

Willits Weekly

Online & Print



It's Real Estate Section Thursday!

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
 Donations Accepted Edition No. 562 **Thursday, August 8, 2024**

Former payroll manager cites mental health in fraud case

By Mike Geniella, mendofever.com

August 3 – In a surprising new twist in an already convoluted case, Paula June Kennedy, former payroll manager for the County of Mendocino, is seeking a mental health diversion from prosecution of a felony charge of misappropriation of public funds along with suspended Auditor Chamise Cubbison.

In a report submitted last week to Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman in support of the diversion motion, a forensic psychologist contends the 64-year-old Kennedy is wrestling with isolation, anxiety, and waves of depression after being suspended from her job and being publicly labeled a thief.

Public Defender Mary LeClair, Kennedy's lawyer, said the mental health diversion option is justified given the impact the case has had on Kennedy's emotional stability. Kennedy's not guilty plea stands, and if she is diverted to a treatment program, she can eventually petition for

Read the rest of **Fraud** Over on Page 6

BOS responds to grand jury report on family services

Posted by Mendocino County BOS

The Board of Supervisors welcomes this opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury report titled "Mendocino County Family and Children's Services, 'The Broken Process at Family and Children's Services.'" The board appreciates the Grand Jury's deep dive into these issues concerning the families and children of Mendocino County.

Pursuant to the request of the Grand Jury, the board is responding to the following:

Recommendation 10: that Mendocino County implement a quality assurance department in Family and Children's Services. (to be completed by May 2025)

Response 10: The recommendation has been implemented.

Mendocino County FCS has a quality assurance program. Mendocino County FCS provides quality assurance pursuant to the guidelines set forth by the California Department of Social Services as provided by All County Information Notices and All County Letters.

Recommendation 12: Read the rest of **Report** Over on Page 6



Above, left: These first-place tomatoes were grown by Kelly Keath. Above, right: Flowers lined the back wall of the Floriculture building. Below: Willits 4-H's Tinley Logan gives her market hog "Marshall Mathers" a hug while he gets a refreshing sip of water from the sprayer.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Support our volunteer firefighters

Jennifer Poole
 Editor & Reporter
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Little Lake Firefighters Association is hosting their annual Open House fundraiser on Saturday, August 10, starting at noon at Willits Fire Station 54 on East Commercial Street – and at City Park.

"It's going to be a warm day so we are gearing up to make a section of City Park into a water park!" the Firefighters Association posted. "We will be hosting our Cornhole Tournament, Food, Station Tours and, always a community favorite, the Muster Truck Ride!

Come by, bring the kids, and drop a few bucks in the firefighters' donation jars, to say thanks to the Willits area volunteers who work so hard to help keep our community protected. Donations go to safety and firefighting equipment for the firefighters.

Did you know that the Little Lake Firefighters Association, which represents the Little Lake Fire volunteers, has been a part of the Little Lake Fire Department and the Willits community since 1928?

Read the rest of **Firefighters** Over on Page 6

More than a million Redwood Empire Fair has another record-breaking year, topping \$1.2 million during Junior Livestock Auction

2024 was another record-breaking year for the Redwood Empire Fair's Junior Livestock Auction which raised \$1,242,953.25 during the Saturday event.

Maureen Jennison
 Graphics & Photographress
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

The auction gives FFA, 4-H, and Independent youth exhibitors a chance to raise and then show cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, turkeys, chickens, and rabbits, learning responsibility, follow-through, compassion, the circle of life, and much more. Funds raised from the sale of these animals helps finance future animal projects, vehicles, hobbies, and even future education for the showers.

This year, 294 lots made up the auction, with buyers paying well above grocery store prices for many lots, supporting and encouraging the efforts of these youth exhibitors who are raising local livestock. Average prices

included: steers were \$7.33 per pound; goats were \$22.27 per pound; swine were \$16.69 per pound; sheep were \$18.46 per pound; turkeys were \$1,944.44 each; poultry pens were \$1,553.85 each; and rabbit pens were \$1,440.75 each.

Auctioneers Rex Williams and Drew McElfresh called out the bids during the day-long event with the help of arena men and spotters Lee Persico, Chuck Persico, Mike Lucchetti, Mark Lucchetti, Lorne Chase, Tom East, and Mark Silva.

Those exhibitors with the highest-placing and second-highest placing animals in their market classes earned top awards and designations, and were auctioned off in the first 14 lots.

Read the rest of **Auction** Over on page 15



Above, from left: Fair food tastes extra good on the fairway. Logan Carrillo of the Covelo FFA sold his 128-pound market lamb to Keiths IGA for \$13.50 per pound. Kathy Lundgren's quilt held lots of sentimental components, and won a Superintendent's Award.



Above: Peggy Margaret Hebrard's oil painting earned her first place and a Best of Show award, in the Fine Arts building. At right, top: Michele Briggs' "Nature's Uniques" entry of an unusual or odd size tomato earned her first place. At right: Carnival rides and games offered fun for many ages during this year's Redwood Empire Fair.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Hopkins Fire arsonist convicted

Posted by Mendocino County District Attorney

San Rafael, August 1 – A Marin County Superior Court jury returned from its deliberations midmorning Thursday to announce it had found the trial defendant guilty of the Hopkins Fire arson that happened during the afternoon of Sunday, September 12, 2021, in the Calpella area of Mendocino County.

Defendant Devin Lamar Johnson, age 23, of Calpella, was convicted of arson of an inhabited dwelling, a felony. The jury also found true a sentencing allegation that alleged the defendant was responsible for the burning of multiple homes.

The defendant was found not guilty of an alternate charge of aggravated arson, which required the difficult proof that the defendant had the intent to specifically burn one or more residences (versus grassland) prior to his lighting two close-in-time fires in dry grass and vegetation behind McFarland Trucking.

After the jury was excused, a separate court trial was conducted regarding a strike allegation

Read the rest of **Hopkins** Over on Page 6

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Concrete driveway planned across City Park

To the Editor:

The City of Willits is planning a major redesign of City Park (Bud Snyder Park) that will replace a significant amount of the park lawn with concrete. The new plan is very different than the design presented to city residents back in January.

The planned farmers market pavilion will now be a prefabricated metal building on a 40 foot by 80 foot concrete slab foundation, with a concrete driveway through the park – 25 feet long and 16 feet wide – so farmers market trucks can drive onto and across City Park.

The concrete driveway was not mentioned at the city council's public hearing in January. The driveway was not in the proposal from the landscape architects. It was not included in the public display in City Hall.

This driveway would not be needed if the city was to put the pavilion next to the sidewalk instead of the middle of the lawn. The farmers market trucks could back up to the curb like they used to do. The lawn would not be sliced in half. And the money the city saves from not building a 25 foot long, 16 foot wide concrete driveway maybe could be spent on a better quality pavilion than one bolted together from prefabricated sheet metal.

At the last public hearing in January, Mayor Saprina Rodriguez suggested that another public hearing would be a good idea before any work in the park begins. I sure hope that happens.

B.B. Kamoroff, Willits

The Endowment Fund for Willits Seniors Inc.

To the Editor:

The Harrah Senior Center was incorporated in 1972 as Willits Seniors Inc. and has been an invaluable community resource which has been administering essential services to seniors for the last 52 years. How do we ensure our doors remain open for the next 50 years and beyond? The Community Foundation of Mendocino County is currently managing The Endowment Fund for Willits Seniors Inc. These monies are restricted in that they can only provide financial support for the Harrah Senior Center.

Yearly revenue derived from fundraising, grants, membership fees, thrift store revenue and donations cover the day-to-day operations of the senior center. Money distributed from the endowment to the senior center is critical in that it provides the senior center funding from another source other than our yearly fundraising efforts.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

August 2024 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

There has been a lot of talk about supervisorial raises. The board's goal in negotiations was to get all employees to market rate for their positions. We did this with all bargaining units. With all department heads, CEO, and elected officials, we did the same thing except we used comparables for Humboldt, Sonoma, and Lake counties which intentionally provided a lower increase in pay. Within the next two years, all employees will achieve this market rate. The same is true for the electeds, CEO, and department heads. Instead of losing trained employees to other counties, we will be able to better retain and attract employees.

There are 150 job classifications making more than the supervisors. As a teacher, I would have made more than I do as a supervisor. When I first ran for supervisor, the board had given themselves a 39% raise before the employees got their raise. I did not accept that money. Instead, I created scholarships for students in the Third District. With the current agreements, everyone else has already received the market rate agreement. Without getting the supervisors to market rate, we would not be treating everyone equally. This would set up future boards for a huge increase at some point. As noted in the board meeting, the state requires the supervisors to approve their own salary increase.

The Sherwood Road Emergency Access Route special assessment passed by almost a 2-1 margin. Being a pilot program, we overcame many problems along the way. Persistence by

many will create a safer community. This pilot program created a roadmap on how to better prepare our communities for emergencies.

Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services launched a new evacuation mapping software on MendoReady.org. The Genasys Protect map allows public access to all emergency advisories, warnings, and orders in Mendocino County. It also lets you view incident-specific evacuation points, evacuation centers, shelters, road closures, sandbag stations, and other resources.

A shout out to Municipal Advisory Councils. In the Third District, Laytonville and Round Valley have MACs. They provide needed input into land use issues and other community concerns.

The meetings are open to the public and the members are all volunteers with the community's best interest at heart. Whether it is providing comment on proposed projects or community concerns, organizing for disaster preparedness, or envisioning community needs, these meetings provide forums for local, county, and state officials to hear from and share with the people.

I appreciate the concerns they bring forward, and the meetings often give me projects to work on.

There will be a Talk with the Supervisor Thursday, August 8 at 10 am at Brickhouse Coffee in Willits. I am available by email haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or phone 707-972-4214.

Join the Summer/Fall Willits Otters Swim Team

Submitted by the Willits Otters

Step One: Sign up for the Willits Otters summer/fall swim team for children up to the age of 18.

Register online at: <https://team.commitswimming.com/register/EWHgMsMcjgNbPBdWbH> or find the link on our Facebook page.

Step Two: Report to first practice on August 12, 2024 at 4:30 pm, with a parent to meet the coaches and start your training.

Experienced coaches will be on hand to teach and train swimmers and emerging swimmers ("Otter Pups"). A swim test may be given to make sure you are aptly placed.

experienced teacher, will handle the Otter Pups. Alicia Kepple, another former Otter, will be assistant coach. This combined talent will provide swimmers with a strong foundation in training and technique for all four strokes.

Training Schedule, August 12 to October 20. Swimmers will meet Mondays and Thursdays from 4:30 - 5:30 pm. Pups will meet Monday and Thursday from 4:15 to 5 pm.

Fee for the full term is \$150.

Swimmers must be registered before swimming.

The Otters schedule for next year will be March 1, 2025 through the end of July 2025.

Mary Colvig, whose Otter experience led to her to become captain of the Colgate University Swim Team, is head coach. Her mother Linda, a former Otter coach and

Board members and volunteers are needed to build a healthy, long-term program. If you have any interest in helping out just contact Mary Colvig on deck.



Read the rest of **Letters** Over on page 6

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

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At right: Mariah holds up the first dollar earned after the official opening of The Whistle Stop, signed by customer John Gomez.

The Whistle Stop logo whimsically denotes a connection to its train heritage.

The Whistle Stop kitchen gleams with the clean and new equipment.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: The Whistle Stop family and crew smiles for the camera: Saprina Rodriguez, Martin Rodriguez, Mariah, Victoria, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Linda Byrns, and Leonardo Rodriguez; front, Amelia Rodriguez. At left: Grandkids Amelia and Leonardo cut the ribbon to officially open The Whistle Stop for business. Below: After the ribbon cutting, customers begin to come in and order their favorite sandwiches, salads and treats. Further below: Counters look out on the spacious courtyard dining and event area. At bottom: The building has been many different businesses through the years and even had a second story at one time.



The Whistle Stop

New restaurant on East Commercial Street offers sandwiches, salads, smoothies, and ice cream, with lots of gluten- and dairy-free options

Saprina Rodriguez is an entrepreneur, which means she gets to spend 12 to 14 hours per day on her various businesses, supplying services, goods, meals and employment to the people of Willits. She has visions of what she wants to see and then goes about finding ways to make those visions live through research and hands-on hard work.

with great dexterity to the applause of the crowd of well-wishers and prospective customers lined up on the sidewalk.

Rodriguez's The Whistle Stop continues her tradition of naming and designing her businesses with a train theme, due to the proximity of the Skunk Train and the deep history of railroading in the immediate area. Her desire was to create a location where anyone could find comestibles to enjoy, even the lactose- and gluten-intolerant.

"I don't stop working until about 11 pm every night," she related. "I have a different shirt and hat for each of the things I do. I start my morning at 7:30 am at the Imagination Station Preschool. Right now, I work from 7:30 to 9:50 am at the school."

