jack brings swashbuckling, magical mayhem to the Willits Library, Saturday, July 6. 1 to 2 pm. "The show promises to be full of

> audience participation, magic tricks, ventriloquism, and more!" Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary. org or 459-5908.

WFD Bulls and Broncs: new Willits Frontier Days event for 2024, Saturday, July 6, at 7 pm, gates open at 6 pm, at the Jack Tharp Arena on East Commercial Street. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$5 child 12 and under

## Wednesday,

the Kitchen: the Colli Creamery" at the Museum: This summer, the Mendocino County Museum presents family friendly themed crafts and activities inspired by the permanent gallery exhibits on Wednesdays from 11 am to 3 pm. In July, the theme is: "In the Kitchen: the Colli Creamery," and the July 10 program is "On a Roll: Decorative Craft Cut-Outs."

400 East Commercial Street. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission. Enjoy free admission on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. Info: www.mendocinocounty. gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

#### Thursday, July 11

A Touch of Mendocino, The Book Juggler: The staff of The Book Juggler, "the Biggest Little Bookstore in Mendocino County" will be at the Willits Library, Thursday, July 11 from 11 am to noon, as part of the

'A Touch of Mendocino" series to talk about their business, its history, and its wonderful selection of reading material, a program for all ages. "Located in the heart of downtown Willits, the Book Juggler has been in business for almost 40 years, drawing in lovers of books, instruments, musicians' supplies, LPs, puzzles, games and much more." 390 East Commercial Street. More info: visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908. Willits Farmers Market: The weekly

farmers market is outdoors for the season. Thursday, July 11, 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 Steiskal reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Thursday Evenings at the Museum: Mendocino County Museum in Willits revisits permanent gallery exhibits this summer, with new content shared by museum docents and a corresponding art activity on Thursday evenings, from 6 to 8 pm. In July, the exhibit is "The Coli Sisters: Reflections on the Creamery." Thursday, July 11'event is: "Magnet Magic." 400 East Commercial Street. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission. Info: www. mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@ mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

#### Friday, July 12

Commonwealth Garden's Farm Stand Opening: The Farm Stand opens riday, July 12 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Commonwealth Garden, located on Marcela Drive, across the street from Howard Memorial Hospital. The farmstand will be open every Friday after July 12, through late fall.



Library, July 13 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in - bring your sewing project and Commercial Street. Info:

am to 6 pm) then visit our Facebook page for updates! https:// www.facebook.com/ WillitsLibrary Pick up your stuffie the next day on Saturday, July 13 (1 am to 5 pm)." Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www. mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Sam Shepard's

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**July 12 - 21** 

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the Library:

WCA July Art Talk: Art historian Gary Martin gives the monthly free Art Talk on the fascinating art movement of Post-Impressionism, delving into the works and influence of prominent Post-Impressionist artists such as Paul Cézanne, Vincent van Gogh, Georges Seurat, and Paul Gauguin. Friday, July 12 at 6:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, next to the Noyo Theatre. More info: Gary Martin at gtm1950@gmail.com or the Willits Center for the Arts at 707-972-3326

"The Tooth of Crime" at WCT: Sam Shepard's post-apocalyptic rock and roll drama opens at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, July 12 and runs through July 21. In essence a classic tragedy, the play centers on an art and ego dual in a wasteland between an aging rocker and an upstart rap challenger. With a live rock band and a music score by T Bone Burnett For mature audiences due to adult language, adult content, nudity and sexual violence. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available online at: wctperformingartscenter. org, or at the door.

www.Willits.org

info@willits.org

707.459.7910

#### Saturday, July 13

Craft Saturdays in July: Join the staff of the Willits Branch Library for a variety of fun-filled, creative crafts for the whole family, every Saturday in July, this week, Saturday, July 13 from 11 am to noon. Willits Library Meeting Room, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

> Flourish Free Walking Group: Flourish Flow Wellness and Fitness Studio hosts a free walking group meetup every Saturday this summer. Wilderness Wanderers" is open to everyone. Saturday, July 13, meet at the Brooktrails



## WFD Carnival

### here through July 7

Johnston Amusements Carnival returns Willits during Willits Frontier Days, across East Commercial from the Rodeo Grounds. Continues Wednesday, July 3 through Sunday, midnight. With carnival rides, games along the midway, food (including corn dogs, candy apples, ice cream, and popcorn) and fun for kids and adults. Wristbands good for 1 day, unlimited rides: \$40.

# Sit-N-Sew: Second Saturdays at the Willits

have fun. 390 East www.mendolibrary.org or

Parcourse, 24530 Birch

Street at 11:30 am.

"The Tooth of Crime" at WCT: Sam Shepard's postapocalyptic rock and roll drama continues at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, July 13 at 7:30 pm. See Friday, July 12 listing for details.

#### Sunday, July 14

"The Tooth of Crime" at WCT: Sam Shepard's postapocalyptic rock and roll drama continues at Willits Community Theatre with a Sunday, July 14 matinee at 2 pm. See Friday, July 12 listing for details.

#### **Ongoing Events** at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Sunday and Monday. Closed July 4th.

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

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

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.

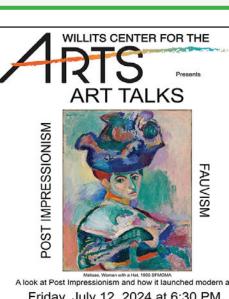
SUPPLY -

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 fritz? Want to install a new app? Bring your tech questions and get help from the library's tech savvy volunteer Craft Saturdays: Every Saturday in July, from 11-am to 1 pm, library will host a variety of fun-filled, creative crafts for the whole family. All ages welcome.

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



Friday, July 12, 2024 at 6:30 PM. www.willitscenterforthearts.org

### **A QUIET PLACE DAY ONE**

(PG13) 1 hr 40 mins Fri.-Sun.: 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30pm Mon.-Thurs.: 5:00 & 7:30pm OVER 21 CLUB -**Luxury Recliners** 

#### ONGOING EVENTS

Free Food Pop-Ups: Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program's Food Pop-Up in Willits offers two events per month (no distribution on July 4 holiday this month; will resume July 18 from 10 to 11:30 am), first and third Thursdays, at 1250 Blosser Lane, Info: outreach@fbfoodbank.org; 707-964-9404

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

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

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every week on Mondays, 6 pm, at the Muse in Willits. 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866. Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial 7pm. Info: Bill 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,

Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays and Fridays at 2 pm: The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: tgregory@ saber.net or visit Willits Boules Club on Facebook.

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. More info on current classes: call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0565.

#### A SENSE OF PLACE

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WATERCOLOR

**GARDEN ART** NORTHCOAST ARTISTS GALLERY



## Pirate Jack Spareribs



Jack Spareribs, will be bringing swashbuckling and magical mayhem to the library! A show for all ages, it promises to be full of magic tricks, audience participation, and much more. 

