

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 569

Thursday, September 26, 2024

CAL FIRE officers arrest Healdsburg firefighter for arson

Submitted by CAL FIRE Sacramento

On September 20, 2024, at approximately 8 am, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers arrested Robert Hernandez, age 38 of Healdsburg, at the Howard Forest Fire Station south of Willits on suspicion of arson to forest land in the areas surrounding Geyserville, Healdsburg, and Windsor.

Hernandez, a CAL FIRE fire apparatus engineer, is suspected of igniting five fires while he was off-duty: the Alexander Fire on August 15, 2024, the Windsor River Road Fire on September 8, 2024, the Geysers Fire on September 12, 2024, and the Geyser and Kinley fires on September 14, 2024.

All five fires combined burned less than an acre of wildland due to quick actions of residents and fire suppression resources.

Hernandez has been booked into Sonoma County Jail on charges of arson to forest land.

"I am appalled to learn one of our employees would violate the public's trust and attempt to tarnish the tireless work of the 12,000 women and men of CAL

Read the rest of **Arson**
Over on Page 11

3 detained after CDFW searches for unlawful grows, code violations

Provided by CDFW, Office of Communication, Education and Outreach

On Wednesday, September 18, wildlife officers with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Cannabis Enforcement Program served search warrants at five properties located around Bunim Road and Registered Guest Road, about 40 miles north of Willits, in Mendocino County. Support was provided by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and Lake County Sheriff's Office.

The search warrants were served to investigate the suspected unlawful cultivation of cannabis and associated environmental crimes. Prior to serving the search warrants, record checks were conducted on the properties to determine what steps may have been taken to secure a state license. In this case, none of the properties obtained a county permit or state license to cultivate or manufacture commercial cannabis.

Read the rest of **CDFW**
Over on Page 11



Photos by Maureen Jennison

At top, left and right: Two of the various logos showcase Wolverine pride on available-to-purchase spirit gear. At top, center: Wolverine hats showcase the Willits Wolverines' W emblem. Above: The senior class Homecoming Court includes King nominees, from left: Ethan Blum, Mason Valente, and Ayden Thrillkill, and Senior Queen nominees, from left: Sofia Perez, Mia Chavez, and Makiah Carter. Below, from left: Underclass court includes: Freshman Princess Mariah Levine and Prince Grady Cooley; Junior Prince Quinton Carpetieri and Princess Salisa Leon; and Sophomore Prince PZ Bertolino and Princess Priscilla Rodriguez.

Let's Go Wolverines!

Willits High School Homecoming week underway with upcoming Friday-night football game against Fort Bragg

It's time to wear your green and gold and come cheer on the Willits High School Wolverines during Homecoming. The week-long celebration included dress-up days at the school, a Wednesday-night rally, and several sporting games throughout the week. The big Friday night football game will be against the Fort Bragg Timberwolves with JV starting at 5 pm and varsity at 7 pm.

The Homecoming court will be showcased at the game, including freshman winners Princess Mariah Levine and Prince Grady Cooley; Sophomore winners Prince PZ Bertolino and Princess Priscilla Rodriguez; and Junior

winner Prince Quinton Carpetieri and Princess Salisa Leon. The Senior class nominees include Ethan Blum, Mason Valente, and Ayden Thrillkill for King and Sofia Perez, Mia Chavez, and Makiah Carter for Queen. Senior winners were announced at the Wednesday night rally, and Perez and Thrillkill were named the senior winners.

If you're lacking any green and gold in your wardrobe, spirit gear is available to purchase at the home games including sweatshirts, pompoms, foam fingers, and more.

— Maureen Jennison



Willits Wolverines Spirit Gear	
Pullover Sweatshirt	\$30
Zippered Sweatshirt	\$35
Women's T-Shirt	\$15
Men's T-Shirt	\$15
Baseball Cap	\$30
Beanie	\$30
Blanket	\$45
Foam Finger	\$5
Cow Bells	\$2
Noise Maker	\$2
Pom Pom	\$2 each

Spirit gear is available for all levels of budgets. Go Wolverines!



VARSITY SOCCER

WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL VS. MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL

WOLVERINES **MUSTANGS**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH GIRLS 5:00PM / BOYS 6:45PM
MAIZE FIELD - WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL

FOOTBALL AND CHEER

WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL VS. FORT BRAGG HIGH SCHOOL

WOLVERINES **TIMBERWOLVES**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH JV 5:00PM VAR 7:00PM
MAIZE FIELD - WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL

Little Lake Fire board September meeting

Annie Evarts
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

This month's meeting of the board of directors for the Little Lake Fire Protection District, usually held the second Tuesday of every month, was postponed a week so that more staff and board members could be present. The regularly attending Little Lake firefighters were mostly out on a call, and a few of the board members were experiencing scheduling conflicts.

The board discussed a new company out of Ukiah that is much more affordable and will be the one to perform the department's Nexus study. Little Lake needs the Nexus study completed in order to update its fee schedule. The board also discussed a few lingering budget items. Michelle Schnitzius, administrative assistant for Little Lake Fire, explained she'd adjusted the budget to reflect uncertain streams of revenue, including payments from both the county and city. The board then moved to adopt the 2024-2025 budget.

"They don't make them like they used to" is the

Read the rest of **LLFD**
Over on Page 11

WUSD board hears about start of school year

Addison Alvarado
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

During the evening of September 12, the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees held its monthly board meeting. Board members Jennifer Sookne, Dianne McNeal, Alex Bowlds, Jeanne King, and Paula Nunez were present. The WUSD Board of Trustees touched on the progress of the school year start, including new programs from the counselor at Blosser Lane Elementary, and a new cellphone policy the board is trying to implement.