"I'm very good at compartmentalizing, obviously. I focus 100 percent on what is going on with the school. I check in with my kids and teachers, do all my paperwork, and then I come over here [The Whistle Stop]. I get here at 9:50 am and do the finishing touches. Then we open at 10."

In between the Imagination Station and the newly opened Whistle Stop, can be found the store Toy Depot and her husband Martin's Ace Copy print and shipping business on East Commercial Street.

The Whistle Stop, after a successful soft opening week, had its grand opening on the morning of Saturday, August 3, complete with a ribbon cutting by Rodriguez's two young grandchildren, Leonardo and Amelia, who hoisted the oversized scissors (with help from Rodriguez and under the watchful eye of the entire Rodriguez family)

"We want Willits to have more to offer," explained Rodriguez. "I'm lactose-intolerant, so one of the things I did is make sure that you can eat anything on my menu with a dairy-free alternative. For the Panini sandwiches, I have the shredded mozzarella and the sliced cheddar alternatives. People can eat vegan if they choose."

"We have a couple of vegan ice creams and there are also dairy-free choices like gelatos. We have some cashew chocolate and a strawberry sorbet. If you're dairy-free like me, you're not going to be able to go somewhere and have a banana split or a sundae or a root beer float. Here, you can have all three of those. You don't have to feel like you're unique or special. You can just order like everybody else does."

"I'm about trying to find a way to meet everyone's needs or choices," Rodriguez said. "I think that's part of being in a small town, being able to find that balance of

Read the rest of **Whistle** Over on page 15

97.6 million

That's how many Americans have PREDIABETES

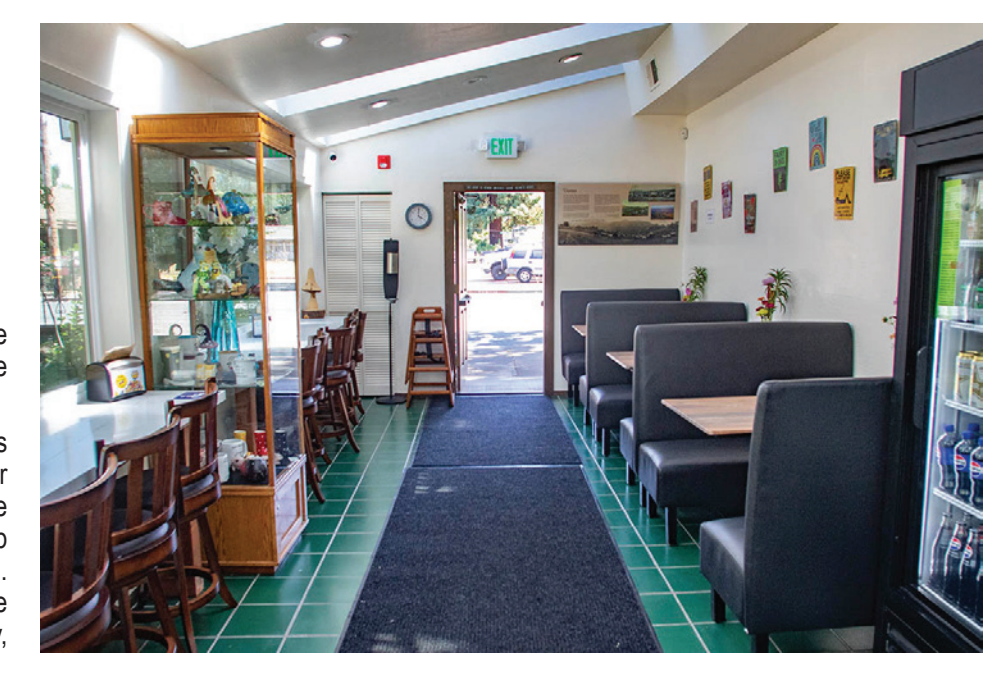
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SEPTEMBER 7 & 8, 2024

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STEAM FESTIVAL

420 E. Commercial, Willits CA

ROOTS OF MOTIVE POWER

WILLITS CALIF.

Free passenger steam train rides
with the Bluestone Mining & Smelting Heister locomotive from 10 am to 4 pm both days.

The Famous BBQ & auction
is happening in the Rec Grove on Saturday, September 7, starting around 4 pm. Tickets on sale at the event.

3rd annual Printmaking exhibit "IMPRESSED" at the Museum next door to festival!

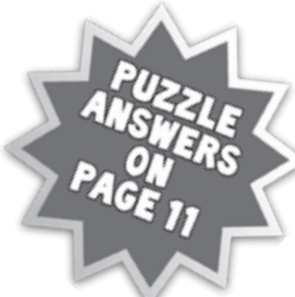
Come see our antique equipment in action:

- Bucyrus-Erie 50B Steam Shovel
- Caterpillar Tractors - Steam Donkeys
- Hit and Miss Engines - Keystone Well Driller
- Mack AB and Mack AC trucks
- Kelley Springfield Road Roller
- Seabiscuit Diamond T-truck
- Mountain Quarries 202 1913 H. K. Porter Co. 15 ton steam locomotive 0-4-0-T
- 1952 Allis-Chalmers HD-20 tractor

Steam Roller Printing at the Park
11 am to 3 pm - Saturday and Sunday!
See Rik Olson on Saturday!

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

Level: Beginner

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

GRILL & BBQ WORD SEARCH

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

ACIDIC	CARRYOVER	GRILL
ASADO	CHAR	HEAT
BARBECUE	CHARCOAL	LEAN
BARK	CHIMNEY	MARINADE
BASTE	DRY-AGED	RIBS
BRINE	FLAME	RUB
BRISKET	FLAT	SMOKE
BURGERS	FORK-TENDER	TEMPERATURE

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54										55									
56										57	58			59					
										60				61				62	
										63				64				65	

CLUES ACROSS

- Major American automaker (abbr.)
- Pressure measurement
- Two-year-old sheep
- Indigenous person from Laos or Thailand
- Up in the air (abbr.)
- Actress de Armas
- Not moving
- Cool!
- Bog arum genus
- Perceptible by touch
- Type of test
- Monetary units
- Collection of various things
- Sum of five and one
- Type of sword
- Hates
- Immobile
- Pie __ mode
- Moved quickly
- Passenger's place on a motorbike
- A way through
- Former US Secretary of Education Duncan

CLUES DOWN

- Policemen (French)
- Toy dog
- Inflamed colon disease
- Can't move
- Helps little firms
- Lists of names, subjects, etc.
- Takes down
- Makes possible
- Wife of Julius Constantius
- Engine additive
- Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- Written account
- Consumed
- Something the first shall be
- No (slang)
- Gov't lawyers
- Peyton's little brother
- Small amount
- Investment vehicle
- Fall behind
- Midway between northeast and east
- Head pain
- Popular sport in England and India
- King Charles's sister
- Boat race
- About fish
- Maid/servant
- Able to be marketed
- Tinier
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Paddle
- Oneness
- Bitter chemical
- Not around
- Very fast airplane
- Swiss river

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

July 22 to July 28

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 48 incidents in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

July 22

8:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious subject brandishing a weapon in the 800 block of South Main Street.

July 23

7:59 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 400 block of East Valley Street.

July 24

7:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

July 25

2:23 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.

7:22 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:15 pm: NEAGLE, Richard Jay (44) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (intoxicated with drugs and alcohol) and resisting an officer.

10:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

July 26

9:28 am: Officers initiated a theft

investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

12:28 pm: SCROGGINS, Andrea Jeynell (45) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of East Valley Street following a disturbance. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disobeying a court order.

3:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of West Van Lane.

8:43 pm: AYERS, Kyl Matthew (23) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. He was arrested on felony charges of disobeying a court order to prevent domestic violence with priors.

July 27

12:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 600 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

July 28

9:12 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

10:40 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of South Main Street.

11:53 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.



Breaking records at Redding Air Attack Base after facility upgrades

Submitted by USFS, Pacific Southwest Region

Completed in April 2024, the Redding Air Attack Base was revamped to simultaneously load up to five tankers, doubling aerial firefighting capabilities across the Western United States. Fast forward three months to a very busy fire season, and the expanded base is already paying dividends.

"Saturday [July 27, 2024] was the air base's biggest push yet. Crews loaded 240,638 gallons of fire retardant in about an 8-hour period. That's 76,000 gallons more than previous records," said Kelly Mathis, Redding Tanker Base manager for the USDA Forest Service.

Redding Air Attack Base, also known as RAAB, can now simultaneously service five large airtankers — which carry 2,000 to 4,000 gallons of fire retardant or water each. Crews can fill these in roughly 12 minutes, and smaller 1,000-gallon airtankers in just 3 minutes.

In addition, a backup generator capable of powering the entire base provides zero power interruption in the event of a power outage, providing nonstop aerial resources for wildfire attack. And Saturday was a testament to the increased capabilities these upgrades have provided.

"We loaded over 200,000 gallons of retardant onto 12 tankers in roughly eight hours. Had the pressing need not moved south, we would have continued to break records that day," said RAAB Forest Technician Jaff Engelkes. "Being able to provide support to the troops on the ground has exponentially increased. The capacity to produce, load and send more aircraft and the increased safety for aircraft in and out of the base gives us the ability to provide support as wildfire activity continues to grow."

Fire information is available on forest social media sites and at incivewb.wildfire.gov/.

For regional happenings, follow the Pacific Southwest Region on Facebook, X and Instagram. Or search for individual national forests on Facebook and X.

Editor's Note: Air attack planes and helicopters from Redding Air Attack Base have already been responding to fires in Mendocino County — three aircraft responded to the Bell Fire on Bell Springs Road on July 20, and did a few circles around the rekindled fire site even after air attack was called off. Watch the air attack in real-time on watchduty.org or flightradar24.com.

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From far left: Jody J. Johnston named this oil pastel piece "Her Horizon." One of Jody J. Johnston's "Safescape" oil pastel series. Jody J. Johnston named this "Taking Flight No. 5," although it can be anything that the viewer sees. Below, left: Don Ponte sits among two of his nature oil paintings. Below, right: Jody J. Johnston has been enjoying painting since 2003 and enjoys the interpretations of her abstract work.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Individual Expression

Abstract oil pastels by Jody J. Johnston and oil paintings by Don Ponte at WCA this month

Artists have few things in common, other than their love of beauty, the need to communicate their inner feelings, and a desire to share their visions. Each artist has a different world view, formed by their experiences, location, and many other individual factors. These diverging views are evident in the latest gallery offerings at the Willits Center for the Arts, with two excellent artists approaching their art and the world from widely separate points of view, utilizing personal techniques that allow each to express themselves in a manner which defines their voices.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Jody J. Johnston, although she has been painting her interpretive abstracts since 2003, is known for her work with the Mendocino County Social and Health Services, with whom she has worked for several decades. Willits is, and should be, waking up to her ability to transcend the obvious and create oil pastels that allow the viewer to come to their own conclusions about what she means by the swooshes and blending of color that are both dynamic and soothing.

"Not everybody likes abstract," Johnston mused. "People see what they want. I don't like naming my work and I don't like hanging them because then I'm deciding how they're seeing them. What you'll notice sometimes is that I don't sign the front. Rather, I sign the back. I even move them around at home when I have them up. I say to myself, 'I think I'll turn it a different way now.' Different people see different things."

"The gallery wanted names, so I had to throw names on them. 'Safescape One,' 'Safescape Two.' This one I did after a conference down in Berkeley. They were trying to establish a department of peace. 'Peace Walker' — I painted this shortly after that trip. Many of them, I have poems and writings for. I don't usually put them with the paintings. They're just mine."

Johnston wants the viewer to make each work a personal experience by equating the paintings to something in their own lives rather than spoon-feeding them the meaning and inspiration.

"I'm completely untrained," said Johnston. "I had no idea what I was doing. I just started. I did all kinds of things wrong but I don't care. I did them for me. But then, people started really liking them. They started to want to buy them. Then, they said, 'well, you better start framing them.' So, I started framing them and then they said, 'No. You better go to a framer to get them framed,'" she related with a bemused smile.

"My name is a little crooked on the wall, but it suits me. I don't do things the way other people do. I'm looking forward to the opening and having my friends here tonight, but I always get nervous. It's fun to watch people. They'll be walking by and then all of a sudden, they'll stop at one and can't leave, which is what abstract art does. The rest of

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

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At left: Chance was a beloved pet who used to keep Don Ponte company in his studio. At right: An old man that Don Ponte and his wife met on a trip to Toulouse, France is the subject of this painting

Below, left: Many friends of Jody J. Johnston filter in through the evening to enjoy her oil pastel abstracts. Below, right: Don Ponte's wife, Yannik, has inspired several of his paintings and trips.



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Willits Center for the Arts is looking for individuals with time to teach Art History in schools in Mendocino County, one to three days a month.

We will train and provide you with lesson plans complete with PowerPoints.