Willits Branch Library MENDOCINO Library

### Grace Hudson July 5 Art Walk events

This Friday, July 5, Grace Hudson Museum will be open all day with free admission, and open 5 to 8 pm for Ukiah's First Friday Art Walk. Guitarist Clay Hawkins along with bassist Andrew Robertson will provide the evening's entertainment. The Museum's current exhibition, "Deep Roots, Spreading Branches: Fine Woodworking from the Krenov School" explores the history of this unique Fort Bragg institution. Grace Hudson will also be celebrating a new popup exhibition, featuring Native artists, with artwork by Corine Pearce and her basketweaving students, and from the Acorns & Abalone Art Project. Visitors can also have a look at the Museum's core galleries, featuring Grace Hudson's artwork, exquisite Pomo basketry, and Hudson-Carpenter family history. Light refreshments will be available. 431 South Main Street in Ukiah. Info: www. gracehudsonmuseum.org or call (707) 467-2836.

#### Agape **Bible Church**

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PATHWAYS

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

#### **Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**

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

#### Church of Christ

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

#### The Church of **Jesus Christ of** Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive Willits, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

#### Eckankar: The Path f Spiritual Freedor

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

#### **Grace Community** Church Celebrating Life In Christ

25 Hazel Street, Willits **Modified Worship Service** 10 a.m. Other ministries suspended for now. For appointments call:

#### (707) 459-3106 St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.

Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadam Mass times: Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. Saturday-5:30 p.m. Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English 10:30 a.m. - Spanish Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m. Or by appointmet at 707-459-2252

https://stanthonywillits.org/ aintanthonywillits@gmail.con We welcome All Walks of Faith

#### St. Francis **Episcopal Church** 1 North Main Street, Willits

707-272-0177 Sunday Service - 10 a.m. In-person and on Zoom Call for information. ALL ARE WELCOME The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

#### St. John Lutheran Church

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

#### **Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church** 707-459-5714

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

#### Willits United Methodist Church Labyrinth and Peace Garder

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

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

Pg. 9

acebook: facebook willits umo

#### **QUARTERLY BINGO BLAST!** Saturday, July 6th, 2024 1501 Baechtel Rd. Willits CA Doors Open at 11am Bingo Starts at Noon \$35.00 BUY IN INCLUDES LUNCH

WSI PRESENTS 2024

1- 10 Game Pack 1- \$100 BLACKOUT 1- Double Action Special (pays \$50.00 1-4, 6, 8, Special (pays \$50,00)

EXTRAS: 10 Packs- \$10.00 Ea. Or 2 for \$15.00

OUTSPOKEN -NEVER SILENT!

#### Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

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!"

the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20



## Shanachie Pub **Ongoing Events**

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

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 you can be entered for the lottery. Lottery determines order



# MUTTON BUSTIN' BREAKAWAY JACKPOT - \$500 ADDED MONEY BRONCS & BULLS - \$2.000 ADDED MONEY EACH

57 East Commercial Street - Willits

707-459-6660

Starts Friday, July 12th

- New Owners -

Jim & Michelle!

#### Fort Bragg presents its Independence Day Fireworks on Saturday, July 6, starting at 9:30 pm. Watch from: South Coastal Trail at Noyo

**DESPICABLE ME 4** 

Movie Times for July 5 thru July 11

Area, \$20 parking fee. Point Arena presents its fireworks show on Saturday, July 6 at Point Arena Cove, begins at dark, as part of Point Arena Street Fair with live music, DJ, fun activities July 7, from 5 pm to 12 and a wide selection of food

Headlands. Pomo Bluffs

Park, Todd Point Parking

shows on July 6

and drink. Ukiah Speedway at the Redwood Fairgrounds presents fireworks on Saturday, July 6, beginning at dusk, as part of its "Racing & Fireworks"

## **INSIDE OUT 2**



**Masks Optional** 

(PG) 1 hr 36 mins Fri.-Sun.: Mon.-Thurs.:

2:00, 4:30 & 7:00pm 4:30 & 7:00pm

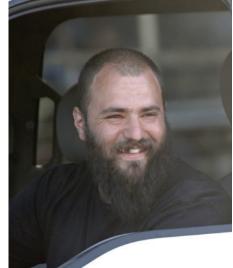


Tightwad Tuesday Title for July 9 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6

#### Willits Weekly | July 3, 2024

## Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490









Above: Jeff Whitby and Rust Bucket made it 214.29 feet in the 5,500-pound Street Truck class.

Below: T-shirt cannons were a funny addition to this year's event. Below: Mendocino County

Friday's Truck Pull event

Sheriff's Office deputies, Mark McNelley, left, and Paul Borg, right, smile from behind the stands at



Parker and Old Iron pulled 222.59 feet in the Stock Diesel Truck class. Tony Gera smiles after his run. Adrian Baroza moves down the arena toward the full-

At far left: Sage Basler won first place in the 5,500-pound Street Truck class with a pull of 222.62 feet. At left: EMS-themed John Boer and Code 3 went

## **Truck Pulls**

Locals and professionals try for full pull at annual Willits Frontier Days event



based events - is temporarily compacted to create an ideal surface for tires, instead. and Tractor pull event offers professional

and local drivers in an assortment of weight- and power-based classes the chance to hook up to the Terminator sled, one that's equipped with a variable weight slide which can challenge even the biggest, loudest and strongest of motors – and egos of their drivers - to make the full 300-foot pull across the arena floor.

Several rose to the challenge this year, with the farthest pull coming in at 330.78 feet, which was driven by Kevin Lucas and Onery Deere in the 8,500-pound Hot Farm

In the 5,500-pound Street Truck class, first place went to Sage Basler and 77 with a distance of 222.62 feet; second place went to Frank Barrett with a distance of 220.73; third place went to Jeff Whitby and Rust Bucket with a distance of 214.29: and fourth place went to Jane Lopes and Brownie with a distance of 161.92.

In the 5,500-pound Super Stock class, first place went to Sherry Benson and Flat Broke going 250.75 feet

In the 2-Wheel Stander Truck class, first place went to Jason Ingham and Halfbreed going 234.41 feet.

There were 13 placings in the Stock Diesel Truck class, starting in first place with: Christopher Flores and The Nuisance going 260.17 feet; Rocky Stansberry going 245.95; Steffen Cantua and Short Stack going 244.47; Tony Gera going 238.70; Lou Narvaez and The Goat going 237.82; Jason Whitby going 231.80; James Lemos going 223.69; Randall Parker and Old Iron going 222.59; Samuel Morgan and Bubble Max going 218.33; Jarred Thurman and Come n' Go going 212.25; Alisha Narvaez and Rust Bucket going 209.38; Adrian Baroza and W going 205.21; and Alton Cooke going 204.61.