During the meeting, WUSD Superintendent Mark Beebe applauded the district staff, saying: "I'm very appreciative of all they do every single day, and I'm humbled by the efforts they put out as I go around campuses and watch the efforts they put into it. So, all of you that work here in the room today, thank you so much; it is humbling to watch you do your craft every day."

At the start of the meeting,

Read the rest of **School**
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thanks from the Food Bank

To the Editor:

We appreciate all of the support the community has given to Willits Community Services and Food Bank for our summer drive. We have reached our goal of raising \$100,000 for our quarterly operating expenses.

We want to thank our donors: The City of Willits, The Safeway/Albertsons Foundation, The George & Ruth Bradford Foundation, The Community Foundation of Mendocino County, The Erikens Foundation, St Francis of the Redwoods, Emandal – A-Farm on a River, Woods Stamp Shoppe, Gwen Wood, Dan & Laura McBride, Robin Leler, Henry W Rued, DDS, The Peter Dal Poggetto Trust, Jan Stephens, Walter & Jane Cooper Camp, and all of the other donors previously mentioned here.

We have struggled so much this year due to the high demand of our services and have more than doubled our food distribution. Your support has allowed us to be able to keep our doors open, and we have been able to continue serving the public.

Your generosity has meant so much to the lives of those we serve. Currently we are serving approximately 400 households per week. We desperately need your continued support as we continue to serve unprecedented numbers.

We also want to thank the Sherwood Valley Casino of Willits for their special promotion this month on Mondays through Fridays to help us raise the funds we need for the 2024 Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Please visit them with your patronage. With a \$20 buy-in you will receive \$40 of play of which \$10 will go to the Food Bank for the Thanksgiving Dinner. We are so grateful for the Sherwood Valley Casino's help. Without their help we would not be able to have the 2024 Thanksgiving Dinner.

We will be in need of volunteers for the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 27 (the day before) and Thanksgiving Day, November 28. We are also in need of volunteers on Wednesdays and Fridays in our warehouse, for senior deliveries, and the front window for client intake and food distribution. Anyone interested in volunteering can call Kim at (707) 459-3333.

Thank you all again for your selfless sacrifices to help those individuals in need that we serve. Together we can make a difference. We are located at 344 Railroad Avenue in Willits and are open from 1 to 4:30 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays for food distribution for those in need.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. We appreciate all of you so very much!

Kim Tippit, executive director, WCS

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

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

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

Jackie Cobbs, features editor

Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer

Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter

Annie Everts, reporter / features writer

Addison Alvarado, school board reporter

Danya Davis, Police Log

Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter

Sheri Dockins, sports reporter

Ava Dockins, sports photographer

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

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

PG&E electricity bills in October to include Climate Credit

Submitted by PG&E

In October, millions of residential and eligible small business customers will receive the California Climate Credit on their PG&E electric bill. Customers do not need to do anything to receive the credit.

Residential households with an active electric account will receive an electric credit of \$55.17, the same amount they received in the spring. The twice-a-year electric credit was first delivered in April, in addition to an annual natural gas credit of \$85.46 for residential customers with a natural gas account. Combined-use customers' total bill credits for 2024 is \$195.80.

Eligible small business customers will receive the electric credit in October, bringing their total bill credits for 2024 to \$110.34. For more info, visit www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/natural-gas/greenhouse-gas-cap-and-trade-program/small-business-climate-credit

"This credit is a 'win-win' for our customers. The California Climate Credit helps reduce customers' energy bills, and reduces our state's greenhouse gas emissions," said Vincent Davis, PG&E senior vice president, Customer Experience.

The California Climate Credit www.cpuc.ca.gov/climatecredit/ is part of the state's efforts to fight climate change and is distributed by PG&E to customers as directed by the California Public Utilities Commission. The California Climate Credit is a direct result of the state's nation-leading Cap and Trade Program <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/cap-and-trade-program/about> that requires polluters to pay for climate pollution. The bill credit is designed to help utility customers during the transition to a more sustainable future.

In addition to the California Climate Credit, customers are encouraged to explore other ways to save energy, reduce costs on monthly bills, and contribute to building a sustainable future.

Read the rest of **PG&E** Over on page 11

Governor signs McGuire's Tribal Housing Reconstruction Act

Submitted by the Office of Mike McGuire

Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire's Tribal Housing Reconstruction and Resiliency Act, which will create the first-ever dedicated tribal housing funding program in California, was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 19.

Senate Bill 1187, a two-year effort by Senator McGuire to address the desperate need for tribal housing across the state, creates a tribal-specific housing program for the construction and rehabilitation of affordable homes for rent and sale. The program will also provide technical assistance to help tribal governments navigate the complex web of regulations that often hinder tribal housing projects.

Native American communities continue to face some of the most severe housing shortages in the state. Homelessness among Indigenous Californians is up to double that of the general population. One-third of tribal residents live below the federal poverty line, more than twice that of the rest of California's population. Approximately 9 percent of tribes in California have homes that lack complete plumbing, and 7 percent lack complete kitchens, according to U.S. Census data.

More than a third of Native households live in overcrowded conditions, and nearly two of every five tribal member households are rent-overburdened, further exacerbating the housing affordability crisis, according to a study by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation and the California Coalition for Rural Housing.

"Housing insecurity is a public health crisis in **Housing**" Over on page 11

Local candidates forum set for October 6

A Candidates Forum for three local contested races will take place Sunday, October 6, at 4 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street in Willits.