The program is called *Art Talks* and currently serves 2,000 students, PreK -12th grades in three towns and a reservation. There are 12 school districts in Mendocino County

A short two-day seminar will be held on August 23-24

If you are traveling a long distance, we will provide accommodations for you.

For more information contact:
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The rest of **Firefighters** | From page 1

Donations to "Little Lake Firefighters Association" can also be mailed or dropped off at Willits Fire Station 54, 74 East Commercial Street, Willits CA 95490.

Willits' firefighters have had a busy summer so far, responding to accidents and emergencies, as well as fires around the county which, so far, have been contained relatively quickly. Little Lake Fire Administrative Assistant Michelle Schnitzius reported that the fire department had 99 calls in July, some of them "emotional and tough."

Firefighters from Little Lake and Brooktrails Fire have also been participating in strike forces sent to other regional fires. A resident near the monster Park Fire, now burning in Butte, Tehama, Shasta, and Plumas counties, posted a thank you Tuesday to firefighters and other emergency personnel coming in to help, that featured photos of Redwood Valley Calpella fire trucks and a Willits Fire D T-shirt.

As of Wednesday afternoon, 3:58 pm, CAL FIRE reports that the Park Fire remains at 34% containment with total acreage burned at 422,924 acres, most of it in Tehama County, reporting in at 367,890 acres burned.

In Butte County, damage assessments have confirmed: No damage to 882 residential, commercial, minor, or other structures; 47 of those structures have been damaged; and 428 structures have been destroyed.

In Tehama County: damage assessments have confirmed: No damage to 277 residential, commercial, minor, or other structures; 5 of those structures have been damaged; and 212 structures have been destroyed.

Currently, 6,627 personnel are working the Park Fire, with 37 helicopters; 507 engines; 190 dozers; 181 water tenders; 139 crews; and 128 others assigned, in addition to multiple air attack aircraft from around the state every day.

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

and other sentencing factors.

The prosecutor presented evidence proving beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant had suffered a strike conviction – attempted robbery in the second degree – approximately 90 days before he set the Hopkins Fire.

The prosecutor also presented witness testimony during the court trial that successfully proved beyond a reasonable doubt six separate sentencing circumstances in aggravation.

The sentencing circumstances found true were:

- (1) that the crime for which the defendant was convicted involved the threat of great bodily injury or other acts disclosing a high degree of callousness;
(2) that the victims of the Hopkins fire were particularly vulnerable;
(3) that the crime caused damage of great monetary value;
(4) that the defendant has engaged in violent conduct that indicates he is a serious danger to society;
(5) that the defendant's adult convictions are of increasing seriousness; and
(6) that the defendant was on formal (supervised) probation (for the attempted robbery conviction) when he initiated the Hopkins Fire.

The jury's guilty verdict and true finding, along with the court's findings, were referred to the Marin County Adult Probation Department for a background study of the defendant and a sentencing recommendation.

The defendant and counsel were ordered to return to Department J in the Marin County Courthouse on September 16, 2024 at 9:15 am for pronouncement of sentence.

The defendant remains in custody in the Marin County jail. When asked about potential punishment, the prosecutor advised that defendant Johnson is now facing a commitment in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation of up to 21 years.

The law enforcement agencies that were involved in evacuating residents, providing traffic control, and/or the criminal fire/arson investigation included the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, the Ukiah Police Department, the California Highway Patrol, and the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations.

The fire agencies involved in fire suppression efforts and/or the criminal fire/arson investigation of the cause and origin were the Redwood Valley-Calpella Volunteer Fire Department, CAL FIRE (ground and air), the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, the Potter Valley Volunteer Fire Department, the Hopland Volunteer Fire Department, the Little Lake Fire Department, and the Brooktrails Township Fire Department.

The prosecutor who led the team effort to tell a cogent story and more effectively present the people's evidence at this retrial was Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster.

Many were harmed; many showed courage and compassion, and all helped. Some, however, were called on to help more than others. DA Eyster expresses his special thanks to Dennis McFarland, Eric Harmon, and Peter Armstrong, civilians who all appeared willingly last week in San Rafael as witnesses and testified before the jury.

The multi-agency professional team that assisted the DA with his trial preparation, evidence and witness management, and provided courtroom testimony were Ukiah Valley Fire Authority Battalion Chief Justin Buckingham, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Craig Dudley, Mendocino County Chief DA Investigator Andrew Alvarado, Assistant Chief DA Investigator Bryan Arrington, and DA Investigator Tom Kiely.

San Bernardino County Deputy Sheriff Stephanie Garnica, formerly a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office detective, also provided important trial testimony.

Marin County Superior Court Judge Kelly V. Simmons presided over the two-week trial. Judge Simmons will be the sentencing judge when the case is once again called on Monday, September 16.

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

dismissal of the criminal charge, said LeClair.

District Attorney David Eyster, who filed the high-profile case against Kennedy and Cubbison, did not respond to requests for comment on the new motion. Special Prosecutor Traci Carillo, who was hired earlier this year by Eyster to try the case, is out of her office until next week and unavailable for comment.

For Kennedy, her professional downfall is in sharp contrast to a history of the highest employee evaluations for her role as the county's payroll manager. As recently as June 2022, Kennedy was recommended for an "extraordinary merit increase," according to documents attached to the motion seeking diversion from further criminal proceedings.

From the beginning of a high-profile case laced with county politics, Kennedy has maintained that she was told to use an obscure payroll code to compensate herself for 2,300 hours of excess time that she racked up over a three-year period during the COVID pandemic. Prosecutors estimate that about \$68,000 in extra pay is involved.

A 2022 internal county memorandum cited Kennedy's "ongoing dedication to her role as payroll manager, most especially during the last couple of years of the pandemic, staffing shortages, high turnover of department payroll clerks, software upgrades, and constantly changing pay and deductions" for more than 1,100 county employees.

Kennedy's salary in 2021 was \$85,830, according to Transparent California.

Technically, Kennedy as payroll manager was an exempt employee and not entitled to extra pay unless authorized by the county Executive Office. She was given compensatory time off, but the job demands continued to increase and the hours required surpassed the compensatory time allowed.

Kennedy said in effect, "I was working for free."

"My supervisor and I requested additional staff, but the executive office refused. They also refused to pay me overtime, though in practice the county has many times previously approved overtime pay for exempt employees," according to Kennedy's account that is provided in court documents.

Kennedy said she was eventually told by an unidentified supervisor to use the obscure pay code to draw against her accumulated time off.

Now, however, prosecutors have "framed it as a design to steal cash," said Kennedy in a transcript of an interview with a psychologist and on file with the court.

"Nobody is saying I didn't work the hours," lamented Kennedy. "I did what I was told, and now they want to put me in jail."

The 64-year-old Kennedy, skilled in payroll requirements in both the public and private sectors, was placed on administrative leave by then-acting Auditor Cubbison when the unauthorized payments first surfaced, and evidence presented.

District Attorney David Eyster for a year sat on results of a year-long sheriff department investigation after county administrators tipped him. Eyster offered Cubbison a plea deal of only a misdemeanor charge if she resigned. Cubbison refused, however, provoking Eyster to file felony criminal charges against her and Kennedy, but not now-retired Auditor Lloyd Weer, who was still in office when the extra pay arrangement was made.

Eyster claimed in a sworn statement filed December 12, 2023, with the Superior Court that Kennedy and Weer pointed the finger at Cubbison for allowing the unauthorized payments. Cubbison has contended that in fact the special arrangement was between Kennedy and Weer.

Cubbison attorney Chris Andrian of Santa Rosa has said Eyster targeted Cubbison out of political revenge after she challenged his office spending including unauthorized annual parties labeled "training sessions" for staff, and their guests at a local steakhouse.

Kennedy and Cubbison entered not guilty pleas to a single felony charge of misuse of public funds early this year, but the case has dragged on for months since defense attorneys learned that thousands of internal county emails with possible factual relevance were lost when a county archive system became "corrupted."

Now county officials are saying emails among Weer, Cubbison and Kennedy have been recovered. A most recent hearing on the missing emails ended with Judge Moorman ruling that all are to be turned over to her for review and determination if any are relevant to the pending criminal case.

The court documents show that Kennedy believes she is victim of a political struggle between the DA and Cubbison, exacerbating a worsening mental state that dates to 2018 when she first sought counseling for depression under a county employee assistance program. Kennedy has been seeing a private counselor for the past four years, according to the documents.

Public Defender LeClair said Kennedy is entitled to a mental health diversion under Penal Code section 1001.36 because she has been diagnosed within the last five years by a qualified mental health expert with a mental disorder, that her issue was likely a significant factor in the commission of the charged offense, and that she could respond favorably to mental health treatment.

Psychologist J. Holden of Ukiah in his supporting report wrote that Kennedy is prepared to waive her rights to a speedy trial and comply with any court-ordered treatment as a condition of diversion. He also stated that "Ms. Kennedy has no known history of being a danger to public safety, and in my opinion does not currently present any such danger."

Judge Moorman will consider Kennedy's motion at a hearing scheduled for 1:30 pm August 15.

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

Prior to the beginning of Fiscal Year 2025-26, the county budget provide more transparency concerning decoding and identifying line items and specifics of distribution and allocation of funds for FCS. (to be completed by January 2025)

Response 12: The recommendation has been implemented.

The county budget currently includes line items and specifics of distribution and allocation of funds for FCS. The FCS budget narrative provides an overview of the services provided by FCS. The Budget Unit Detail pages for Social Services Administration and CalWORKS/Foster Care/Adoptions both list line items pertaining to FCS.

The FY 2023-24 Budget Book can be found at the following link: www.mendocinocounty.gov/home/showdocument?id=61390&t=63835121897407916.

The FCS budget narrative begins on page 438, and Budget Unit Detail for Budget Units 5010 and 5130, which include FCS budget items, begin on page 442 (BU 5010) and page 446 (BU 5130).

Recommendation 13: that Mendocino County use monies in the FCS budget for staffing, reducing overtime and salary adjustments. (to be completed by January 2025)

Response 13: The recommendation has been implemented.

The board interprets this recommendation as relating to the salaries of social workers. On January 9, 2024, Mendocino County adopted a resolution approving a memorandum of understanding between the County of Mendocino and Related Agencies, and Service Employees International Union, Local 1021, effective July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026 (SEIU MOU), which applies to social worker positions. The SEIU MOU provides that raises occur for social worker salaries over a period of two years so that these salaries will be at market by FY 25/26.

Additionally, pursuant to the same MOU, Social Worker Assistants, Social Workers and Social Worker Supervisors whose regular full-time assignment is Family and Children's Services receive a 10 percent premium. The SEIU MOU also provides a bilingual pay premium of \$75 per pay period for positions which require bilingual skills on the average of 10% or more of the employee's work, and a \$25 per pay period bilingual pay premium for positions which require bilingual skills on the average of less than 10 percent of the employee's work time.

The SEIU MOU also provides a 5 percent assignment premium for employees whose regular assignment is in the coastal region, including Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Point Arena, or in Covelo.

The goal of offering market rate salaries is to attract people to these hard-to-fill positions and provide appropriate staffing.

Recommendation 21: FCS should use all possible means to reference the California DSS Ombudsperson for information and assistance. (to be completed by October 2024)

Response 21: The recommendation has been implemented.

Based on the section of the Grand Jury's report discussing the Ombuds Program, the board is interpreting "California DSS Ombudsperson" to mean the California Foster Care Ombudsperson. A link to the California Foster Care Ombudsperson website has been placed on the Mendocino County Family and Children's Services website.

Recommendation 23: That the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors create a committee whose sole mission is to independently and accurately evaluate the status of timely court filings by FCS. They will report their findings quarterly to the Board of Supervisors. (to be completed by October 2024)

Response 23: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable. The status of court reports is information that is available through reports generated in the Family and Children's Services computer systems. This information will be presented to the board quarterly through the CEO Report, beginning October 2024, without the need for a committee.

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

what can be expected if CAL FIRE manages to complete the Caspar 500 harvest plan. We'll meet at the Willits Environmental Center to form carpools and leave at 10 am. Expect to return around 3 pm, or stay later if you want to enjoy what should be a refreshing afternoon/evening on the coast.

Please phone Robin at (707) 459-0155 so we know how many to expect. Dogs are allowed in Jackson Forest. You can bring snacks/lunch, etc. though there are good food options nearby in the towns of Mendocino or Fort Bragg, and at the well-stocked Harvest Market.

By the way, Mendocino Redwood Company and Willits Redwood Company are currently in court against the State of California for breach of contract, as the state failed to keep defenders out of the way so timber companies could complete their planned harvest.

Sunday, August 25, 2024: the Angelo Reserve – out of Branscomb. This is also a barely 1-hour drive from Willits. An old homestead that is now a UC research center for climate change. This will be an all-day trip. A 5-mile hike round-trip along the South Fork of the Eel River, up past the homestead and out Elder Creek, Moderately strenuous for more seasoned hikers, although kids love it too.