There were 15 placings in the Promodified 6,200-pound Truck class, starting in first place with: Spike Reeve and Rags going 292.75 feet; Bob Griffin and Long Shot going 284.49; James Massetti and Yellow Fever going 279.88; Doug Bradshaw and Show No Mercy going 278.75; Denny Tucker and Abrakadabra going 278.15; Jason Gish and Double Ugly Too going 277.80; Mike Roberts and Vindicator going

Truck Pulls

Over on page 12



Frank R. Howard Foundation

**Medical Campus** 

Frank R. Howard Foundation

Three Marcela Drive (north of the new hospital)

COMPLETED:

25-bed Critical Care Hospital

(The new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital)

Medical Offices Building (Lamprich Center)

Commonwealth Garden **Avenues to Wellness Program** 

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and maintain clearances around power lines, manage special vegetation management projects for state and federal agencies through Mission PG&E and are first responders to storm related Statement

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Family Tree strives to be a leader in the tree care industry by providing safe and professional tree pruning and tree removals while utilizing ANSI A500 and Z155 tree care standards. Our

trimming, hazard tree removal, storm damage cleanup, arborist evaluations, and

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> Family Tree Service continues to support Utility Line Clearance for our community and Family Tree Resource supports tree services for residential, commercial, municipalities and state agencies to support Mendocino, Humboldt, Lake, Sonoma, Napa and Marin Counties. Services include tree removal,

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From far left: Funnel cakes, snow cones, popcorn, and the ever-enticing cotton candy are staples of the carnival fare. Pet goldfish are the stakes in this ping-pong tossing game. Finn Shipp, right, and friend enjoy the speed and spin of the Whirlybird that makes it difficult to keep one's hat on. Below, left: The view from the Ferris wheel shows some of the overall layout of the carnival area. The Yoyo sends riders high off the ground and gives them a sense of flying.





## Let's Ride!

Spinning, flying, eating, and crowd watching at annual Frontier Days Carnival

The carnival that the Johnson family to speed, lift the brave participants on brings to Willits is small in comparison to minimal seats, and speed them through the major county fairs or amusement parks, but that may be its best

Mathew Caine aspect. A mother of seven summed it up

by stating that she loves this carnival because she can allow her kids to run free and ride what they want without fear of losing them in a crowd or their being able to range out of her sight. The carnival may be small, but it is huge in

An all-ride pass enables the holder to ride any attraction as many times as they desire, and the wait times are extremely short, so more time is spent having fun and less time waiting. Even those who don't ride can enjoy watching the kids cavort, cut-up, and light up the area with their smiles.

The Johnson Amusements company is now in its fourth generation. They've been bringing their brand of fun to Willits over the July Fourth week for over 30 years in conjunction with the Willits Frontier Days. In fact, from the top of the Ferris wheel, a rider can see the rodeo or truck pulls next door as they wend their way up through the

The Yoyo attraction fascinates, scares and thrills its riders as they slowly get up

atmosphere in a manner that is almost like

The Zipper is the ultimate thrill and scare ride. Not only does it lift people high into the air, but gives the riders the option of flipping their cages over and over. It is almost a badge of courage to say that one has ridden the Zipper. There are also rides for the little ones that don't scare as much but allow them to feel like they are driving a car or flying an airplane.

There is a subculture of people who work at the carnival, who travel with it constantly for six months, during the season. They run the games and the rides and most say that they love working and traveling and meeting many people and enjoy watching the faces of the kids. Mickey McGuire is the ride supervisor and the manager of the carnival. He has been with Johnson Amusements since 1989. He works yearround on the rides, making sure they are in

"This is fun to do," said McGuire. "People can have some fun and blow off some

Carnival

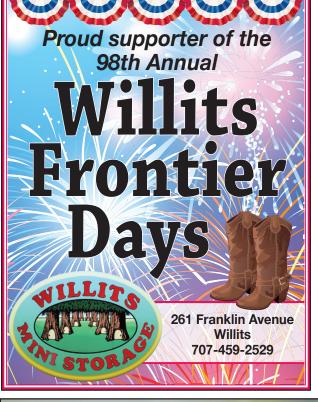




Above, left: Charlotte scores a bag of cotton candy that is almost as large as herself - good thing it's mostly air. Above, right: The Zipper is the ultimate test of carnival-goers' courage. Below, left: These three kids have a great time as they are spun, lifted and flung about. Below, right: Ride Supervisor Mickey McGuire patrols the area on his cart to assist the operators in making the rides safe and













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Willits Weekly | July 3, 2024

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277.14; Donnie Reeve and Final Drive going 275.94; Garrett Reeve; and Triple Throw Down going 275.75; Chris Daniels and Baby Huey going 273.20; David Veenendall and The Intimidator going 271.81; John Boer and Code3 going 267.65; Ralph Tramp and Agent Orange - "Pulling for the Vets" going 254.31; and Spike Reeve and Traction Control going 237.38.

In the Work Stock Diesel Truck class, first place went to Dean Anrig and Silver Bullet with a distance of 301.91 feet; second place went to Jason Soiland and White Hammer with a distance of 284.96; third place went to Randy Miramonetz and Smoke Show with a distance of 277.90; and fourth place went to Justin Van Tassel and The Hoodrat with a distance of 263.93

In the 6,000-pound Stock Truck class, first place went to Kenny Bisceglia and Lomaducci with a distance of 280.61 feet; and second place went to Steve distance of 241.98.

In the 8,500-pound Hot Farm Tractor class, first place went to Kevin Lucas and Onery Deere with a distance of 330.78 feet.

In the 12,000-pound Hot Farm Tractor class, first place went to Jon Speelman and California Haymaker with a distance of 292.05 feet; second place went to Matt Perry and Twisted Oliver with a distance of 276.73; and third place went to Brad Griffin and White Claw The X Factor with a distance of 270.80.

In the 6,500-pound Street Truck class, Got No Time with a distance of 235.17 Frontier Days for more info. feet; second place went to Christopher a distance of 209.19.

In the Limited Pro Stock Diesel class, first place went to Trevor Massetti and All Smoked Out with a distance of 327.59 feet; second place went to Tyler Brownlee and Panda with a distance of 325.89; and third place went to John Kestyus and Tuggin' It with a distance of 314.66.

In the 6,000-pound Modified Tractor class, first place went to Matt Leinfelder and White Lightning with a distance of 296.48 feet; second place went to Mark Zohns and Bail Out with a distance of 286.28 feet; third place went to Austin Terra and Terra'N It Up with a distance of 275.40; and fourth place went to Hudson Bair and Mustang Legacy with a distance of 272.60.

In the OMG Truck class, first place went to Cameron Salsedo and Ramrod with a distance of 283.04 feet; second place went to Reuben Plaza with a distance of 255.10; and third place went to CJ Jewell and White Whale with a The rest of distance of 230.16.