The three races are:

Willits City Council, with 5 candidates for 3 seats: Matthew Alaniz, Thomas Allman, Gerardo Gonzalez, Robin Leler, and write-in Saprina Rodriguez. This portion will begin shortly after 4 pm;

District #3 rep to the County Board of Education, with candidates Michelle Hutchins and David R. Strock vying for one seat. This portion will begin at about 5 pm; and

Willits Unified School District Board, with 3 candidates – April Lamprich, David Lilker, and Dianne M. McNeal – running for two available seats. This will begin at about 5:20 pm.

In addition, there will be tables with information from candidates and other issues on the November 5 General Election ballot. Official ballots are set to be mailed to voters starting October 7.

This Candidates Forum is co-sponsored by League of Women Voters of Mendocino, Little Lake Grange, Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, WELL (Willits Economic Localization), and the Willits Chamber of Commerce.

People can also attend (but not participate) by Zoom, at <https://tinyurl.com/WillitsCandidatesForum.com> Questions? contact judiberdysz@yahoo.com or mstrong827@outlook.com.

Sponsoring groups will have some prepared questions, plus in-person attendees are encouraged to submit questions in writing. For questions, contact judiberdysz@yahoo.com or mstrong827@outlook.com.

Brian Smith, Willits

Online & Print

Willits Weekly

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At top, from left: The Sober Grad crew sells tickets to their upcoming take-and-bake enchilada dinners on October 18. Chuck Cully of the Willits Gem and Mineral Club brought some of his gems to intrigue the passersby. M.J. Flint, who is joined in her booth by Courtney Breen, displays the first of a series of books she is writing.

At left: Getting dunked in the Sherwood Elementary School reverse dunk tank is a relief on a hot day.

Above, left: Jackie Cobbs of Craft House Baking brought her son, Henry, and some delicious baked goods. Above, right: Rachel Miller and Sandy Costa inform the public about the expansion of Tapestry Family Services and its new facility in Willits.

Below: Robin Suzanne sings with Soul Circus in the parking lot next to Flying Dog Pizza.

Further below: As the day cools off, more and more people and pets come out to enjoy the community get together.

At bottom, left: Ken the Clown entertains the kids with some skillful balloon animals. At bottom, right: Erin Corley, owner of Flourish and Flow Yoga Studio, has a booth at the Harvest Moon Celebration in order to spread the word about her health, dance and yoga classes.

Harvest Moon Festival

Main Street closed down and filled with vendors and entertainment in fall Hometown Celebration event

Last Saturday, September 21, something happened on Main Street. A disparate group of adults, children, and dogs came together for an afternoon of community interaction, celebrating

the positive aspects of Willits with vendors, music, and a diverse spectrum of foods from local eateries.

The Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration was produced by the Willits Chamber of Commerce to promote recognition of all that the town has to offer in shops, people and possibilities. Although beginning slowly in the mid-afternoon heat, as the day wore on and the heat subsided, the people came, some in pre-Halloween costumery, to take the opportunity to see old friends and to make new ones.

There were so many vendors, informational booths, and fun things to see and do, that it was difficult to get to everything. Main Street was blocked off in order to give the people a place to mingle and walk freely. The large number of booths gave the attendees a chance to gain knowledge of what the town has to offer and to meet with the vendors to ask questions directly.

In addition to stores, several booths represented community services, including Willits police, Little Lake Fire Department, CALFIRE, Mendocino College, the Community Emergency Response Team, and two of the city council candidates, Matthew Alaniz and Saprina Rodriguez, who offered information and answered questions.

"We put this celebration together with help from Moon Lady, Marie Blancas, Maya and Fiona Valley," said Misty Johnson of the Willits Chamber of Commerce. "Closing down the street gives everybody a wonderful day to come out in this great weather for a family-fun event. We have a lot of great vendors, a lot of great things. I hope that we are able to offer our families and our community a great day out at no cost, outside of whatever they purchase –

another street event where we can close everything down on the street to offer some good fun. It's a wholesome, non-alcoholic event. We can have more fun before the summer is completely over."

One of the more fun diversions was the "reverse dunk tank" offered by Sherwood School, which invited such town notables as WUSD Superintendent Mark Beebe and firefighter Harry So to sit in the open tank and goad people who paid a couple of dollars for the opportunity to throw a projectile at a target which would release a gallon or so of water upon the head of the dunkee, which was not unwelcome on the hot afternoon.

The Willits Charter School Travel Club was raising money for an educational trip to New York and Washington, D.C. by selling snow cones and popcorn balls. The school will be having a yard sale every month, the next one being on September 28.

The Sherwood School was looking for funding for a field trip to Taylor Observatory. Mendocino College had people roll dice to win SWAG prizes and was there to bring awareness of their programs and classes. They have an upcoming fundraiser on October 11. Sober Grad was selling tickets to their October 18 Take-Home-and-Bake Enchilada Dinner.

Amythyst Romero and Gretchen Moore represented the Willits Community Theatre, which will be offering a world premiere play by Jeff Shipp, Garrett Moore, and Elizabeth Delleit, called "The Whisperer." It is directed by Shipp and Mathew Caine and opens October 25.