The part out Elder Creek requires holding on to rope lines to get out to a beautiful hidden grotto with a swimming hole and small rocky waterfall/rapids. Some years, around Valentine's Day, we can see steelhead leaping the falls. Also bears, when the fish are returning.

This trip is late in August, when I believe huckleberries are most likely to be abundant. Dogs are not allowed in the Angelo Reserve, as this is an important research site for what forests would be like with minimal roads and timber harvesting. The creeks run year-round in this extensive mature natural oak and conifer ecosystem.

We'll gather at the Willits Environmental Center to carpool and leave at 9 am. Phone Robin at (707) 459-0155 so we know roughly who to expect and don't miss anyone. Bring lunch, water, etc. We'll be far from any grocery or diner. Return around 4 pm? Though a bit of up and down, we can be leisurely, with lots of rest stops. Mostly in shade, but it can be warm in summer.

Robin LeIer, Sierra Club, Willits



At left: Gretchen Moore's second-place Volkswagen tile. Above: Michele Briggs' produce character won second place in the Agriculture building. At right: Kathy Lundgren's Best of Division blueberry muffins.

Below, left: Davna Reynolds's Best of Division Red White and Ewe place setting entry. Below, right: Kasey Hollifield's sewn rug earned second place in the Home Arts building.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



While many think of the Redwood Empire Fair with a focus on the Junior Livestock Auction, the carnival, and the grandstand events, the four main exhibit buildings at the grounds feature exhibits of the amazing talents of the community, too.

The Home Arts building showcases quilting, sewing, knitting, baking, preserving, and more; Fine Arts houses photography, paintings, woodworking, sculpture, jewelry, and more; Agriculture/Floriculture features flowers, fruits, veggies, arrangements, potted plants, gardens, and more; and the Junior building features a mixture of all of the above, just on the smaller scale for the youth exhibitors.

Everyone in the county is welcome to enter exhibits – youth do not need to be affiliated with the FFA or 4-H, and adult categories are also open to the public.

The annual premium book outlining the enterable classes is usually released in late June, with entries due around the Fourth of July. There is no cost associated with entering exhibits, and anything that didn't manifest by the drop-off date usually the day or two of the beginning of the August fair event – due to nature's interference, or life's interference – can easily be scratched at no fault or cost to the exhibitor.

Building supervisors always encourage exhibitors to enter whatever they think is possible – will the tomatoes be red by then? Will that sunflower actually grow? Will I actually have time to create a scarecrow and bake a cake? – and then scratch if needed, no harm, no foul.

Exhibits are dwindling in all the buildings, and joining in for the 2025 event is a fun way to participate, showcase your talents, and also – earn money. Each placing entry, and especially those with higher delineations like Best of Show/Division, get a nice stipend at the close of fair.

Make a mental note to check out the premium book next year, and see if there's something you can enter – check online at www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com and we will always try and give a heads up in Willits Weekly to let readers know it's time to enter, too.

Below are the results of north-county residents who entered exhibits this year:

Covelo:

Ken Hill received a first-place award for his wooden barn quilt piece, and a first-, second- and third-place award in the amateur wood turning categories in the Fine Arts building.

Sandra Hill received a third-place award in the Home

Advertisement for Randall Cantua, LUTCF Agent at Cantua Insurance Agency, 16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490. Includes phone and fax numbers.

Advertisement for Tall Tree Engineering, Civil & Geotechnical, 786 Redwood Drive Garberville, CA 95542. Includes phone number (707) 841-2001.

Advertisement for Cold Creek Compost Inc. offering 10% off Buyer's Gifts to 4H & FFA members. Includes contact info and QR code.

Advertisement for Cold Creek Compost Inc. highlighting nutrient-packed compost, planter mixes, and custom blends. Includes benefits and contact info.



Tuli Gunn received a first-place award in the Junior building for her sewing entry.

Daya Maguire won four first-place awards in the Junior building for her art entry, her craft entry, her photography entry, and her tote painting entry. Maguire also received four second-place awards for her art entry, craft entry, junior living history entry, and painted pottery project.

Zoey Maguire received five first-place awards in the Junior building for her art entry, her craft entry, her junior living history entry, her painted pottery entry, her photography entry, and her tote painting entry. Maguire also received a second-place award for her art entry.

Eli Neuroth received six first-place awards in the Junior building, including for his art entry, his craft entry, his photography entry, his sewing entry, his tote painting entry, and his wood working entry – which also won Best of Show. Neuroth also received a second-place award for his scarecrow.

Khloe Neuroth received seven first-place awards in the Junior building, including for her art entry, craft entry, junior animal skull art entry, painted pottery entry, photography entry, sewing entry, and woodworking entry. Neuroth also received four second-place awards, including for her craft entry, her photography entry, her poetry entry, and her tote painting entry.

Kylie Neuroth received five first-place awards in the Junior building, including for her photography entry, poetry entry, sewing entry, and tote painting entry. Neuroth also received a second-place award for an additional photography entry.

K Paintedfeather Sequeira received four first-place awards in the Fine Arts building, including for the advanced crocheted entry, animal skull art entry, and two advanced acrylic painting entries, one of which also received a Best of Division award as well. Sequeira also received a second-place award for another crocheted entry and a third-place award for another advanced acrylic entry.

Austin Zuffinetti received four first-place awards in the Junior building, including for his baked goods entry, clothing textiles entry, craft entry, and sewing entry. Zuffinetti also received two second-place awards for an additional art and additional craft entry.

Emmett Zuffinetti received a first-place award in the Junior building for his baked goods entry.

Hayden Zuffinetti received a first-place award in the Junior building for her preschool arts and crafts entry.

Read the rest of Exhibits | Over on page 13

Advertisement for Earthlab Energy Systems, Wood & Gas Stoves • Fireplaces • Pellet Stoves. Includes phone number 707-459-6272.

Advertisement for NC Financial Group, 675 S Main Street, Willits, CA 95490. Includes phone number (855) 240-6606 and website www.ncfinancialgroup.com.

Thursday, August 8

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, August 8, 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. "Storytime 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 August, the exhibit is "ImPRESSED: Turning the Page," the 3rd annual printmaking exhibit, that opens later in August at the Museum. The Thursday, August 8 activity is "Linoleum Block Carving Basics. Part 2." 400 East Commercial Street. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission. Info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

'The Addams Family' at WCA: The children's horror-comedy musical presented at the Willits Charter School gymnasium continues through August 11. Popularized in the hit Netflix series, the lead character Wednesday Addams hopes to marry Lucas Beineke, a guy from a normal family. The usual Addams family gothic eccentricities create a lot of mix-ups and spooky fun along the way. Directed by Billy Hetherington, the show features 35 students from the Willits Community Theatre's annual Gateway to the Stage summer camp. Continues August 9, 10 and 11, with Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows at 7 pm and a final Sunday matinee at 2 pm. Tickets for all shows are \$10 and available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.

Friday, August 9

Wild Things Animal Show at the Library: The Conservation Ambassadors "Wild Things" program rescues wildlife and teaches awareness through sharing the stories of the animals that have been saved. Come meet these extraordinary creatures and hear their tales! Friday, August 9, 1 to 2 pm. Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

'The Addams Family' at WCS: The children's horror-comedy musical continues at the Willits Charter School gymnasium Friday, August 9 at 7 pm, with a cast of 35 students from WCT's Gateway to the Stage summer camp. See Thursday, August 8 listing for details.

Big Sticky Mess at Shanachie: Davis-based trio plays funky originals: "A kaleidoscopic mix of extraterrestrial hooks, vibrant grooves and potent beats, purely for your entertainment." Friday, August 9, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Harold and the Purple Crayon'

The Story: This is a live action and animation family comedy based on the children's book of the same name. It is about 90 minutes long. Harold (Zachary Levi) lives in an imaginary world. He has two friends: Moose (Lil Rel Howery) and Porcupine (Tanya Reynolds).

Harold also has a Magic Purple Crayon! Anything he draws with this purple crayon comes into existence. That can be mostly useful and entertaining, or quite problematic. Harold is invited by his creator "The Old Man" to come explore the real world. Harold is enthusiastic at the idea of meeting his creator and draws a doorway to the real world and walks right through!

Harold is followed a bit later by his loyal friend Moose, but not by poor little Porcupine, who gets left behind because she's too small to turn the doorknob. Harold meets Mel (Benjamin Bottani), a lonely fatherless boy who's quite imaginative, and his sad beautiful mother Terri (Zoey Deschanel).

There are some intense problems with a somewhat demented fantasy writer/librarian Gary (Jermain Clement) who is smitten with Terri (who wouldn't be, that's not a question). Various slapstick disasters follow. (Alert! Spoiler!) Everything works out for the best for all concerned, even little Porcupine.

My Thoughts: The movie is charming and entertaining. The plot, such as it is, moves along at a goodly pace. The "search for one's creator" raises many metaphysical questions, which the screenwriters do not even dare to answer. A circumspect choice. That noted, I think the whole family will like it.

Parents: I am concerned by the "death and loss" of the boy's father as a plot point. For many of our children, it's not just a glib plot point. Fear of the loss of a parent is a common and quite understandable source of anxiousness.

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



Dan Essman
Columnist

What's Happening Around Town

Saturday, August 10

Team Legacy Golf Tournament: A fundraiser golf tournament for our local AAU Basketball Team, Saturday, August 10 at the Brooktrails Golf Course. Registration at 8 am. Shotgun Start at 8:30 am. \$5 mulligans available. Closest to the Pin contest. Shoot the Pond contest. BBQ, Raffle Tickets, Beer & Beverage Cart. \$40 per person, \$20 annual membership. 4 person teams. Best Ball Rules.

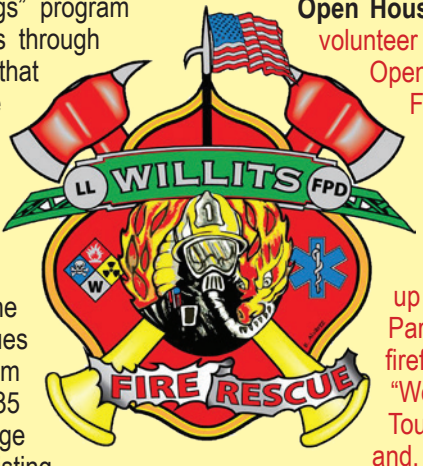
TEAM LEGACY GOLF TOURNAMENT



Waldorf School Play Date: "Play is the work of childhood and the basis of Waldorf Education. Enjoy a morning of play at our early childhood open house. For children ages 3 to 6 with their caregivers. Experience our home-like classrooms where young children are encouraged to unleash their creativity and explore the realms of imagination." Saturday, August 10 at 10 am at The Waldorf School of Mendocino County, 6280 Third Street, Calpella. RSVP at mendocinowaldorf.org

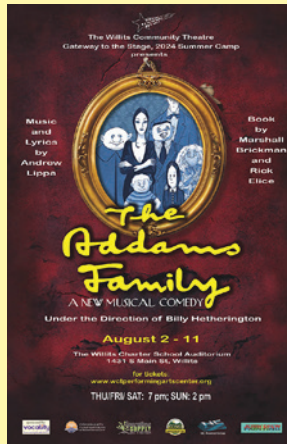
A Touch of Mendocino, Mermaizing Scents: Charissa Franklin of "Mermaizing Scents" based in Laytonville, comes to discuss the business of creative soap-making and other bath and body products at the Willits Library, Saturday, August 10 from 11 am to noon, as part of the "A Touch of Mendocino" series, sharing: "the history and creative process of her many 'emphified' cold processed soap and body products, including whipped body butter, whipped sugar scrubs, lotion, lip butter/sugar scrubs, and fizzy bath bombs." 390 East Commercial Street. More info: visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

Little Lake Firefighters Association Annual Open House: Come support your local volunteer firefighters at their annual Open House fundraiser at Willits Fire Station 54.74 East Commercial Street, and City Park, on Saturday, August 10 at noon - and bring the family! "It's going to be a warm day so we are gearing up to make a section of City Park into a water park!" the firefighters association posted. "We will be hosting our Cornhole Tournament, Food, Station Tours and, always a community favorite, the Muster Truck Ride!"



Sit-N-Sew: Second Saturdays at the Willits Library, August 10 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in - bring your sewing project and have fun. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

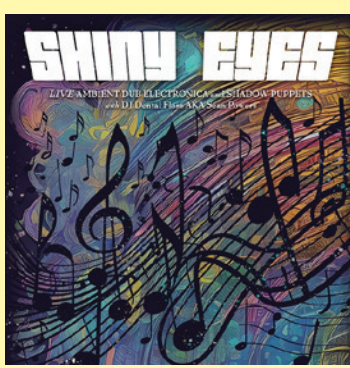
'The Addams Family' at WCS: The children's horror-comedy musical continues at the Willits Charter School gymnasium Saturday, August 10 at 7 pm, with a cast of 35 students from WCT's Gateway to the Stage summer camp. See Thursday, August 8 listing for details.