In the Pro Stock Diesel class, first place went to Tom Wallace and West Coast Diesels with a distance of 296.82

In the 7,400-pound Tractor class, first place went to Nick Guriel and Semper Fi with a distance of 276.79 feet; and second place went to Kevin Massetti and The Whip with a distance of 166.21 Results posted online and provided by MLM Motorsports

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From page 6

Above, left: Sage Basler chats with the MLM crewmember about his run. Above, right: Jason Whitby smiles at his supporters at the end of his pull during Friday night's event

help choose skirt color: \$1,500; and add painted fringe detail to the year of Willits Frontier Days, and be another fun attraction to visitors

Sponsor the creation of Wilma's hat: \$3,000; sponsor the creation of her boots: \$3,000; sponsor the creation of her tiara: \$2,000; sponsor the creation of her rope: \$2,000; sponsor the creation of Jenkins and Farmer's Toy with a her belt buckle: \$2,000; sponsor adding her name on the back of her belt: \$1,000; sponsor the creation of her spurs: \$2,000; sponsor the the statues. CBS News did a story on one such man:https://www. creation of her "100 years" sash: \$1,000.

> There's also the opportunity to sponsor an eyelash for \$100 each or garment stitches for \$50 each, for those wanting to donate at a

Of course, no amount will be turned down, and any and everything will be appreciated to contribute to Wilma's creation over the next

If you, your business, your club or organization is interested in learning more, or donating to the efforts, please reach out via email to willitsfrontierdays@gmail.com, or by phone to Maureen Jennison at 707-972-7047. Donations are tax-deductible and a tax letter can be provided on request. You can also send a check with "WILMA" in the note line, made out to Willits Frontier Days and sent to PO Box 800 in Willits, CA 95490. An online/digital payment donation option is first place went to Richard Gomes and also hopefully coming soon. Stay tuned to Willits Weekly and Willits

The order needs to be placed with Bell Plastics 6 months before Bivin with a distance of 232.65; third the delivery date (an order placed December 2025 to be installed place went to Connor Basler with a by May/June 2026), with a 10% deposit being remitted at the order distance of 225.25; and fourth place date, 50% of the balance being remitted by beginning of April/May went to John Retzloff and GMCK15 with 2026), and remainder of the balance due at pick-up or delivery (May/

> Hopefully, the public will see this as a great opportunity to find Willy his soulmate, as he has stood alone since his installation several decades ago. It would be a great way to celebrate the 100th

of Willits and Mendocino County.

RoadsideAmerica.com has a great Muffler Man map outlining where all the statues can be seen across the country: https://www. roadsideamerica.com/story/37422 -- where Willits is indeed listed, and there are people who enjoy road-tripping around to see all cbsnews.com/news/muffler-men-giant-roadside-attractions/

There's also a YouTube channel dedicated to American Giants: https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericanGiants; a blog: https:// usagiants.com/; and a museum on Route 66 opening this year: https://www.americangiantsmuseum.com/; and much more.

Just this week, "Stella Atom," now located at Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios on 66 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was delivered and installed, amidst a nice marketing campaign which Willits could certainly use as inspiration for the tourist opportunities that having a matched pair like Willy and Wilma could provide. Like Wilma, Stella is dressed as a cowgirl, complete with boots, hat and a whole lot of sass. Check out her dedication here: https://www.facebook.com/buckatomson66/ and see all the fun merch and more here: https://buckatomson66. com/collections/fundraising-for-stella-atom

Advertising for the fundraiser will be done on the WFD Facebook and Instagram pages; in Willits Weekly, and potentially in other news outlets; contacts could be made with Roadside America or the Atlanta Museum or other interested entities to help get the word out - or to send in donations, too.

My husband, Matthew, and I have traveled to Bell Plastics a few times; in August, they hold an annual open house where they show off all sorts of their creations, and let the public get up close, take photos, and see the fun statues. Go if you get the chance! They announce the event on their Facebook page www.facebook.com/ BellPlasticsHayward. We saw the Uniroyal gal there in 2019 and knew we had to get one up to Willits.



WILLITS SWEECHEART 2024

Above, left: Family gathers around 2024 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart winner Elena Arkelian. Above, right: Catie Spackman, runner up for the 2024 contest, smiles with her family after the dinner. At right: A sash in leather for the winner, and one in satin for the runner up of the 2024 contest.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

Sweethearts

From page 7

WILLITS

The exciting part of selling as many tickets as possible each year is that the contestants get to keep 15% of the sales. This can amount to quite a bit and is an amazing incentive for the contestants to do their best to sell, sell, sell ... not to mention it helps get people their tickets early and helps attendees avoid waiting in line at the events.

Congratulations were also in order to the Willits Frontier Days Juniors club who were donated two quilts to raffle off during the dinner, with proceeds going to help fund their club's efforts and projects. One quilt, made by Rachelle Butler, was auctioned off for \$400 to Adventist Health Howard Memorial; and the second, made by Jenn Drew, was auctioned off to \$1,000 to Sparetime Supply.

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEL

During the dinner, past Sweethearts in attendance were honored and given a sunflower, as they smiled for photos, and several of the year's sponsors came up to receive thank you plaques, and smile

Guests in attendance at the dinner, sponsored by J.D. Redhouse. enjoyed a meal prepared by June Sizemore consisting of fresh fruit, multiple pasta salads, a green salad, cheesy potatoes, lasagna, rolls, and tri tip. Dessert, made by Kemmy's Pies, included individual boxed pies ranging from apple to blackberry to lemonade.

An announcement was also made, prepping those Sweethearts in attendance, that the upcoming 100th year of Willits Frontier Days, in 2026, will be known as "The Year of the Sweetheart" with

no actual new-contestant contest to be held, but instead, it will be more of an All-Star year, where all past Sweethearts will compete with ticket sales for sure, and perhaps some other ... modified ... contestants to see who will be named the Sweetheart of Sweethearts, and win the 100th year title.

Along those lines, there is also hope for an honorary Sweetheart to also make her mark on the 100th year; efforts are in place to start the ball rolling on a two-year fundraising effort to get Cowboy Willy, the large fiberglass statue at the rodeo grounds a cowgirl friend, Wilma, who could stand by his side for years to come. See Willits Weekly's story about fundraising for Wilma on page 6 of this edition.







From page 11

Brian, who works the Ferris wheel said, "The job has its ups and downs." Jessica runs the Down a Clown game, where one has to "throw a ball and hit a clown. You get different sized teddy bears as prizes, depending on the number of hits." Her young cousin, Michael, helps out with the booth and that of his grandmother who supervises the

Savannah works the goldfish game, where people try to throw a ping-pong ball into cups of colored water in order to win a goldfish pet. One could almost hear the parents hoping their kid didn't win.

The carnival is perfect for families to enjoy together. Jeff Shipp and his son, Finn, always come to enjoy the carnival.

"I have to come to this every single year, and I love it," said the elder Shipp. "It's one of my favorite things to do. It's beautiful. Finn rode the Zipper for the first time. He's been afraid every year until now."