Sienna Reno was showing indigenous crafts from Colombia. Windi Kvasnicka was there with her Pampered Chef kitchen goods. Ashley Otis told of her new Fabuleaux Boutique clothing in the Mane House Salon. Erin Corley, owner of Flourish and Flow, was there to offer information on fitness and dance classes. Timothy Cerrato

Read the rest of **Harvest** Over on page 9



SPARETIME
-GARDEN CENTER-

VOTING ENDS OCT. 2nd

BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2025

VOTE FOR US

Gardening Store/Nursery | Community Partner
Hydroponic Store | Customer Service

Place to Buy a Unique Gift

SCAN TO VOTE

(707) 459-6791 | **NEW STORE HOURS**
208 E. San Francisco Ave. | 208 E. San Francisco Ave. | 208 E. San Francisco Ave.
sparetimegardencenter.com | sparetimegardencenter.com | sparetimegardencenter.com
Mon - Sat 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday CLOSED

Join the family of **Arlene Wear** for her **Celebration of Life** on **September 28TH at 1 p.m.** at the **Agape Church** 290 South Lenore Avenue

Greg Schindel Memorial Service

HOSTED BY THE SCHINDEL FAMILY

April 1, 1946-July 12, 2024

Please join us for a memorial service honoring the life of Greg Schindel. Dearly beloved husband of Donna Schindel, cherished father, grandfather, teacher, and friend.

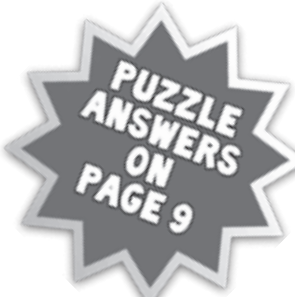
Seating at the church service will be limited. All are welcome for reception and refreshments in the garden following service.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
11:00AM PDT

ST. FRANCIS IN THE REDWOODS CHURCH
1 NORTH MAIN ST.
WILLITS, CA 95490

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

Level: Intermediate

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

HOME DESIGN WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

ACCESSORIES	CHAISE	FOCAL POINT	RUNNER
ANTIQUING	CLASSICAL	FULL	SCONCE
ARMOIRE	COMMODE	HARDWOOD	SECTIONAL
BEVELED	CONTEMPORARY	HISTORIC	SETTEE
BLINDS	CREDENZA	KING	SOFA
BOLSTER	DECOR	MODERN	TWIN
BROCADE	DESIGNER	OTTOMAN	VALANCE
CARPETING	ETAGERE	PAINT	VINTAGE
CHAIRS	FINIAL	QUEEN	WAINSCOTTING

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11				12		13			14				
15						16			17				
		18			19		20			21			
					22	23			24				
25	26	27	28	29									
30						31							
32							33	34	35	36	37		
					38	39	40		41	42			
					43				44				
				45	46								
47	48					49			50	51	52	53	54
55						56				57			58
59						60				61			
62						63				64			

CLUES ACROSS

- Unequaled
- ...fi (slang)
- Synthetic resin
- Chadic language Bura_
- Influenza-like illness
- Bucket
- European river
- Earn a perfect score
- Horizontal passage
- Barely sufficient
- Dekaliter
- Goo Goo Dolls hit
- Australian city
- Female servants
- Plumbing fixtures
- Tooth caregiver
- Book of Esther antagonist
- Say aloud
- Thyrotrophic hormone
- Absolute
- Untimely
- Area or neighborhood
- Juicy fruit
- Expresses distaste, disapproval

CLUES DOWN

- Barrels per day (abbr.)
- Body parts
- Invests in little enterprises
- Rock legend Turner
- Dug into
- Laughed
- Northern European nation
- San Diego ballplayer
- Eight
- Substitutes (abbr.)
- Moved swiftly on foot
- Compensated

- American rodents
- Swedish rock group
- Influenza-like illness
- Volume
- Begged
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Good friend
- Type of bread
- Tableland
- Volcano in the Philippines
- Speak ill of
- One who publishes
- Expression of bafflement
- Macaws
- Matchstick game
- We all have our own
- Divinatory
- Explosive
- Follows sigma
- Sea eagle
- Type of bread
- Bit used with a set of reins
- Time away from work
- Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- Lots on your plate (abbr.)
- Actor Brosnan
- It's part of packaging
- Towards the oral region
- Public Theater creator Joseph
- Ancient Syrian city
- Swiss river
- Mollusk
- A French abbot
- Hoagies
- Not present (slang)

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

September 6 to September 22

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **59 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

September 16

11:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1100 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Manor Way and issued a warning.

September 17

No incidents to report.

September 18

7:01 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

8:23 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1200 block of Magnolia Avenue.

9:03 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

9:16 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:52 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1200 block of Magnolia Avenue.

2:50 pm: Officer initiated a fraud investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:47 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Castille Lane.

5:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of North Main Street.

6:00 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of Willow Lane.

September 19

10:02 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of North Main Street.

10:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of California Street and South Main Street and issued a citation.

September 20

1:37 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:46 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject near the intersection of East Oak Street and Railroad Avenue.

9:41 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

Willits man arrested for psilocybin mushrooms after calling police

By Sgt. J. D'Orazio for MCSO

On September 18, 2024 at about 8:30 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a report of a male being held at gunpoint, by his girlfriend, in the 13000 block of Mountain House Road in Hopland.

Deputies arrived on scene and contacted the male who identified himself as Michael A. Giles, 41, of Willits. Giles told deputies while driving into Mendocino County, his girlfriend became paranoid and said they were being followed. Giles said his girlfriend shined a flashlight at him from behind, and he believed she was pointing a pistol at him.

Giles never actually saw a pistol, but feared for his safety and pulled over. Giles was able to walk away from his vehicle and contacted law enforcement for assistance.

While speaking with Giles, he gave deputies permission to look inside his converted school bus for the pistol. While looking for the firearm, deputies located a large quantity of psilocybin mushrooms packaged in mylar bags. Deputies also located unpackaged psilocybin mushrooms, scales, and additional unused mylar bags.



Above: MCSO deputies reported seizing about 700 grams (1.54 pounds) of psilocybin mushrooms from the van driven by Michael A. Giles of Willits.