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 August, the exhibit is "ImPRESSED: Turning the Page," the 3rd annual printmaking exhibit, that opens later in August at the Museum. The Thursday, August 15 activity is "Card Printing." 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, August 16

Willits Coloring Book Photo Contest Awards and Auction: The Willits Coloring Book Photo Contest Awards and Auction, sponsored by Rotary Club of Willits, is set for Friday, August 16, 6 to 8:30 pm at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Also features a Dessert Buffet with After-Dinner Liquors. More info about Rotary Club: www.WillitsRotary.org; WillitsRotaryClub@gmail



Shiny Eyes at Shanachie: Shiny Eyes Shadow Puppetry & Music, the serene world of ambient music meets the captivating realm of shadow art, returns to Shanachie Pub, Friday, August 16, 8 pm. "A unique performance by Sean Powers, aka DJ Dental Flood, that melts the soothing sounds of analog synthesizers with an ethnic flair and rhythmic drum beats." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



Saturday, August 17
Round Valley Blackberry Festival: 41st Annual Round Valley Blackberry Festival, a not-for-profit event sponsored by the Friends of the Round Valley Public Library, is happening Saturday, August 17 and Sunday, August 18, 10 am to 6 pm at the festival grounds. Over 30 vendors offering arts & crafts and food booths, including delicious berry treats made with Round Valley blackberries. Mendocino wine tasting, children's activities, live music, art show both days. The annual car and motorcycle show is on Sunday. Admission is free. NO PETS are allowed on the festival grounds. More info: www.roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com/ or www.facebook.com/RoundValleyBlackberryFestival

'The Addams Family' closes at WCS: The children's horror-comedy musical closes at the Willits Charter School gymnasium on Sunday, August 11 at 2 pm, with a cast of 35 students from WCT's Gateway to the Stage summer camp. See Thursday, August 8 listing for details.

Wine tasting, children's activities, live music, art show both days. The annual car and motorcycle show is on Sunday. Admission is free. NO PETS are allowed on the festival grounds. More info: www.roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com/ or www.facebook.com/RoundValleyBlackberryFestival

Back to School Supply Give-Away at the Library: Getting ready to go back to school? Come pick out some school supplies at the Willits Library, Saturday, August 17 from 1 to 3 pm. The give-away is for schoolchildren under 18. 390 East Commercial Street. Have school supplies to donate? Drop off your donations at the Library by Saturday, August 10. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 707-459-5908.

KLKG and KZYX Radio Dance Party: KLKG and KZYX are working together now in Willits. The public is invited to help celebrate with a Saturday Afternoon Dance Party, on Saturday, August 17 from 2 to 5 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. DJs, Food, Community. All ages welcome. \$20 suggested donation

Thursday, August 15

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, August 15, 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. "Storytime at the Farmers Market," from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin Steiskal reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Register for Fall Swim Season!!



August 12th through October 20th
Mondays & Thursdays
Other Pups 4:15-5:00
Otters 4:30-5:30

Parent meeting August 12th at 4:30 at the City Pool for in-person sign ups.

Or use the QR code below to sign up today!



WILLITS COLORING BOOK PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS AND LAST CHANCE SPONSOR AUCTION

AT THE MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM
400 E COMMERCIAL ST WILLITS CA 95400
6:30-8:30pm FRIDAY AUGUST 16, 2024

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE TRAIN SINGER PHOTO TO BE ON THE COLORING BOOK COVER

DESSERT BUFFET WITH AFTER DINNER LIQUEURS

Rotary Club of Willits WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com www.WillitsRotary.org

VFW Breakfast in Ukiah, August 10

Ukiah area Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1900 has been sponsoring a monthly breakfast fundraiser for decades. The next one is Saturday, August 10, 2024, from 8 am to noon at Veterans Memorial Hall, 293 Seminary Avenue, in Ukiah.

Redwood Empire Lions Club volunteers will be catering the breakfast. Cost: \$10!

Proceeds go towards veterans' assistance, maintaining flags at Ukiah cemetery, and many projects the VFW supports, including student scholarships.

They are on Facebook at: "VFW Post 1900 Ukiah, CA" Questions, call (707) 234-7392.

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyotheatre.com
Cine Noyo! Movies in Spanish every Thursday.
This Thursday: Borderlands - 2:30, 5:15, 7:30
Deadpool and Wolverine (21+ Club) - 2:15, 5:00, 7:45

BORDERLANDS
(PG-13)
1 hrs 42 mins
Fri.-Thurs.:
2:30, 5:15 & 7:30
Movie Times for Aug. 9 thru Aug. 15

HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON
(PG)
1 hr 30 min
Fri.-Thurs.:
2:30, 4:45 & 7:15
Masks Optional

DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners, laser projection, beer and wine sale
(R)
2 hrs 7 mins
Fri.-Thurs.:
2:15, 5:00 & 7:45
Tightwad Tuesday Title for Aug. 13 is in RED. All tickets at just \$8!

ONGOING EVENTS

Willits Community Services & Food Bank: WCS offers food grocery distributions to families in need twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. 344 Railroad Avenue. Please bring an I.D. We are looking for volunteers for our warehouse, window, food delivery drivers, and fundraising volunteers. For information call: (707) 459-3333

WCA August Exhibition: Willits Center for the Arts presents the August art exhibition featuring Jody J. Johnston and Don Ponte, Runs through August 25 at 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm.

Free Food Pop-Ups: Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program's Food Pop-Up in Willits offers two events per month, 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.gov/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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church

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

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

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

Church of Christ

"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023

Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:00 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

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

Grace Community Church

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bannandam
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at 707-459-2252
https://stanthonywillits.org/
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church

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

St. John Lutheran Church

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714
Friendly, open worship Saturdays
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
399 W. Mendocino Ave.
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Church

Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort where all are welcome
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@outlook.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willitsumc

If you want to be included in this column please call:

April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com



Above, left: Senior Center Director Richard Baker accepts a check for \$509.20 from Logan, Carly, and Hadleigh, representing the kids from this summer's Agape Vacation Bible School. Above: Agape Church members, back row, from left, Toni Maciel, Suzanne Pope, Dorrie Ackerman, and Pastor Paul Henebury, with Senior Center Director Richard Baker, at right. Front row, Carly, Hadleigh and Logan, three of the Agape Vacation Bible School kids who raised funds for the Senior Center this summer.

Agape Vacation Bible School kids donate more than \$500 to Senior Center

Every little bit helps. The kids at the Agape Vacation Bible School this summer knew they wanted to do something meaningful, something that would benefit other humans in need, so they brought in their nickels, dimes, and quarters to contribute to their annual fund for a worthy cause – the Willits Senior Center.

This year, they gathered \$509.20 and in a short ceremony, presented a check to Executive Director Richard Baker of the Willits Senior Center which, Baker says, is going to benefit the much-needed Meals on Wheels program, which supplies daily meals to home-bound seniors. The kids learned that even a few cents, when multiplied by all the participants, can make a difference.

According to Suzanne Pope, director of the Children's Ministry at Agape Church: "We try to alternate between something close to home and then, the next year, we'll do a different mission. We've done The Smile Train, who helps to fix cleft palates. We've also done the Food Bank. We try to alternate between supporting the community and supporting worldwide missions."

"The Senior Center is important," Pope

emphasized. "We have members of our church that utilize the Senior Center. I think people focus on sports and the things their kids are in and seem to forget the elderly. I don't think the Senior Center is in everybody's view. But it's a great resource that most of us will use or know somebody that is using it. We were hoping to put it into people's view, seeing that the kids are raising money for the Senior Center."

"The Senior Center is very fortunate to be chosen," Senior Center Director Baker said. "There are a lot of worthy organizations in the community that can use the money right now. I'm very appreciative and grateful that they chose to put their hard work and direct the money to the Senior Center," said Baker.

The Senior Center provides a multitude of services to those over 55, which is a large percentage of the Willits population. Members can get free firewood in the cold months, discounts on To lunches at the center and at the Thrift Store, exercise classes, free counseling, and many other services and benefits.

To learn more, (or to donate online) visit www.willitsseiorcenter.com/ or call 707-459-6826. Donations may be mailed to Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits, CA 95490.



Above: The Operation Christmas Child crew at St. John Lutheran Church prepares boxes for children in need. Last year's Christmas boxes went to Ukraine.

St. John Lutheran Church invites volunteers for Operation Christmas Child

Submitted by St. John Lutheran Church

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has inspired hope and joy in over 200 million children across 130 countries, and St. John Lutheran Church in Willits is proud to contribute to this remarkable journey by preparing 120 boxes, spreading love and kindness to those in need.

Last year our boxes went to the country of Ukraine, and we are eagerly waiting to hear where this year's will end up.

We invite you to join us on the journey and see this and other outreach opportunities you could get involved with, sharing the love of Christ with our community and the world.

St. John Lutheran Church is located at 24 Mill Creek Drive in Willits. Visit Facebook.com/stjohnswillits, call 707-459-2988 or email Connect@stjohnswillits.org to learn more about how to get involved.



Adventist Health was made to serve Mendocino County, because high-quality care should never be far from home. Our experts offer compassionate expertise to make you feel comfortable and cared for right here in your community.

Services provided by Adventist Health Howard Memorial:

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

Learn more at AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org



LEGAL NOTICES

WW498

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2024-F0336

The following person or persons are doing business as The Fine Print, 150 South Main Street, Suite C, Willits CA 95490; mailing address: 27120 Oriole Drive, Willits CA 95490; 707-841-6305.

Registered owner: Shelby Geremia, 27120 Oriole Drive, Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on July 15, 2024.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 15, 2024.

/s/ Shelby Geremia

Publication dates: July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 2024

WW501

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2024-F0360

The following person or persons are doing business as Ziggs Senior Assist, 4051 Fisher Lake Drive, Redwood Valley, CA 95480.

Registered owner: Denise A. Gleason, 4051 Fisher Lake Drive, Redwood Valley, CA 95480.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 25, 2024.

/s/ Denise Gleason

Publication dates: August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024

WW503

NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provision of the Civil Code. The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 17th day of August, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK SOUTH 1788 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:

- Carmen Castro C51C
- John Doe B05
- Nancy Kilgannon G07
- Nancy Kilgannon F28
- Hilary Korn C66C
- Greg Somers E79C
- Olen Sowers F37
- Josh Troxler F24
- Jesse Wolf E77C

The goods are described as: Tools, camping gear, furniture, childrens toys, misc totes/boxes.

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.

Glen Green Bond-#70784656 (707) 459-4628

Publication Dates: August 8 and 15, 2024

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW500

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JULIUS TROUSDALE SADLER III, aka JULIUS T. SADLER III, aka JULIUS SADLER III, aka JULIUS SADLER, aka JASON SADLER

CASE NO. 24PR00118

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: JULIUS TROUSDALE SADLER III, aka JULIUS T. SADLER III, aka JULIUS SADLER III, aka JULIUS SADLER, aka JASON SADLER.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by GARRETT SADLER in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino.

The Petition for Probate requests that GARRETT SADLER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: August 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: Alexander C. Rich, CARTER RICH PC, 716 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490 Telephone: 707-456-9210 Publication Dates: July 25th, August 1st, and August 8th, 2024

WW502

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN on that Wednesday, August 14, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Willits City Council will conduct a Public Hearing at the Willits City Council Chambers, located at 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California on the following matter:

To conduct an annual review of proposed changes and charges in City fees and to adopt a resolution establishing said fees and charges, effective September 1, 2024.

Information concerning the proposed fees and charges may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk during normal business hours at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California.

All interested persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

/s/Delores Pedersen
City Clerk

Publication Date: August 8, 2024

WW504

NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provision of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 17th day of August, 2024 at 10:30a.m. or immediately following the GLENMARK SOUTH auction, on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK NORTH 395 North Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:

- Gonzalo Angulo 523
- Ashley Baldwin 258
- Jubal Chilson 211
- Latoya Hoaglin 532
- Larissa Malnerich 511
- Teresa McKenna 608
- Teresa McKenna 322
- Giovani Pablo 208
- Jeff Selsor 271
- James Shields 320
- Joshua Stutsman 240
- Mark Thies 225
- Todd Wright 257

The goods are described as: Tools, furniture, auto parts, camping gear, misc totes/boxes.

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.

Glen Green Bond-#70784656 (707) 459-4628

Publication Dates: August 8 and 15, 2024

Willits Weekly can run legal notices including fictitious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and more. Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@gmail.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Art's Handyman Service

Last ad wrong phone #. If you need any building or repairs please let me know. I do other tasks also. 707-841-1991

Do you need food?

Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 1-4:30 - Bring an I.D. (707) 459-3333

Free SAL Boxing

Mendocino County Sheriff's Activity League free boxing on Fridays at Body Works Gym Friday nights at 6:30. Ages 6 and up. Annual \$20 registration fee. Call Jeff at 797-841-0405 for questions.



Help Wanted Case Manager II-III

North Coast Opportunities seeks a self-motivated and compassionate individual to provide Case Management services for qualifying families. The right candidate will have excellent time management skills, be solutions-oriented, and possess a demonstrated understanding of common case management strategies. Experience implementing Housing First/Housing Problem Solving models is strongly preferred. Bilingual English/Spanish is required. Refer to the job listing at <https://www.ncocinc.org/join-our-team/> for the full Job Description, Duties, and Qualifications.

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Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Account Specialist III \$46,633 - \$56,700
- Community Health Services Specialist I/II \$42,515 - \$54,204
- Corrections Deputy \$58,136 - \$67,308
- Deputy Probation Officer I & II \$55,577 - \$74,505
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner \$84,323 - \$102,600
- Legal Secretary II \$45,843 - \$55,744
- Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist \$58,843 - \$71,510
- Public Safety Dispatcher \$53,643 - \$65,187
- Registered Nurse \$78,977 - \$95,971
- Senior Library Technician - Point Arena \$20.46 - \$24.86 Hourly
- Sheriff's Services Technician \$37,564 - \$45,676
- Staff Assistant II \$37,440 - \$43,347
- Supervising Permit Technician \$65,936 - \$80,142
- Supervising Public Health Nurse \$113,609 - \$138,091

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

www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs

EOE





Quiet Grace

Please meet lovely Grace. She is a calm, quiet, lovely senior dog and an avid lap dog and loving companion. Grace is great around other dogs. She is used to living with and curling up with other dogs, but is happy to share all her calm, non-pushy affection with her people.

Grace is fine

with calm, gentle children. She has a funny foot that looks like something not so funny happened a long time ago. It's squished – but she gets around fine. She would love a foster or a forever home!

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



Radiant Lucy Lou

Lucy Lou has been with the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County for 271 days and in foster care for 110 days due to some medical conditions. With help from UC Davis, we have got a handle on her medical needs. Despite the wait, Lucy Lou continues to show just how bubbly, lovable and spunky she can be.

While in her foster home she has lived with cats, dogs, a mini pig, and even a gecko! She has done well with dogs if a slow introduction is followed. However, her most favorite is the kiddos in the home. Lucy has shown she is very smart and can distinguish different play between kids and adults.

Lucy Lou bonds very strongly with her caretakers. She is very loyal, radiant, joyful, and carefree. It's a true challenge not to fall in love with this girl.

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



Frisky Chops

Chops is your typical friendly, active, playful kitten! If you're looking to get a new feline friend for your family, look no further!

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 1:30 pm (closed for lunch from 1 to 1:30 pm) on Saturdays. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinomalshelter.com. Call 707-467-6453 for more information.



The rest of Exhibits | From page 7

Willits:

In the Agriculture building, Michele Briggs received a first-, second-, and third-place award for her herb entries; a first- and second-place award for her Nature's Uniques entries; a first- and second-place award for her produce characters; a second-place award for her fruit and pod vegetable entry; and a first-, second- and third-place award for her vine crop entries. In the Home Arts building, Briggs won a first-place and a third-place award for her relishes and sauces and a first-place award for her butter/conserves/marmalades/syrup entry.

Darci Brueske won a first-place award in the Home Arts building for her intermediate quilt entry.

Barbara Carlon won a first-place award for her wearable sewing entry in the Home Arts building, a first-place and a second-place award for her advanced quilts and a second-place award for her craft entry.

Chris Ceresa won two first-place awards and a Best of Division for her quilt entries in the Home Arts building.

Cathy Decker won a third-place award for her fair-themed cutout Red, White and Ewe.

Jordan Eads won a first-, second-, and third-place award for her photography entries in the Fine Arts building.

Alayna Folsom won a first-place award for her baked goods entry and a third-place award for her collection in the Junior building.

Grady Fonsen won a first-place award in the Junior building for his junior skull art entry, and a first-, second- and third-place award for his preserved food entries.

Sarah Fonsen won a first-place award in the Junior building for her animal skull art entry.

Amy A. Ford won two first-place awards, one second-place award, one third-place award, and a Best of Division award in the Fine Arts building for her black and white photography entries; and a first-, second- and third-place award for her color photography entries.

Diane Ford won two first-place awards, and a Best of Division award for her quilt entries in the Home Arts building.

Christina Graham won a first-place award in the Floriculture building for her three stem of cut flowers entry; and a first-, second-, and third place award in the Fine Arts building for her color photography entries, and a first- and second-place award for her creative presentation entries.

Peggy Margaret Hebrard won a first-place award and a second-place award in the Fine Arts building for her decorative painting; two first-place awards, a second-place award, a third-place award, and a Best of Show award for her professional oil paintings.

Linda Hill won a second-place award for her mini arrangement, and a second- and third-place award for her dried arrangements in the Floriculture building, as well as a second-place award for her three stems of cut flowers entry; a first-, second- and third-place award for her potted plant entries; and a first- and a third-place award for her cactus/succulents/jade plant entries.

Kasey Hollfield received three first-place awards in the Home Arts building for her embroidery/crewel, knitting and quilt entries; and three second-place awards for her knitting, quilt and rug entries.

In the Fine Arts building, Maureen Jennison received a first- and second-place award for her stained glass entries; in the Floriculture building, Jennison received a first- and third-place award for her three stems of cut flowers entries; and in the Agriculture building, Jennison received a first- and second-place award for her fruit and pod vegetables; a first-place award for her vine crop entry; a first-place award for her fruits and berries entry; a first-, second- and third-place award for her herb entries; a third-place award for her gardeners delight vegetable entry, and a third-place award for her naturopathiques entry.

Alice Kroh-Ford received a first-, second- and third-place award in the Fine Arts building for her color photography entries.

Macy Lawrence received four first-place awards in the Junior building, including for her photography entry, table setting entry, and two preserved food entries – one of which also received a Best of Show award. Lawrence also received two second-place awards for her additional photography and preserved foods entries.

Madison Lawrence won a first-, second- and third-place award for her preserved food entries in the Junior building.

Alicia Logan received a first- and second-place award for her color photography entries into the Fine Arts building.

Tinley Logan received a first-place award for her color photography entry into the Junior building.

In the Floristry building, Kathy Lundgren received second-place awards for her cut flower, herbs and vine crops entries. In the Agriculture building, Lundgren won a first-, second- and fourth-place award, including an Honorable Mention, for her fruit and pod vegetable entries; and a fourth-place and Honorable Mention for her gardeners' delight vegetable entries.

In the Home Arts building, Lundgren received a first-, second- and third-place award for her pickles/relishes/sauces entries; a first-, second- and third-place award for her preserved fruits entries; two first-place awards – a Best of Division, one second- and one third-place award for her preserved jam entries; a first- and third-place award for her preserved jellies entries; two first-place awards – and a Best of Division, one second- and one third-place award for her preserved vegetable entries; two first-place awards – and a Best of Division, one second- and one third-place award for her quick/baking powder bread entries; two first-place awards – and a Best of Division, and one second-place award for her butters/conserves/marmalades/syrups entries; two first-place awards – and a Best of Division, one second- and one third-place award for her cake entries; a first-place award for her coffee cake and pastries entry; a first-place award for her confections entry; a first-, second- and third-place award for her cookie entries; three first-place awards – and a Best of Division award – for her quilt and quilt block entries and a third-place award for her fair-theme quilt challenge entry.

Landyn Martin-Lundgren received a first- and second-place award in the Junior building for his baked goods entries; a first-place award for his decorated cake entry; two first-place awards – including a Best of Show award – a second-place and third-place award for his preserved foods entries; three first-place awards for his clothing/textiles, quilts and sewing entries; a first-place award for his woodworking entry, a first- and second-place award for his art entries, and two second-place awards for his two craft entries.

Artie McCann received a first-place award in the Fine Arts building for the craft entry; and a first-, second- and third place award for the amateur jewelry entries.

Dianne McNeal received a first-place award in the Home Arts building for her vinegar/oil entry.

Gretchen Moore received first-place awards in the Fine Arts building for her watercolor entry and color photography entry; a second-place award for her watercolor entry; a first- and second-place award for her sculpture entries; and first- and second-place awards for her plant collection entries.

Alister Orozco received a first-place award in the Junior building for his clothing/textiles entry; a first- and second-place award for his hobby entries; and a first- and second-place award for his woodworking entries.

Christina Orozco received a first- and second-place award for her advanced crochet entries in the Home Arts building; and two first-place awards – and a Best of Division award – and a third-place award for her handspun fiber/wool item entries. Orozco also received a first-place award – and a Best of Division award – and a third-place and fourth-place award for her intermediate knitting entries.

Karen Oslund received a first-place award for her quilt entry in the Home Arts building.

Daniella Owen won a first-place award in the Junior building for her floral arrangement entry and a first-place award for her fair theme wood cutout Red, White and Ewe entry.

Alexander Pinon received a first-place award in the Junior building for his woodworking entry.

Caroline Piñon won two first-place awards in the Junior building for her floral arrangement and her craft entries.

Charlie Piñon received a first-place award in the Junior building for her floral arrangement; two first-place awards for clothing entries, and a first-place award for her craft entry.

Eva Pinon won a first-place award in the Junior building for her tablesetting entry in the primary division.

Caroline T Salcedo received three first-place awards, one second-place and one third-place award in the Home Arts building for her quilt entries.

Payton Shull received a first-place award in the Junior building for her baked goods entry.

Allegra Rose Silveira received a first-place award for her Living History entry in the Fine Arts building; as well as a first-, second- and third-place award for black and white photography entries, and a second- and third-place award for her color photography entries.

Ayden Thrillkill received a first-place award in the Junior building for his collections entry.

Karyn Thrillkill received two first-place awards, and one second-place award in the Junior building for her sewing entries.

Rosaland Waters received a first-, second- and third-place award for her quick/bread entries in the Home Arts building.

Aybrie Whitehurst received a first-, second- and third-place award in the Junior building for her preserved food entries.

Results and spellings provided by Redwood Empire Fair

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, August 8: Al Pastor (Por k) Nachos

Friday, August 9: Italian Sub Sandwich, Chips, Pickle

Monday, August 12: Beef Stew, Roll

Tuesday, August 13: Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Green Salad, Garlic Bread

Wednesday, August 14: Breaded Fish, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Thursday, August 15: Carnitas Burrito Wet w/Red Sauce

Friday, August 16: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Corn, Corn Bread

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

Pancake Breakfast: every second Sunday, on August 11 this month, 8 to 11 am. \$10; \$9 center members;

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

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

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

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

Mendocino College part of new \$18 million grant for ocean restoration

Submitted by Mendocino College

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has announced the awards that are recommended for funding under the Transformational Habitat Restoration & Coastal Resilience grant program. The Nature Conservancy California has been recommended to receive \$18 million over three years to launch the Pacific Coast Ocean Restoration Initiative, a comprehensive, collaborative, statewide effort aimed at restoring and recovering degraded marine ecosystems across California.

This funding will enable the Nature Conservancy and a coalition of partners spanning the state—including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Ocean Protection Council, Greater Farallones Association, Mendocino College, The Bay Foundation, Aquarium of the Pacific, the California Academy of Sciences, Sunflower Star Laboratory, Pausa Marine Research Group, and University of California Santa Barbara—to lead efforts to help recover the federally endangered white abalone and the International Union for Conservation of Nature critically endangered sunflower sea star.

Additionally, the initiative will further advance restoration efforts for California's kelp forests and will also pilot an innovative marine conservation workforce development program in collaboration with a community college, potentially scaling across the state's community college system.

"This ambitious, partnership-driven initiative will leverage the incredible work done to date, and the contributions from a diverse suite of partners, to advance a new model for coordinated and effective marine restoration and endangered species recovery that can deliver transformative impact for rocky reef ecosystems and coastal communities in this region," said Norah Eddy, Ocean Recovery program director at the Nature Conservancy California. "It also serves as a model for similar efforts elsewhere around the country and world."

Kelp forest and rocky reef ecosystems are vital, supporting thousands of marine species and coastal communities from San Diego to the Oregon border, contributing hundreds of millions of dollars to California's economy annually.

However, warming waters, disease, and human impacts have severely disrupted these ecosystems. The white abalone, listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in 2001, and the sunflower sea star, which experienced a catastrophic decline from 2013 to 2016 due to disease, illustrate the urgent need for intervention. These changing ocean conditions have led to a proliferation of purple urchins, which in part, have decimated bull kelp forests by over 96% in northern California.