"Technically, I've just ridden it the second time because I've ridden it two times in about two minutes," corrected the vounger Shipp. "One time with my father, Jeff, and one time with a friend who I can only call the Geometry-Master because I've forgotten his name. I was thinking after this to peruse around this lovely carnival, having a little chat and figuring out what to do next."

In every direction kids could be seen eating carnival food. It's not a time or place for health-minded eaters, with the funnel cakes, cotton candy, hot dogs, corn dogs, sodas. and the like. The treats were very popular and the line for the food was longer than for the rides. Once a year, people forget their diets and dig into these tasty treats.

Ken Johnson, senior owner of the carnival, loves to thrill the kids. Willits Weekly found him on his electric scooter, making the rounds of the park.

"You know you scared the heck out of my grandkids," said this reporter. Johnson's only response was an enthusiastic

The carnival will be at its Willits location through July 7 so everyone should have a chance to enjoy the fun

#### Special Sokka

Sokka LOVES people! You can bet he'll greet you with a smile and butt wiggles ... and even be happier as he gets as many scritches and scratches as he can! He has been to many foster homes while in our care and we have lots of info to share!

Sokka is the best houseguest! Sokka is housebroken, crate-trained, knows basic commands, and has a great personality. He's such a good boy in so many ways. Sokka has enjoyed the company of kiddos and would do just fine in an adult home as well. Sokka enjoys his part-time stint as office dog and when he is not making our customers feel special, you can find him lounging belly-up, enjoying a comfy bed.

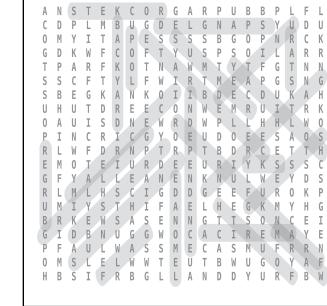
The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We Falcor are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on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

#### Confident Saturn

petfinder.com.

Saturn loves attention and seems to be friendly and eager to meet people! At the shelter she loves to wander and explore her surroundings. We think she would make a great companion!

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





#### **Mendocino County invites** applications for:

**Community Services Officer** \$48,984 - \$59,529 **Corrections Deputy** \$55,369 - \$67,308 **Deputy Sheriff-Coroner** \$76,648 - \$93,142

**Deputy Sheriff-Coroner in Training** \$25.08 - \$30.48 Hourly **Environmental Health Technician / Technician Assistant** \$41,912 - \$56,596 **Sheriff's Technology Specialist** \$61,256 - \$74,484

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

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adoption application available at www. mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-467-6453 for more information. Snuggly Falcor Falcor is a small but (very) mighty

for lunch from 1 to 1:30 pm) on

Saturdays. Make sure to pre-fill out the

pup. He wants to be the leader of the pack, protecting his environment from strangers, other animals, bikes, skateboards, and delivery trucks. He should be in a home with adults only and no cats or children. He has a bit of an obsession with squirrels and can become quite intent on catching them on walks.

Despite Falcor's quirks, his fosters say he is the most loving dog they've ever experienced. He is highly affectionate and if allowed on the couch or bed, he loves to snuggle. He is perfectly house-trained and when he comes inside, he waits to have his feet dried off. He enjoys car rides and is well behaved in the car. He responds well to training with treats. He has low grooming needs, and he doesn't mind being brushed or bathed.

Falcor will do best with experienced adopters who will continue with consistent training, daily physical exercise, and mental stimulation. His favorite game is tug of war, and he is a fast and acrobatic dog, despite having short legs.

To learn more about Falcor, or to

S B I C

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.

S E I S

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## **CLASSIFIEDS**

5th Wheel For Sale 2000. 32-foot fifth wheel with 3 pop-outs. Has new queen sized bed. Clean, no smoking, no leaks. Asking \$14,000

OBO. Call Connie at

(707) 354-1716.

'Do You Ever Wonder If There's a Better Way to Meet the Ups and Downs of Life?' Spiritual discussions offer a relaxed setting for exploring spiritual truths and how we live them. You are warmly invited to join us to share spiritual insights and experiences, ask questions, or just listen. Family and friends are welcome to join us on Saturday, July 6 from 10:30 to 11:30 am at the Willits Library. Sponsored by Eckankar in California.

The Fruit Group Fruit Group's trucks have tomatoes! Slicing tomatoes and Roma's are \$39 for 30 pounds. Peaches and Nectarines, \$38 a lug. For other fruits, or to order, contact Cressie at 707 459-2713 or net. Pick up, usually every other Friday. a Napa Auto Parts.

Help Wanted Senior Center is lookina for an experienced maintenance worker Part time position, wage DOE, hours negotiable Call 459-6826 for more

Classified ads are just 30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks

Help Wanted: Wedding Coordinator

The Skunk Train is

looking for a part-time

Wedding Coordinator who can work with the Train's brides to answer questions, liaison with vendors, and keep an organized plan for the event. Tasks would include following up on leads, perform site visits, attend various marketing and wedding related meetings and tradeshows, as well as be part of the wedding Day-Of to manage the event details. Pay based upon experience \$18 to \$30 per hour. Background check is required for this position. Events are mainly in Fort Bragg. Please send resumes to mhilton@ sierrarailroad.com

> John Ford Ranch Beef

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

**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. at http://www. oaknvine.net/tp

> Willits Food Bank on Railroad Avenue

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 current location at 344 Railroad Avenue. Food distribution is available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.



## **LEGAL NOTICES**

**Fictitious Business** Name Statement 2024-F0276

The following person or persons are doing business as Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot, 262 East Commercial Street, Willits CA 95490; 707-459-8697.

Registered owner: Imagination Station Preschool & Childcare Center, Inc., 11 North Marin Street, Willits CA This business is conducted

by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on June 5, 2024.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on June 5, 2024. /s/ Saprina Rodriguez, CEO Publication dates: June 20, 27, July 3, July 11, 2024

2024-F0268 The following person or persons are doing business

North Main Street, Willits CA Registered owner: Lisa Gav Brown, 33470 Sherwood Road, Willits CA 95490.

as Precious One Beads, 85

**Fictitious Business** 

Name Statement

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the

fictitious business name listed

above on May 30, 2024. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 30, 2024. /s/ Lisa Gay Brown

Publication dates: June 27, July 3, July 11, July 18, 2024

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

707.459.5193

Willits Weekly | July 3, 2024

Willits Weekly | July 3, 2024

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

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Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490



#### Adventist Health's free Sports Physicals and Back to School Fair set for July 21

#### Submitted by AHHM

Adventist Health Howard Memorial will be hosting a free Sports Physicals and Back-to-School Fair for school-age children on Sunday, July 21, from 9 am to 12 noon at AHHM's Redwood Medical Clinic located at 3 Marcela Drive in Willits. The event will include free physicals for youth athletes, as well as backpacks and other school supplies for students, along with many resources for our community.