In total, deputies seized about 700 grams (1.54 pounds) of psilocybin mushrooms.

At the conclusion of their investigation, deputies determined there was no pistol nor was a pistol ever pointed at Giles.

Giles was ultimately arrested for the charges of 11378 H&S (Possession of a Controlled Substance for Sales) and 11379(a) H&S (Transportation of a Controlled Substance for Sales).

Giles was ultimately transported to the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$100,000 bail. According to the Mendocino County Booking Log, Giles bailed out of jail at 12:59 pm on September 20, 2024.



Above, from left: Pine Mountain Firewise Vice President Lauren Robertson and volunteer Chris Koskinen, with the new remote-controlled mower. The mountaintop view from Tom Varney's Pine Mountain property, where the fire break cleanup was being done. A crew member utilizes a wench on the Bandit Chipper to pull down a large hanging branch. At left: Property owner Tom Varney, trims the manzanita to clear the firebreak left by CAL FIRE. Below: The Defensible Space Crew came to work with chainsaws and a lot of experience.



Pine Mountain Workday

Volunteer crews work side by side to clean and trim a firebreak created during 2017 fire

As long as humans choose to live in areas where the forces of nature present particular challenges such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and fires, they will be required to come up with methods for mitigating risk, while at the same time, preserving the inherent beauty and purity of the area.

In this section of California, as with many others, the main concern is

fire. Learning to live with the risk, as the inhabitants simultaneously devise ways to create an environment in which nature and man can coexist, is a challenge that needs to be fulfilled.

"Today is a Pine Mountain Firewise Community workday," explained Lauren Robertson, vice-president of the Pine Mountain Firewise/Firesafe Communities.

"We received a grant from the Mendocino County Firesafe Council to do workdays, so we came up and we picked out an area. During the 2017 fire (Redwood Complex), CAL FIRE contractors with bulldozers came up here, and they plowed a break on Tom Varney's property down to Tomki Road. We came back after the evacuation was over, and Tom saw this big swath with just trees pushed aside into gigantic piles, a huge mess.

"A shaded fuel break has lots of definitions but basically what the fire services use them for is to have a safe place to drop personnel in," Robertson

continued. "There's controversy because embers just fly across them. The idea with the shaded fuel break is that you thin, rather than strip out everything. If you strip out everything like they do with emergency fuel breaks, everything just grows back immediately. From our perspective, that is more dangerous because it provides ladder fuel. The grass is ladder fuel, especially if it's at the side of roads."

With this in mind, members of the Pine Mountain Firewise, the Mendocino County Firesafe Council, the GrizzlyCorps Fellowship, and others joined together on a Friday morning to clean and trim the firebreak at Tom Varney's property. Varney, who has lived in this idyllic setting atop the mountain for many, many years, has been working on keeping the area and the firebreak trimmed and usable which is a constant struggle.

Nature will always find a way to renew itself, and new growth in this situation is a hazard to those who live there as it provides a way for a fire to begin and ignite larger fuel. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that Pine Mountain is a one-way in or out community with only sketchy alternate access.

Daniel Rockey, a senior member of the Defensible Space Crew which works with the Mendocino County Firesafe Council, is a Pomo tribal member who has been

Read the rest of **Workday** Over on page 9



Above, left: A member of the Defensible Space Crew takes a moment to rest and survey the work that is being done.

Above, right: A member of the Defensible Space Crew cuts down one of the smaller diameter trees.

At left: Angie Herman of the Pine Mountain Firesafe Council hauls the cut limbs up to the roadside piles to be chipped.

At left, below: The remote-controlled RC Mower can be used to trim great swaths of mountainside growth.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

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

Thursday, September 26

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, September 26, 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.

Willits Gem & Mineral Society Meeting: Join the Willits Gem & Mineral Society for a free meeting, every 4th Thursday. Come talk rock with fellow rockhounds, lapidary artists, silversmiths, sculptors, mineral collectors, and crystal enthusiasts. Bring show and tell. This month: Thursday, September 26, 7 to 8:30 pm, with Potluck, Planning of Gem Show, Field Trips, and other future events. Willits Grange, 291 School Street.

Willits Gem & Mineral Society

9/26
7pm-8:30pm
@ The Willits Grange 291 School St.

Potluck
Planning of Gem Show, Field Trips and Other Future Events

COME TALK ROCK WITH FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS, LAPIDARY ARTISTS, SILVERSMITHS, SCULPTORS, MINERAL COLLECTORS & CRYSTAL ENTHUSIASTS! BRING SHOW 'N' TELL

Monthly Meeting- Every 4th Thursday

What's Happening Around Town

Funkacillin at Shanachie: Celebrate Virgos before it's too late, at Funkacillin's Delinquent Virgo Party, with a mix of originals and old school funk, rock and soul ... that will have you flashin' back to the days of paisley prints and platform shoes." Friday, September 27 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, September 28
Larry Todd Retrospective at WCT: The October show at Willits Center for the Arts is a retrospective featuring the work of legendary cartoonist, Larry Todd, widely known for his vivid imagination and cutting-edge style, who has been a significant figure in the world of underground comics since the 1960s.

The exhibition opens with a Meet the Artist Reception on Saturday, September 28, from 6 to 9 pm and will run through October 20. WCA galleries are open Friday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm, at 71 East Commercial Street, and admission is free.