"This project and its partnerships enable Mendocino College to enhance our workforce development curriculum, specifically supporting the creation of a marine ecosystem restoration program, aimed at building a diverse and climate-resilient workforce," said Tim Karas, president/superintendent of Mendocino College. "As a Minority Serving Institution and Hispanic Serving Institution, we are committed to providing opportunities for historically underserved communities. This project will help us develop the necessary infrastructure and curriculum to equip our students with the skills needed for ocean restoration, significantly impacting workforce development and marine restoration efforts in our region."

The Pacific Coast Ocean Restoration Initiative is poised to address these challenges. For over a decade, scientists and practitioners through the leadership of groups like the above-mentioned Initiative partners have laid the groundwork for important restoration efforts across California's coast. The NOAA grant, funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, will support critical infrastructure investments necessary to expand these restoration efforts.

"NOAA is proud to be supporting the Nature Conservancy and partners as they launch this innovative initiative," said Carrie Selberg Robinson, director of the NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation. "Their work to catalyze and coordinate restoration across California will support the many species that rely on rocky reef and kelp habitats."

As the coalition partners embark on this groundbreaking initiative, the vision is clear: this is just the beginning of a series of milestones aimed at recovering endangered and threatened species and revitalizing marine habitats. The Pacific Coast Ocean Restoration Initiative represents an exciting and transformative step forward in ensuring the health and resilience of California's coastal ecosystems for generations to come.

About Mendocino College

Mendocino College provides quality educational programs, services, and access to lifelong learning opportunities. With campuses in Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Lakeport, and Willits, Mendocino College offers a wide range of academic and vocational programs to meet the diverse needs of its students. www.mendocino.edu

About the Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. Learn more at www.nature.org/california.



Above, from left: Precious One Beads is located at 85 North Main Street. One of many sets of handmade earrings for sale at Precious One Beads. Owner Lisa Brown helps a customer at her new bead shop. At left: Colorful Czechoslovakian bead strands are available at Precious One Beads. Vintage African trade beads are for sale at Precious One Beads.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde

Precious One Beads

New beading shop opens on Main Street, selling vintage, African, Czech, crystal beads, and more

Precious One Beads is one of Willits' newest boutique shops. Located on the east side of Main Street, just north of Commercial Street, Precious One Beads is owned and operated by Lisa Brown, a Native American woman born in Fort Bragg who has been a beader all her life.

Margi Gomez Guhde
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"I moved to Willits in 1994 to live on the old Sherwood Valley Rancheria which is my tribe's original land base. I'm so happy that, with the help of family, we are now open for business in Willits."

"I've always had a love for beads," Brown said. "I have three sisters, Leslie Fales, Susan Fales, and Jodi Fales Sjolund, who also make beaded jewelry.

"We all helped our mother Betty Campbell Fales with her bead shop in Fort Bragg when she became disabled from rheumatoid arthritis. The shop was called Eager Beaders."

Brown said the name Precious One came about when her daughter Riley was very young and her grandparents on her father's side, Juanita and Elmo Brown, would always bring cookies when she visited.

"She called her grandmother Gramma Sweet and called

my mother Precious Little Nana. We put it all together and came up with Precious One."

Brown explained that she is mostly self-taught on a variety of beading styles. "My mother and I were taught how to do rosette-style beading by her brother-in-law Iran Hoaglen, Sr. when I was 12 years old," she said. "That was 52 years ago!"

Brown explained that rosette-style beading involves sewing three beads on at a time to cover the pattern being worked on. "I also use a brick stitch and the peyote stitch, and I like Spanish lace design. I use many different applications for different projects."

Brown shared that while raising her family she supplemented the family income with the sales of her beadwork, adding, "I just really love beading! I taught all three of my children, Andrew Fales and Riley and KC Brown to bead on a loom, Riley makes beaded earrings, and KC also uses the peyote stitch."

Brown said that her goal at Precious One Beads is to establish a Native American family-owned and operated business that can make it over the long term.

"We want to offer comparable prices to our customers and maintain a good inventory right here in town. We carry

Czech glass beads, Delicas, fire-polished crystals, Austrian crystals, bugle beads, sand-casted beads and African trade beads.

"We also have semiprecious chip strands, stones, old trade beads, and vintage as well as new glass beads." The new shop also stocks beading needles, threads, and a variety of findings.

"I really appreciate all the support we've received from the community already," said Brown, "and I hope to be here for years to come." She went on to promise, "When the dust settles, I will start to offer beading classes at Precious One."

Precious One Beads is located at 85 North Main Street. Open hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm and 10 am to 3 pm on Sundays. Call 707-354-8902 for more info.

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Above, left: Jenny Watts on piano with her friend Abigail Summers on cello. Jenny Watts, left, and Abigail Summers receive accolades from an enthusiastic audience. Below, left: Friends Jenny Watts, left, and Abigail Summers. Below, right: Musicians Jenny Watts, left, and Abigail Summers combined their efforts to create a successful fundraiser for the Willits Center for the Arts. At bottom: An appreciative audience enjoyed a recent Sunday afternoon concert at Willits Center for the Arts.



Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde



A musical afternoon

Concert by Jenny Watts and Abigail Summers delights full house at the Willits Center for the Arts

This past Sunday, for the second time in two years, Abigail Summers and Jenny Watts presented a well-attended concert at Willits Center for the Arts to an enthusiastic group of delighted music lovers. The program included some of their favorite pieces by Bach, Vaughan Williams, and Fauré.

Margi Gomez Guhde
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Pianist Summers said she found the concert experience to be a very positive one, adding, "Jenny and I have a long history of performing together. We have a trust between us and a confidence in each other when it comes to concert time, and it was really fun playing to an audience of old friends and neighbors. We love supporting the Arts Center in this way."

Cellist Watts also reflected on the event with positivity. "We were happy to have a full house and be able to raise funds for the Art Center. It was especially heartwarming to see so many old friends who love classical music, and to have them share their joy and appreciation with us."

Musicians Summers and Watts first met in the 1990s in Willits. Discovering their shared love of classical music, the two presented house concerts every few years, inviting a small but appreciative group of family and friends.

Summers grew up in the English countryside, playing cello and piano from an early age. Her performance studies took her to the Royal College of Music in London where she added recorder, viola da gamba and baroque cello to her repertoire. She has performed regularly with the Symphony of the Redwoods and the Mendocino Music Festival Orchestra.

Watts grew up in Burlingame, where she studied piano privately for many years. Her early training was in classical music, and she became interested in jazz and musical theater during her high school years. After moving to Willits, she became an accompanist for various groups and events, including the Willits High School Vocal Ensemble and other local choral directors and their choirs and ensembles.

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

Grand Champions:

Whitney Fansler of the Potter Valley 4-H sold her 1,378-pound Grand Champion market steer to Redwood Coast Fuels for \$14 per pound; **Bridget Aiello** of the Potter Valley 4-H sold her 140-pound Grand Champion market lamb to Thurston Auto Plaza for \$30 per pound; **Landon DeMarta** of the Willits 4-H sold his 277-pound Grand Champion market hog to Bray Trucking, Inc. for \$24 per pound; **Kaylie Foster** of the Ukiah FFA sold her 86-pound Grand Champion market goat to Mendocino Roofing Inc. for \$41 per pound; **AJ Osburn** of the Potter Valley 4-H sold his Grand Champion rabbit meat pen to Rescue Solutions for \$4,000; **Landy Martin-Lundgren** of the Willits 4-H sold his Grand Champion poultry meat pen to Les Schwab Tire Center of the Willits FFA for \$2,600; and **Sophia Scott** of the Willits FFA sold her Grand Champion market turkey to Mendo Mill of Ukiah for \$5,000.

Reserve Grand Champions:

Lane Anderson, an independent exhibitor, sold his 1,545-pound Reserve Grand Champion market steer to B&B Industrial for \$11 per pound; **Natalie Aiello** of the Potter Valley 4-H sold her 155-pound Reserve Grand Champion market sheep to Les Schwab Tire Center of Ukiah for \$23 per pound; **Tatiana McAsey** of the Ukiah Shamrock 4-H sold her 265-pound Reserve Grand Champion to Thurston Auto Plaza for \$20 per pound; **Rylee Haskins** of the Potter Valley 4-H sold her 88-pound Reserve Grand Champion market goat to McCarty's Auto Body for \$42; **Dylan Perea** of the Potter Valley FFA sold his Reserve Grand Champion rabbit pen to Rainbow Ag for \$1,500; **Chase Vagt** of the Ukiah Shamrock 4-H sold his Reserve Grand Champion poultry meat pen to Rescue Solutions for \$4,000; and **John Brackett III** of the Ukiah FFA sold his Reserve Grand Champion market turkey to 101 Trailer & RV Supply for \$2,500.

North county exhibitors, in auction list order:

Alexis Carrillo of the Willits FFA sold her FFA Reserve Champion rabbit meat pen to Les Schwab of Willits for \$1,400; **Justin Rountree** of the Willits 4-H sold his 4-H Reserve Champion market turkey to Thurston Auto Plaza for \$3,200; **Hannah Carbaugh** of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 260-pound Champion Duroc market hog to Gravier's Laytonville Chevron for \$17 per pound; **Michael Warden** of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 220-pound Reserve Champion AOB market hog to Round Valley Indian Health Center for \$25 per pound; **Poppy Gunn** of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 1,186-pound market steer to Drive Thru Tree Park for \$10 per pound; **Bayleigh Maughs** of Willits 4-H sold her 116-pound market lamb to Garman Family Land Company for \$36 per pound; **Lakota Britton** of the Covelo FFA sold her 239-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Housing Authority for \$26 per pound; **Bobbie Nunez** of the Willits FFA sold her 60-pound market goat to Mendocino Forest Products for \$26 per pound; **Anhelica Phillips** of the Covelo FFA sold her 118-pound market goat to Safeway of Willits for \$27 per pound; and **Camryn Mitchell** of the Covelo FFA sold her 229-pound market swine to RVIT TNAP for \$27 per pound.

Dayana Estrada of the Willits FFA sold her 75-pound market goat to the Savings Bank of Mendocino County for \$20 per pound; **Elena Arkelian** sold her 130-pound market sheep to Les Schwab Tire Center of Willits for \$20 per pound; **Ember Whitcomb** of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 1,573-pound market steer to Ryan Hayes Insurance and All In Heating & Cooling for \$9 per pound; **Grady Cooley** of the Willits FFA sold his 260-pound market hog to 101 Trailer & RV Supply for \$20 per pound; **Tinley Logan** of the Willits 4-H sold her 224-pound market hog to Bouthillier's Construction Inc. for \$18 per pound; **Jacob Carrillo** of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 244-pound market hog to Hidden Oaks Casino - RVIT for \$21 per pound; **Malayna Lavenduskey** of the Willits FFA sold her 114-pound market lamb to Gravier's Laytonville Chevron for \$15 per pound; **Wyatt Escobedo** of the Willits 4-H sold his poultry meat pen to Paul Riley Drywall for \$2,500.

Tessa Klee of the Willits 4-H sold her 261-pound market hog to Wylatti Resource Management, Inc. for \$14.50 per pound; **Tanner Davila** of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 76-pound market goat to Moreno Logging LLC for \$26 per pound; **Zoeanna Gallups** of the Willits FFA sold her 63-pound market goat to GSD Synergy - Office of Maureen Luis for \$17 per pound; **Alejandra Davila** of the Covelo FFA sold her 1,261-pound to the Round Valley Indian Tribes Senior Center for \$13 per pound; **Cailin Kelsay** of the Willits 4-H sold her 124-pound market

lamb to Les Schwab of Willits for \$20; **Marie McCoy** of the Covelo FFA sold her 124-pound market lamb to Keith's IGA for \$23 per pound; **Grady Fosen** of the Willits 4-H sold his 278-pound market hog to Harvest Market for \$27 per pound; **Calvin Loupy** of the Willits FFA sold his 277-pound market hog to H&M Logging for \$13 per pound; **Reginald Britton** of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 226-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Housing Authority for \$27.50 per pound and **Danielle Estrada** of the Willits FFA sold her 73-pound market goat to the Savings Bank of Mendocino County for \$20 per pound.

Kelsey Escobedo of the Willits 4-H sold her 133-pound market lamb to Friedman's Home Improvement for \$19 per pound; **Lisa Arkelian** of the Willits FFA sold her 130-pound market lamb to Wylatti Resource Management, Inc. for \$19 per pound; **Richard Bolton** of the Willits 4-H sold his 100-pound market goat to Taco Bell Ukiah for \$19 per pound; **Johanna Whitcomb** of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 154-pound market lamb to Bodensteiner Medical Research for \$24 per pound; **Joseph Arkelian** of the Willits 4-H sold his 234-pound market hog to Johnson's Custom Landscaping for \$13.50 per pound; **Claudia Boggs** of the Round Valley 4-H sold her 252-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Tribes Convenience Store for \$23 per pound; **Roy O'Ferrall** of the Covelo FFA sold his 1,133-pound market steer to Round Valley Indian Health Center for \$13 per pound; **Ella Randrup-Swinney** of the Willits 4-H sold her 226-pound market hog to Lucchetti Earthworks and Trucking for \$12 per pound; and **Caleb Hanover** sold his 235-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Tribes Convenience Store for \$22 per pound.