"We are excited to be able to offer these much-needed services to the parents and the children in our community. We are grateful to provide access to these resources for sports physicals so there is no barrier to anyone who wants to get active and play sports this upcoming school year. We'll also be providing kids of all ages with considerable help for their school supplies during this event so they are ready to go when the school year starts," said Linda Givens, administrator of Adventist Health Howard Memorial.

A sports physical is required by California schools before a child can join in any school sports, and is aimed at identifying problems that might pose a health hazard ¬ such as a hernia, untreated asthma, an undiagnosed heart condition, or concussion injury. While sports physicals meet all the requirements for participation in sports, they are not intended to replace annual, comprehensive physical exams. Annual exams are recommended for all children to ensure overall health.

Parental consent will be needed for youth athletes to receive a physical, and all forms required should be brought with each parent and student to the event for their exam. The Back-to-School Fair will showcase booths from partner organizations such as Mendocino County Blue Zones, the Mendocino County Library, Mendocino County Public Health for your vaccination needs, COPE Health Scholars, face painting, and others to create awareness about resources available for local families and provide activities for those in time to put some thought into what

Adventist Health is a faith-based, nonprofit, integrated health system serving more than 100 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii with over 440 sites of care, including 28 acute care facilities. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care, and hospice agencies in both rural and urban communities. Our compassionate and talented team of more than 38,000 includes employees, physicians, Medical Staff and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope. We are committed to staying true to our heritage by providing patient-centered, quality care. Together, we are transforming the healthcare experience with an innovative and whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual and social healing to support community well-being.



## Pat Hollister

Patricia Ann Senter Hollister died on June 28, 2024 in a San Rafael care facility. She will be dearly missed by her friends and family. Born September 3, 1939, in Orofino, Idaho to Harvey and Lucille Senter, she arrived in Willits in 1957. A graduate of Willits High School, class of 1959, she lived and worked in Willits for many years. She spent her later years on her property in Redwood Valley.

As a young woman. Pat and her brother Jim Harvey James Senter) competed together in horse shows throughout Northern California. She had a life-long love for her horses, birds, and all animals. She loved life and was always ready for

an adventure that many times involved antique shopping and helping her friends and

She wasn't afraid to learn new skills and put her creative energy into her art, winning numerous awards for her beautiful pastels. She also enjoyed crocheting and created most of her designs without a pattern. Her can-do attitude would find her mending waterlines, roofs, fences, and even cars.

Always a hard worker, Pat worked for Seaside Industries (Little Lake Industries), AM&D, numerous restaurants in Willits and Ukiah, and Coyote Valley Casino in Redwood Valley. Her friends and family will always remember the twinkle in her eye and her fearlessness

in her pursuit of life, love and happiness. Pat is preceded in death by her best friend and brother, Harvey James Senter (Jim) in 1990, her father Harvey Charles Senter in 1987, and her mother, Wilma "Lucille" Senter in 2007. She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law Charles and Jenny Senter, and nieces and nephew Natalie Senter, Lydia Senter Colvig, and Evan Senter. She is also survived by great-niece and great-nephew Ella Senter and Levi Senter, aunts Lois Marchant and

Linda Hill, and longtime friends and caregivers Manuel and Tina Gutierrez. Her family

appreciates the love and care the Gutierrezes gave

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Donations in Pat's name can be made to the Humane Society for Inland Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, community well-being. California 95470.





### 4th of July Parade parking restrictions

Posted by Willits Police Department

On Thursday, July 4th, 2024, the City assisting with notifications to the community of Willits will be hosting the annual Willits Frontier Days Parade. The Fourth of July Parade requires no parking on the parade and detour routes from 6 am until the the parade:

The Willits Police Department seeks the assistance of those residents who live on the parade route, detour route, and parade staging areas in keeping the streets clear on July 4th, and in making the Frontier Days Parade an enjoyable family experience.

WFD volunteers and staff have been

and will be posting "No Parking" signs along the route.

The following streets will be affected by

East Commercial Street, South Main Street, East Valley Street, and South Lenore Avenue

The following streets will be affected by

West Commercial Street, School Street, Pine Street, Coast Street, and West Valley Street.



#### REF Building and Exhibit entry forms due; some by July 5 and some July 12

While many minds are on Willits Frontier Days and other summer activities at this time of year, it's also to enter into the Redwood Empire

The fair will run from August 1 through 4 this year, but entry forms are due very soon.

Adults and independent, FFA, and 4-H youth are welcome to enter!

"All entries MUST be postmarked on or before July 5, 2024; except for Agriculture, Horticulture and Floriculture forms, which may be turned in as late as July 12, 2024," says the premium book's instructional pages.

Premium books were mailed out last week, but are also available online at www.RedwoodEmpireFair.

For more info: 707-462-FAIR

- Maureen Jennison



#### Adventist Health Howard Memorial on Becker's 100 Great Community Hospitals list

#### Submitted by AHHM

Adventist Health Howard is pleased to announce they have been acknowledged as part of Becker's list of 100 Great Community Hospitals.

"Community hospitals are a crucial piece of the overall healthcare system in the U.S. They provide patients located outside of metropolitan areas with convenient, affordable care. Some of these community hospitals serve rural populations, while other benefit suburban communities," the article from Becker's reads.

"We're honored to be chosen as part of this great list of hospitals, as we answer the call to serve our community," said AHHM Administrator Linda Givens. "As part of our top priorities providing excellent care through our primary and specialty services, we can keep care local and close to home for our community."

The community hospitals that are honored on this list from Becker's are focused on bringing clinical and academic excellence, personalized care and overall improved health to their communities. For a full list of the 100 Great Community Hospitals of 2024 see here, www.beckershospitalreview.com/100-great-community-hospitals-2024.html.

Adventist Health is a faith-based, nonprofit, integrated health system serving more than 100 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii with over 440 sites of care, including 28 acute care facilities. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care, and hospice agencies in both rural and urban communities. Our compassionate and talented team of more than 38,000 includes employees, physicians, Medical Staff and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope. We are committed to staying true to our heritage by providing patient-centered, quality care. Together, we are transforming

the healthcare experience with an innovative and whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual Mendocino County, 9700 and social healing to support



The rest of Summertime

and facilitated the meeting. This month, the comments of the meeting were bittersweet as Superintendent Beebe and the trustees reflected on the recently closed school year, highlighting the significant efforts and contributions of the staff and faculty.

From page 1

The meeting began with a closed session, during which the board discussed, motioned and approved classified items on the agenda: requests for early retirement incentives, certified leave of absence requests, and approvals of inner district transfers. Superintendent Beebe also added the approval of classified sick leave to the agenda before the board recessed to closed session.