Blue Luke at Shanachie: "Blue Luke" Andrews is a prodigy guitarist, born and raised in Dos Rios, Mendocino County: "Imagine a band that takes the soul of the blues, the groove of the funk, the grit of rock & roll and the rich harmonies of jazz to create exactly what you've always wanted to hear." Saturday, September 28 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, September 29

3rd Trail Trek Celebration of Life: Same day Trail Trek registration and T-shirt orders starting at 8 am at Brooktrails Par Course on Sunday, September 29. Online registration at rnsignup.com (search Trail Trek 2024). 9 am start for a hike, walk, or run during Par Course laps, 5k or 1/2 marathon through the forest. Bring your bikes and helmets for a ride around the NEW loop adjacent to the Par Course once all of the Trekkers have gone through. Mtn Bike SAL and NICA sign-up also available. Contact Crystal with any questions: 916-764-1746

Tuesday, October 1

Registration for Willits Cub Scout Pack 42: Willits Cub Scouts, sponsored by the Willits Lions Club, are registering new Cub Scouts. Cub Scouts are both boys and girls in kindergarten through fifth grade. This registration of both Scouts and adult Scout leaders will take place at the Willits Scout Hall which is the big brown building at the back of Recreation Grove. This registration will take place at 5:30 pm, Tuesday, October 1. Questions: Contact Lou Meier at 707 354 0696.

Friday, September 27

Book Lovers Discussion Group at the Library: This group meets monthly to discuss books, authors and genres. Friday, September 27, 12 to 1 pm. Come talk about why you love books! All adults welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: wendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Benefit Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner: Willits Senior Center and the Willits Lions Club present a fundraising Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner to benefit the Senior Center. Friday, September 27 from 5 to 6:30 pm at the center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pre-Sale tickets only: \$40 for dinner for 2: 1/2 Barbecued Chicken; Cole Slaw; Calico Beans, Rolls, and Brownies. Purchase tickets at the senior center or online; visit their website for more info www.willitsseiorcenter.com. Delivery options in the Willits area, too. Call the Senior Center at 707-459-6826 with any questions.

Willits Senior Center & The Willits Lions Present:

Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner

A Benefit for the Senior Center

Friday, September 27, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Willits Senior Center 1501 Baechtel Road Willits, CA

Pre-Sale Tickets Only (Price \$40.00/dinner for 2)

- 1/2 Barbecued Chicken
- 1 Cole Slaw
- 1 Calico Beans, Rolls, & Brownies

Purchase Tickets at Willits Senior Center

their website for more info www.willitsseiorcenter.com. Delivery options in the Willits area, too. Call the Senior Center at 707-459-6826 with any questions.

Brooks Forsyth at Shanachie: An American musician and songwriter from Boone, North Carolina. Forsyth's musical style includes flatpicking and finger-picking, and encompasses a variety of genres, particularly within Americana: folk, country blues, bluegrass, and roots-rock; along with components of jazz and contemporary rock. Friday, September 27 at 5 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

WHS Football Homecoming: Willits High School Football plays the Homecoming games against Fort Bragg High School on Friday, September 27. JV at 5 pm; varsity at 7 pm. WHS Maize Field, 299 North Main Street.

FOOTBALL AND CHEER

WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL VS. FORT BRAGG HIGH SCHOOL

WOLVERINES vs. TIMBERWOLVES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH JV 5:00PM VARS 7:00PM

MAIZE FIELD - WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

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

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

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

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.wendolibrary.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.**

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

Story Time: Friday mornings each week, 10:30 to 11 am. 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."

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!

Proudly sponsoring the Willits Weekly calendar section

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Dragonics

Wednesday, October 2

Twining Time at Brickhouse: John Wagenet and Anita Wagenet (Blu) perform on Wednesday, October 2 (and the first Wednesday of every month), at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street, from 12 to 2 pm. Folk/Country/Mountain Americana Roots plus new and old favorites as well as original music, with 2 part polished vocal harmonies, acoustic guitar and keyboard. <https://twiningtime.weebly.com>

WHS Cross Country Meet at Brooktrails: Willits High School Cross Country hosts Clearlake, Cloverdale, Fort Bragg, Kelseyville, Lower Lake, Middletown and St. Helena, at a NCL-1 meet on Wednesday, October 2 at Brooktrails Par Course, starting at 3:30 pm.

Willits Song Circle at Methodist Church: The first-Wednesday-of-the-month Willits Song Circle is for people who like to sing together. Open to all. Wednesday, October 2, 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Methodist Church, School and Pine streets. "We sing all kinds of songs: rounds, popular songs, folk songs, simple part songs - anything that can be learned easily. Song leaders will be Madge Strong, Fran Gardner and Theresa Lofty Juell, but anyone can lead or request a song. Please send the lyrics for songs you request to its2fran@aol.com in advance so we can print up copies. Instruments welcome. Free; donations accepted for the use of the hall. More info: mstrong827@outlook.com or its2fran@aol.com.

Thursday, October 3

Bereavement Support Group: offered by Avenues to Wellness, starting Thursday, October 3. This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the symptoms of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward. Starts Thursday, October 3, 2 to 4 pm. Free-of-charge; space is limited. Please call Suzanne to register at: 707-456-9676. Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, October 3, 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.

WHS Soccer: Willits High School plays Girls and Boys Soccer games against Clearlake on Thursday, October 3. Girls at 5 pm; boys at 6:45 pm. WHS Maize Field, 299 North Main Street.