Emma DeFranco of the Willits 4-H sold her 256-pound market hog to Bouthillier's Construction, Inc. for \$13.50 per pound; **Logan Carrillo** of the Covelo FFA sold his 129-pound market lamb to Keith's IGA for \$13.50 per pound; **Kaleb Whitehurst** of the Willits FFA sold his 273-pound market hog to Bud Garman Construction Services, Inc. for \$15 per pound; **Adrian Davila** of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 79-pound market goat to Moreno Logging LLC for \$22.50 per pound; **Dana Arkelian** of the Willits 4-H sold her 128-pound market lamb to Gravier's Laytonville Chevron for \$13 per pound; **Landon Honeycutt** of the Willits FFA sold his 230-pound market hog to Sparetime Supply for \$12 per pound; **Bryana Bowes** of the Covelo FFA sold her 80-pound market goat to Round Valley Indian Tribes for \$23 per pound; **Elizabeth Hoaglen** of the Covelo FFA sold her 233-pound market hog to the Round Valley Indian Tribes Senior Center for \$21 per pound; and **Aybie Whitehurst** of the Willits 4-H sold her 280-pound market hog to BodyWorks Gym for \$14 per pound.

Walker Klee, an independent exhibitor, sold his 257-pound market hog to Pomilita Civil For \$21 per pound; **Henry Arkelian** of the Long Valley 4-H sold his 220-pound market hog to RVIT TNAP for \$22 per pound; **Jay Whipple** of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 220-pound market hog to RVIT TNAP for \$31 per pound; **Khloe Neuroth** of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 1,142-pound market steer to Gravier's Laytonville Chevron for \$6 per pound; **Aliciana Davila** of the Round Valley 4-H sold her 117-pound market lamb to Moreno Logging LLC for \$23 per pound; **Payton McCoy** of the Covelo FFA sold her 135-pound market lamb to Round Valley Indian Tribes Senior Center for \$20 per pound; **Tyler Knight** of the Long Valley 4-H sold his 256-pound market hog to Rosenthal Fire Mitigation for \$13 per pound; and **Abram Carrillo** of the Covelo FFA sold his 76-pound market goat to Keith's IGA for \$18 per pound.

Charlie Piñon of the Willits 4-H sold her poultry meat pen to Drive Thru Tree Park for \$1,900; **Sterling Scott** of the Willits 4-H sold his 15-pound market turkey to NA Oaks Ranch for \$800; **Gabe Bowes** of the Covelo FFA sold his 1,335-pound market steer to Round Valley Indian Housing Authority for \$10 per pound; **Wyatt Klee** of the Willits FFA sold his 264-pound market hog to Bouthillier's Construction, Inc. for \$20 per pound; **Eliana Martinez** of the Covelo FFA sold her 241-pound market hog to Hidden Oaks Casino - RVIT for \$22.50 per pound; **Austin Zuffinetti** of the Long Valley 4-H sold his rabbit meat pen to Gravier's Laytonville Chevron for \$1,000; **Alayna Folsom** of the Willits 4-H sold her market turkey to Paul Riley Drywall for \$1,000; and **Leonard Bowes** of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 231-pound market hog to Round Valley Tribes for \$21 per pound.

Waylon Williamson of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 250-pound market hog to Cold Creek Compost for \$21 per pound; **Chayce Britton** of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 1,164-pound market steer to RVIT TNAP for \$14 per pound; **Iziah Folsom** of the Willits 4-H sold his 14-pound market turkey to Bouthillier's Construction, Inc. for

\$950; **Joyce Johnson** of the Round Valley 4-H sold her 111-pound market lamb to Hidden Oaks Casino - RVIT for \$18 per pound; **Perla Carmona** of the Covelo FFA sold her 134-pound market lamb to Wylatti Resource Management, Inc. for \$18.50 per pound; **Kylie Neuroth** of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 269-pound market hog to Gravier's Laytonville Chevron for \$13 per pound; **Matyah Whipple-Eagle** of the Round Valley 4-H sold her 122-pound market lamb to M&M Feed and Supply for \$20 per pound; and **Cheyenne Newell** of the Willits 4-H sold her poultry meat pen to S A Livestock for \$1,100.

Catie Spackman of the Willits FFA sold her 235-pound market hog to Colley Logging for \$18 per pound; **Daya Maguire** of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 258-pound market hog to Long Valley Health Center for \$13 per pound; **Macy Lawrence** of the Willits 4-H sold her 270-pound market hog to Bud Garman Construction Services, Inc. for \$15 per pound; **Rex Davidson** of the Willits FFA sold his 251-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Tribes for \$19.50 per pound; **Wiley Williamson** of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 1,342-pound market steer to Round Valley Indian Tribes for \$10 per pound; **Hazel Bowes** of the Covelo FFA sold her 1,303-pound market steer to Round Valley Indian Tribes Convenience Store for \$11 per pound; **Corey Warden** of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 226-pound market hog to Hidden Oaks Casino - RVIT for \$28 per pound; **Mya Hoaglen** of the Covelo FFA sold her 268-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Tribes Convenience Store for \$23 per pound; **Madison Lawrence** of the Willits 4-H sold her 262-pound market hog to Daniel's Construction for \$12 per pound; and **Colt Quiroga** of the Round Valley 4-H sold his 111-pound market lamb to Round Valley Indian Tribes Senior Center for \$22 per pound.

Ivan Estrada of the Willits FFA sold his 78-pound market goat to Bouthillier's Construction, Inc. for \$14 per pound; **Baylee Baker** of the Willits 4-H sold her 269-pound market hog to Willits Redwood Company for \$20 per pound; **Maxwell Henson** of the Willits FFA sold his 235-pound market hog to Bonterra Organic Estates for \$12 per pound; **Cruz Erickson** of the Willits FFA sold his 247-pound market hog to Thompson Gas for \$10 per pound; **Wade Hosford** of the Willits 4-H sold his 132-pound market lamb to 101 Trailer & RV Supply for \$17 per pound; **Kayden Paullus** of the Willits FFA sold his 260-pound market hog to Sparetime Supply for \$15 per pound; **Allaya Knight** of the Willits 4-H sold her 236-pound market hog to Mark Lucchetti for \$10 per pound; **Alissa Randrup-Swinney** of the Willits 4-H sold her 249-pound market hog to CRMT Resources for \$12 per pound; **Gunner Globe** of the Willits FFA sold his 278-pound market hog to Round Tree Glass for \$15 per pound; **Olivia Merrifield** of the Round Valley 4-H sold her 253-pound market hog to Round Tree Glass for \$21 per pound; **Madison Bouthillier** of the Willits FFA sold her 238-pound market hog to Peterson Tractor - Ukiah for \$22 per pound; **Trenton O'Ferrall** of the Willits 4-H sold his 274-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Tribes Senior Center for \$22 per pound; **Eli Neuroth** of the Long Valley 4-H sold his 247-pound market hog to the Law Office of Elina N. Agnoli for \$11.50 per pound; **Kyle Soqui** of the Willits FFA sold his 256-pound market hog to Taco Bell Ukiah for \$9 per pound; **Leibel Firks** of the Long Valley 4-H sold his 265-pound market hog to the Potter Valley Rodeo for \$10 per pound; and **Brian Spackman** of the Willits 4-H sold his 270-pound market hog to Nor-Cal Recycled Rock & Aggregates, Inc. for \$14 per pound.

Jazmare Henson of the Willits FFA sold her 246-pound market hog to Next Generation Heating and Cooling for \$11 per pound; **Zoey Maguire** of the Long Valley 4-H sold her 248-pound market hog to Gravier's Chevron for \$10 per pound; **Payton Shull** of the Willits 4-H sold her 22-pound market hog to Willits Redwood Company for \$10 per pound; **Jordan Shull** of the Willits FFA sold his 249-pound market hog to Yokum's Body Shop for \$8 per pound; **Cole Simpson** of the Long Valley 4-H sold his 244-pound market hog to Pacific Gas and Electric for \$10 per pound; **Arya Allenbrand** of the Willits 4-H sold her 265-pound market hog to Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty for \$8.75 per pound; **Savana Hoaglen-Cogburn** of the Willits FFA sold her 248-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Housing Authority for \$25 per pound; **Aamia Carrillo** of the Round Valley 4-H sold her 259-pound market hog to Round Valley Indian Tribes for \$25 per pound; **Bowdy Globe** of the Willits 4-H sold his 261-pound market hog to Elliott's Christmas Trees for \$10 per pound; and **Caden Kelsay** of the Willits 4-H sold his 262-pound market hog to Taco Bell Ukiah for \$11.50 per pound.

Results and spellings provided by Redwood Empire Fair

The rest of **Whistle** | From page 3

what people like. I've been listening to the feedback this week, and I'm trying to also find sugar-free choices for smoothies. We have our standard menu and then we'll have specials and we're always open to doing something different."

In addition to the variety of fresh and healthy foods, the light interior, and the large courtyard, the shop offers racks of whimsical and Willits-branded goods and candies. The courtyard is available to be rented for events and people can take their food to eat outside at one of the tables with umbrellas or choose to dine inside at a booth or counter.

Of course, the main attraction is the food. They offer several kinds of Paninis: mushrooms and goat cheese, vegetarian, Buffalo chicken, roasted pulled pork, Italian, Philly cheesesteak, and others. They have a variety of salads, from classic house to roasted beet goat cheese, with a large variety of dressings. The Whistle Stop offers three sizes of smoothies in seven basic flavors with options for the desired type of milk bases and boosters. Specials will be posted daily and all items can be personalized to the customers' tastes.

Local author Jed Diamond is already a fan. "This is great! The place is beautiful. The staff is super helpful and knowledgeable. The food is absolutely great. It's a super addition to the community. We may come here every night. I had the beet salad with some additional tomatoes she put on it for me," he said, and his wife, Carlin, had a wonderful time with the Caesar salad with chicken.

Jenny Senter came back for the grand opening. "I had the root beer float with dairy-free vanilla ice cream," said Senter. "The second time I had a Whistle Stop smoothie that comes with strawberries, bananas, and more. I've also had a salad which they made special for my gluten- and dairy-intolerance. It was wonderful. I came back because I love supporting Saprina and all of the things that she does for the community, and the food is great."

Rodriguez plans to have monthly soft music nights in the courtyard and an ever-changing menu as she hears feedback from the public. She asks that anyone with a less-than-satisfying experience speak with the staff in order to make the desired adjustments to be able to please everyone.

"This is my first restaurant," said Rodriguez. "I learned a lot, but I love a challenge. You really need to know what your vision is and then it all comes down to the details. I've been planning this since I bought the property a year and a half ago, dreaming about it, thinking about even the tiniest details, the feel, the atmosphere, the food, making sure that people like me had non-dairy options, wanting to do something different from what everybody else is doing."

The Whistle Stop is open every day from 10 am to 7 pm at 280 East Commercial Street. Check out their Facebook and Instagram pages for more info.

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

the paintings they don't care about, but the one will grab their attention and keep them looking. I love to sit back and watch that process."

Don Ponte, on the other hand, has work with the look of a classically trained artist. His lines, colors and subjects are planned and exact, even though his subjects vary from his favorite dog and companion, Jack London, whom he greatly admires, to an elder gentleman in the French countryside with whom he spent a lovely afternoon, a Ferrari with the reflection of a powerful mustang, an olive tree outside his studio window, and more. Ponte is influenced greatly by the places he has lived in and experienced, people he has known, and beauty he finds all around him.

Explaining the painting of the French gentleman, Ponte seems to be taken with the culture of the Toulouse region of France, and of cultures far from this country. "This is a fellow we met in France, just outside of Toulouse. My wife, myself, and her aunt were on our way into the country at Toulouse, to go to her grandmother's gravesite. They asked me to stop before we got there. We pulled over and her aunt got out and started talking to people.

"A few minutes later, we were invited in," said Ponte, "and it was this guy's 94th birthday. He was holding court in his backyard. He was a fascinating old guy. He had planted all the orchards around the house. My wife's aunt's foot is in the picture. He was fascinated with her, and they were chatting. It was about 10 years ago. France is a wonderful country. I was fascinated with every part of it."

Although a San Franciscan by birth, Ponte has an affinity for the European cultures. "I've always felt a connection with Europe," Ponte explained. "I come from an Italian family and was raised partly by my grandparents in San Francisco. My grandfather owned a deli in North Beach. He was a baker and would bring home fresh French bread every night. Living in that kind of environment, my grandfather was very creative."

The show will be at the Willits Center for the Arts until August 25, at 71 East Commercial Street. The gallery is open Friday through Sunday, from 11 am to 5 pm. Visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org for more info.

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