Upon reconvening to open session, the board offered the opportunity for comments from California School Employee Association and Willits Teachers Association representatives. While no CSEA members were in attendance, new WTA President Brian Bowles attended and spoke about the positive outcome of unspecified negotiations and his initiatives as WTA president at the meeting.

Bowles told the board his main initiative is to "help the district articulate all of our different sites from kindergarten all the way to 12th grade both with students and teachers," and achieve additional camaraderie across the district to improve the schools. He also expressed his jubilation with the elementary school's new

Planning Study to Carollo Engineers.

Building at 24895 Birch Street.'

offer on the property

The next item on the agenda:

Since early 2022, the board has

considered purchasing the real estate

office building located across the street

from the Brooktrails Township complex.

Since that time, the board has authorized

three offers to purchase the property that

weren't successful. At the June 11 regular

meeting, the board met in closed session

and directed staff to develop an additional

In February 2022, the property was

apprised by the district for \$227,500. The

currently listed price, \$239,900, is within a

reasonable proximity to the 2022 appraisal

amount, and staff can offer that with no

contingencies and a recommendation of a

Purchase of the building provides an

opportunity for the district to improve the

condition of its main office and create a

better workspace for its utility crew in the

current office, as they presently meet and

There will be cleanup, and some

repairs required to make the new building

inhabitable. District staff is capable o

completing those tasks. The board has

approved a budget that allocates funds for

Following a brief discussion, the board

voted unanimously to approve an offer to

purchase 24895 Birch Street at the listed

price of \$239,000 and directed staff to

complete a short escrow process to acquire

The final agenda item: "Consideration

of the Purchase and Installation of a

Metal Building for the Fire Department as

Approved by the Voters within the 2023

The shop building estimate, provided by

Ron's Quality Construction of Redwood

Valley, lists the metal structure measuring

30x40 that will have two roll up doors and

two regular doors and will include a 12x30

carport. The building will be useful to house

and protect fire department equipment and

apparatus investments. It will be located

on the west side of the fire station and will

include a lean-to area between the buildings,

which will provide additional storage for

equipment. The construction company has

experience installing metal buildings and

their concrete pads, and the quote they

Brooktrails Fire Department volunteer

Brian Valente has been working with Chief

Jon Noyer and Superintendent Tom Jones to

identify the concrete pad depth and footprint.

District staff will be involved in preparing the

department a few thousand dollars.

the metal building.

\$22,667.85.

offered was for approximately \$65,000.

Special Benefit Assessment Budget."

short, 10-day escrow period.

work out of the shop/garage.

the improvements.

the building.

"Consideration of Purchasing the Office

was decided that the item would be moved the U.S. and Canada in 55 offices. forward for consideration.

Increase

From page 1

The rest of

Board President Tina Tyler-O'Shea asked, "Have there been any written or oral comments received regarding this matter?" General Manager Tamara Alaniz responded, saying: "There have been no written or oral comments received regarding this matter. The ordinance involves increasing the board members' stipend per meeting from \$100 to \$125. I am recommending that based on your previous direction that you approve Ordinance 166." Board Vice-President Rick Williams had stepped out to take a phone call prior to the vote. The board voted while he was absent, and the stipend increase was approved by a vote of 3 to 1.

The next item on the agenda was "Consideration of Awarding Proposal for Brooktrails Water Reuse Planning Study to Carollo Engineers."

On March 12, 2024 the district was notified that it had been awarded \$500,000 for a State Water Resources Control Board Water Recycling Funding Program Planning

The goal of the planning study is to create a feasible project design that will be ready to acquire additional outside funding from the state to implement the study recommendations.

The board of directors directed the circulation of a request for proposals for the planning study. The RFP was circulated to approximately 50 firms in California, Oregon and Nevada. Three firms responded with an affirmation to submit a proposal by the end of May 2024.

Recently, the Brooktrails Planning Committee, consisting of board members Tyler-O'Shea and Williams, met with the general manager to review the proposals. After discussing the merits of each proposal, the committee was ready to make a recommendation to the full board of directors at this meeting.

Due to their extensive experience with water reuse projects throughout California, the planning committee recommended that the board award the project to Carollo Engineers of Walnut Creek, California.

On June 17, the general manager traveled to Calabasas and toured the Pure Water Demonstration/Water Reuse Plant at Las Virgines Municipal Water District Treatment Facility, which was built under the direction of Carollo Engineers. Following the tour of the facility, in a subsequent report to the board, the general manager stated that Carollo Engineers had built a near copy of the plant envisioned for Brooktrails.

The Carollo project timeline estimates one year to complete the planning study. It is estimated that building a project with the size and scope needed for Brooktrails may cost as much as \$4 million.

Moving forward on the planning study makes it more likely that the eventual project cost will be closer to this estimate. Brooktrails will apply for state funding and possibly federal funding to complete the entire project.

Founded over 90 years ago (in 1933) Carollo Engineers has been 100% focused on water and wastewater solutions. The company's efforts are entirely about water and are not distracted by other civil or environmental engineering challenges. The firm employs 850 licensed engineers and more than 1,400 employees spread across

woodworking programs, adopted from Willits High School; Bowles hopes to see similar arts and writing programs implemented at the elementary schools. He is also taking the initiative to start a new reading program, "bring high school students to Brookside Elementary. Closing his comments, Bowles said: "I'd like to thank Superintendent Beebe," as he felt the district heard the WTA during labor negotiations.

Continuing with bittersweet statements, Superintendent Beebe agreed that the negotiations were positive, and added more discussion geared towards students and their achievements. He also expressed joy in his current position, as he looks forward to another

"It's always exciting to see newness and challenges that the students face and to watch them embrace, and overcome them," Beebe

The year ended positively, with district moving in a positive direction. While Superintendent Beebe acknowledged there is more to be done, he reassured the audience about the district's commitment to improvement, instilling a sense of hope and optimism.

Along with happy comments about the school year, Board Trustee Jeanne King and a member of the audience discussed the harmful effects of the overuse and easy access to technology among children and teens. Trustee King recited something she'd read, "Modern childhood has been a tragedy in two acts. In act one, we took away the play-based childhood – 1990 to 2010 and in act two we gave kids the phone-based

collective decision across all campuses. She also thanked the board and Superintendent Beebe for fostering the needs of Willits's youth and expressed her concern with what's happening to kids on a societal level, agreeing with Trustee King. After acknowledging the issue, Superintendent Beebe verbally agreed to host an investigation on the policy and use of cell phones in schools and report back, conference, and talk with Goldner. On a positive note. Goldner says, "Every time I come to a

> and concern" for students. As the school year has closed, Superintendent Beebe and the board have begun to work towards preparing for the next year and continue to work on improvements throughout the district. The insights and discussions from the recent board meeting reflect a strong commitment to the well-being and progress of the Willits Unified School District, and they are planning for more positive impacts and improvements in the

health has plunged in the middle of this."