Friday, October 4

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." Jah Work Presents; Friday, October 4, 8 to 11 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

JAH WORK PRESENTS

Big Sticky Mess

October 3
October 4

3:30-5:00 PM
5:00-7:00 PM

STANACHIE PUB, WILLITS

FUNKY LIVE MUSIC

Saturday, October 5

Brooktrails Firefighters Association Fall Flea Market: Support your Brooktrails Volunteer Firefighters at the annual Fall Flea Market, set for Saturday, October 5, from 8 am to 1 pm at the Brooktrails Fire Station, 24860 Birch Street. Vendor spaces are \$20 each, if they're not sold out. More info: 707-459-4441

2nd annual Friends of the Museum Fall Fest: Celebrate our Mendocino County Museum at the 2nd Annual Friends Fall Fest, Saturday, October 5, 4 to 6 pm, with food, live music by 2 Much Fun, and friends, 400 East Commercial Street. Admission is free for current members of Friends of the Museum; memberships start at \$20; join online <https://mendocinocountymuseumfriends.org/> or at the door. "Your membership supports the Museum's efforts in preserving and sharing Mendocino County history with our community."

"High Fashion" at WCT: an absurdly sublime performance art improv fashion show created by Pearl Marill in collaboration with local talent, takes place at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, October 5 at 6:30 pm. Models, actors, dancers, singers, and comedians performing in the show will include Bavy Ducharme, Deanne California a.k.a. Bunny, DJ Franco, DJ Bartender Boi, Faith Atenanu, Gurr, Jeshboogie and Halesbailes, Matrix, Pearl Marill, and Prana. 18+. Tickets are \$20 and available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org.

WCT PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

HIGH FASHION

AN ABSURDLY SUBLINE PERFORMANCE ART IMPROV FASHION SHOW

Sunday, October 6

Local Candidates Forum: A Candidates Forum for three local contested races is set for Sunday, October 6, at 4 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Candidates for Willits City Council (5 candidates for 3 seats: Matthew Alaniz, Thomas Allman, Gerardo Gonzalez, Robin Leler, and write-in Saprina Rodriguez), to start shortly after 4 pm. Also, District #3 rep to the Mendocino County Board of Education, with 2 candidates, Michelle Hutchins

WCA Halloween Gala, October 19

Willits Center for the Arts will kick off the Halloween season with its 2024 Halloween Gala, "an eerie evening for everyone over 21," on Saturday, October 19 from 7 to 11 pm. Rock out with the Steven Bates Band, win a prize with your spooky costume, enjoy yummy bar bites and splendid libations! Support your Art Center Fundraiser.

Tickets to benefit the Art Center are \$30/each or 2 for \$50. For more info or to buy tickets online, visit <https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org> and click the "Buy tickets" button under the Gala info.

CLEAN UP WILLITS!

9AM-12, SEPT 28, MEET AT CITY HALL

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THE WILD ROBOT

(PG) 1 hr 42 mins

Fri.: 5:15 & 7:45

Sat.-Sun.: 2:45, 5:15 & 7:45

Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15, 6:45

(Closed Tuesday)

Movie Times for Sept. 27 thru Oct. 3

TRANSFORMERS ONE

(PG) 1 hr 44 mins

Fri.: 5:00 & 7:30

Sat.-Sun.: 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30

Mon.-Sun.: 4:00 & 6:30

(Closed Tuesday)

Tightwad Titles for Monday and Wednesday are in RED. All tickets at just \$6!

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Mon.-Thurs.: 4:30, 7:00

(Closed Tuesday)

VOTE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 6th, 4-6 PM

CANDIDATES FORUM

FOR THE NOVEMBER 5TH ELECTION

LITTLE LAKE GRANGE, 291 SCHOOL ST., WILLITS

AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM - <https://tinyurl.com/WillitsCandidatesForum>

4:00 PM - WILLITS CITY COUNCIL - 5 Candidates for 3 seats: Matthew Alaniz, Thomas Allman, Gerardo Gonzalez, Robin Leler, Saprina Rodriguez

5:00PM - DISTRICT #3 CO. BOARD OF EDUCATION - 2 Candidates for 1 seat: Michelle Hutchins and David R. Strock

5:20PM - WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD - 3 Candidates for 2 seats: April Lamprich, David Likker, Dianne M. McNeal

There will be time for audience questions (submitted in writing)

Tables of the back will offer information on other matters on the ballot

Forum sponsored by League of Women Voters of Mendocino, Little Lake Grange, Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, WELL (Willits Economic Localization), and Willits Chamber of Commerce

For more info: judiberdysz@yahoo.com or mstrong827@outlook.com

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Transformers One'

The Story: Feature-length action/science fiction cartoon. It is the origin saga of a heroic band of shape-shifting robots who eventually became known as The Transformers. Long ago on the planet Cybertron, two metallic men, Orion Pax and D-16, are worker robots in the mines below the capital city.

They live a life of drudgery as slaves to a totalitarian government, but they have courage and a sense of Destiny. They challenge their lowly state in the all-controlling bureaucracy. They rebel and risk their very existence on a Hero's Journey. They endure tests of fire and flame. They learn the secret history of a Great Betrayal. They witness a monstrous Behemoth of terrifying Evil. And they achieve their true Destiny. We learn that ultimately these two Nobodies will become the legendary Optimus Prime and Megatron.

I kinda loved the movie. Along with the noisy and sometimes chaotic action sequences, there are some clever and quite funny moments. Honestly, I found this animated flick to be an affecting tale of courage.

My Thoughts: I was not aware of Transformers until long after it ceased to be a noisy TV melodrama made to distract children. When this new flick was released, my expectations were low - no, make that quite low. But despite my age and snotty misgivings, I really had a great time watching this flick.

The bad guys were truly bad. The heroes persevered against enormous odds and quite frightening Evil. Plus: there's actual character development!

Parents: This flick makes positive moral choices. Courage is rewarded. The brave metal Dudes and brave metal Gals triumph in an era of Darkness.