and community member of Willits, spoke out on

the issue as well, asking the board what they

would do to combat this in the district. "The

rewiring of childhood is causing an epidemic of

mental illness," she said, adding that the school

shouldn't allow phones during the day as a

The Willits school board will not meet in July, but will be back to their regular monthly meetings on August 8.

childhood – 2010 to now – and teenage mental Veterans Attendee Robin Goldner, a psychotherapist

From page 1 La Oficina de Servicios para

Veteranos del Condado de Mendocino en Ukiah se mudará durante la semana

del 1 de julio 2024 Ukiah, CA - La oficina de Servicios para Veteranos en Ukiah regresará su ubicación original en 405 Observatory Avenue, board meeting. I am impressed with the caring Ukiah, CA. La oficina estará cerrada el lunes 1 de julio y el martes 2 de julio. Desde el miércoles 3 de julio hasta el lunes 8 de julio, el horario de servicio puede ser limitado durante la

> Para preguntas y más información, por favor contactar la oficina de Servicios para Veteranos al (707) 463-4226 o mande fax al (707) 463-4637.

landscape debris like chipping or hauling

it to a biomass energy or green waste

The department may issue restricted

temporary burning permits if there is an

essential reason due to public health and

safety. Agriculture, land management, fire

training, and other industrial type burning

may proceed if a CAL FIRE official inspects

The suspension of burn permits for

residential landscape debris does not

apply to campfires within organized

campgrounds or on private property.

Campfires may be permitted if the

campfire is maintained in such a manner

as to prevent its spread to the wildland. A

campfire permit can be obtained at local

fire stations or online at PreventWildfireCA.

For more information about how you

and your family can prepare for wildfire

visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

the burn site and issues a special permit.

facility.

continuación del proceso de

reubicación y configuración

#### The rest of From page 1 Suspends

CAL FIRE to suspend all burn permits for outdoor residential burning within the After considerable discussion, the board State Responsibility Area of Mendocino voted to award the Brooktrails Water Reuse County (outside the incorporated cities).

> Since January 1, 2024, CAL FIRE and firefighters across the state have already responded to over 2,156 wildfires. While outdoor burning of landscape debris by homeowners is no longer allowed, CAL FIRE is asking residents to take that extra time to ensure that they are prepared for wildfires by maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of defensible space around every home and building on their property and being prepared to evacuate if the time

> Here are some tips to help prepare homes and property

Clear all dead and or dying vegetation 100 feet from around all structures. Landscape with fire-resistant plants and

non-flammable ground cover. Find alternative ways to dispose of

Felonv

The rest of From page 4

Code 288(C)(1) – sexual acts upon a victim more than 10 years younger; and Penal Code 273(A)A inflict cruelty upon a child.

Due to the severity of the crime and potential danger to the public, a felony bail enhancement was sought, and bail was ordered at \$500,000 on June 30, 2024.

The Willits Police Department would like to thank the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and the California Highway Patrol for assisting this investigation.

The Willits Police Department is continuing its investigation of the incident and asking anyone with information about this investigation or additional potential victims to call (707) 459-6122 to speak with Officer Pearson.



Michael DeJesus of Laytonville

From page 2

The rest of SCOTUS From page 2

besides the Elias well, both of which are contaminated with arsenic and not safe to drink: the Long 20 well

The rest of

Results

decision, which will go down with Dred Scott as among the worst in American history. crystalizes what is at stake in this moment, and why Americans must stand firm in defending our 237-yearold democracy against those who would try to end it."

Congressman

represents Congressional District, which spans the North Coast of the state from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border, and includes Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties. He currently

site for the concrete pad, thereby saving the serves on the Committee on Natural Resources and the The staff recommendation was for the Committee on Transportation board to approve the proposal from Ron's and Infrastructure. In the Construction to install the concrete pad and 118th Congress, he serves to acquire and install a metal building at the as Ranking Member of fire station. The board vote was unanimous, Natural Resources approving the acquisition and installation of Subcommittee on Water Wildlife, and Fisheries. He is the founder of the The board then moved to approve Congressional Freethought the Accounts Payable in the amount of

in the valley, which is not being used; and the Park well next to the rodeo grounds, which provides water to the many privately owned water trucks that deliver the contaminated water to whoever pays for it (and hopefully does not drink it). In 2021, arsenic in the Long 20 well came under scrutiny when the city considered, and finally rejected, using the well for drinking water. During public comment on the new groundwater report, two local residents, Rosamond Crowder from

the Willits Environmental Center, and John Almida, a valley resident whose drinking water comes from a well expressed concern that arsenic could migrate from a contaminated well to a previously arsenic-free well. Wallace replied that that the groundwater report

investigated the presence of arsenic, not the movement of arsenic, but he thought arsenic migrating from one well to another unlikely. "Arsenic is a heavy metal that would have great difficulty moving through the gravel and sand" surrounding the wells," he said, and added: "How long is it going to take, a million years?"

However, Dr. Mills Matheson, a long-time Willits physician who has extensively studied arsenic in water, cautioned the city council at the end of the meeting, "It's just a matter of time when arsenic shows up." The city will continue to test the water on a regular basis, as it has done for years.



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Willits Weekly | July 3, 2024

At right, below: Chief Alvarez's desk statue at the Station 54 firehouse. Photo by Michelle Schnitzius









## Congrats to new Willits Fire Chief Eric Alvarez

New Willits Fire Chief Eric Alvarez was sworn in at the June 26 meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

Alvarez is a veteran of the Little Lake Fire Department, starting as a volunteer in 2012 and working his way through the ranks from firefighter, to engineer, then captain. Most recently Chief Alvarez accepted a full-time position as training chief with the department, where he also serves as fire marshal.

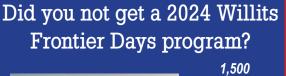
Willits Mayor Sabrina Rodriguez offered congratulations to Chief Alvarez during the Willits City Council meeting taking place that same night.

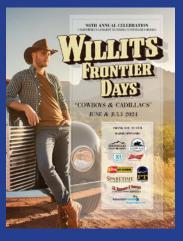
"We want to congratulate him on officially becoming our new chief," Rodriguez said. "I think the fire district has sound leadership right now, and they acknowledged during the swearing in ceremony how they work with the city ... with code enforcement and code compliance so we're looking forward to continue that relationship."

Chief Alvarez was born in San Bernadino, and moved to Willits at the age of 16. After graduating from Willits High School, he started his career in the casino industry. Chief Alvarez feels his firefighting successes are only possible thanks to the love and support from his loving wife and two beautiful daughters.

– Jennifer Poole







programs were distributed in the June 20, 2024 edition of Willits Weekly, and another 1,000 exist around town. Copies are available at many local businesses, at the Willits

Chamber of Commerce, and will be handed out at all the upcoming WFD events. The program is also online at www.WillitsFrontierDays.com or www.WillitsWeekly.com