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

Dan Essman
Columnist

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If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
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SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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



Above, from left: Pearl Marill adds some bright color to the gala as she shows off her hooping moves. Brenda Moss, who supplies mini pies for all of the Willits Community Theatre productions, attends the gala with co-worker Jackie Risch. Annie and Don Samson receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from Mike A'Dair as Amythyst Romero, WCT managing director, looks on.

At right: The first year of the new WCT Gala is a sold-out event. At far right: The director of "Steel Magnolias," Kelly Kesey, attends with her husband, Rod Grainger, an actor and director.

Below: Actress Sonja Burgel looks over the silent-auction items.

At bottom, left: Sharon Garner drove all the way from Elk to entertain the attendees along with her accompanying trio of musicians. Below, right: Mendocino Spirits provided this bottle along with a tour of their distillery for six people as a silent auction item.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Bereavement Support Group

This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the symptoms of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward.

Beginning Thursday October 3
 Time: 2-4pm
 To register call:
 Suzanne Piccetti-Johnson (707) 456-9676

FREE OF CHARGE **Space is Limited**

Susana Wilson and Suzanne Piccetti-Johnson
 Group Facilitators



WCT Gala

Live music, dinner and drinks, and a silent auction at Willits Community Theatre fundraiser

Although the Willits Community Theatre has produced gala evenings in the past, this was the first put on by the theater's new management team that has been trying new approaches and creating successful runs of both well-known and more obscure plays. Managing Director Amythyst Romero put a lot of time and effort into the evening, along with a gala committee and several volunteers.

"This gala is called Hearts for the Arts. It is the first of an annual celebration that we want to have to raise funds for the Willits Community Theatre," explained Romero. "We're having an on-site barbecue of tri-tip, free beer and wine from Bonterra and Northspur. It's being held at a private residence this year, next to a creek. We're going to have live music.

"I'm really excited about the support we've gotten," Romero said. "It's already successful thanks to our sponsors. We have a really nice silent auction set up, which should bring in some extra revenue. This is basically our only fundraiser for the year, so it's crucial that it is a success.

"I'm very excited about our guest list. We have a really great group of people. We sold out this year. We have 80 seats. I was hoping to be able to sell 60 seats. I actually ended up with a waiting list of about a dozen people who still wanted to come in. It's been really, really successful. I'm really excited for next year. We've already set the date for that one, September 21, 2025."

The festivities began with the current play, "Steel Magnolias," to which all of the gala ticket holders were invited. The play has been a success, critically, artistically and financially, with several great reviews, including one by frequent WCT director Jim Williams.

"This play is as perfect as I thought it would be. Community theater at its absolute best! It's a master-class in acting, a

perfect example of superb, thoughtful, smart directing; a showcase in how all the technical and artistic elements of a show complement and enhance the entire production in the most subtle, unobtrusive ways. It is powerful, beautiful and important."

After attending the play, the attendees walked over to the backyard of Steve Marston and Fawn Basset, who generously donated the use of their yard. From 5 to 6 pm, the attendees could meet, have drinks and appetizers, and just socialize.

Michael Ducharme, of the board of directors, gave the opening greetings and set up the evening with an explanation of the need for funding. A Lifetime Achievement Award was given by Mike A'Dair to Don and Annie Samson, for their years of support, writing and directing.

A buffet-style dinner followed at 6:30 pm, during which Sharon Garner and her trio of very proficient musicians sang some recognizable standard jazz and blues tunes. Catering was by Scoops Deli and Catering, who brought tri-tip, grilled on site, and a Chili Relleno casserole, with plenty of hors d'oeuvres, and wine and beer donated by Bonterra Winery and Northspur Brewing Co.

An after-dinner surprise treat was provided by the trio of Jeff Shipp, Kevin Moore, and Mike A'Dair, who sang the theme song from "Gilligan's Island" and a rousing rendition of the "Snap, Crackle, Pop" Rice Krispies commercial, much to the delight of the crowd.

During all of the proceedings, two silent-auction tables gave the attendees a chance to bid on artwork, and some amazing packages of spa days, Mendocino Distillery tours, gift certificates from The Whistle Stop and Toy Depot, and much more.

The generous sponsors of the event included Reza and Deb Ghannadan who were the major event sponsors. Table sponsors were the Duchames, Willits Rotary, and the Kesey Family. The flowers on the tables were from Wil Gonzalez of Willits Flowers and the Duchames. Jane Camp

Read the rest of **Gala** Over on page 9

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The rest of **Harvest** From page 3

had handmade jewelry for purchase.

The Sherwood Valley Casino was offering a 50-50 raffle with a drawing to be held September 28, and their Feeding Family Buy-Ins to raise money for the Food Bank Thanksgiving Dinner. A new local author, M.J. Flint, was fronting her first book of a series of 12, "Awakening of Queens and Phantoms." Cody of Ironheart Workshop Leatherworks was creating a custom-ordered leather dog collar.

Charissa Franklin brought her Mermaizing Scents soaps in many shapes, colors and scents. Jessica Koehler of the Mane House Salon created "permanent jewelry," mainly delicate-looking but sturdy bracelets which will stay on a wrist as long as the wearer desires.

Several eateries offered meals in the Kids Corner parking lot. Karkar's Deli (of Brooktrails), Hataki Farms Kitchen, La Casona Cielo, Fairall's Farms, Turtle Island Tacos, and Craft House Baking kept the attendees well fed.

The Willits Gem and Mineral Club displayed some of their gems. The Enchanted Toy Shoppe and Mazahar showed their goods. David Pollin of Amazing Collectibles offered miniature vehicles and handmade crafts and books. The Flying Dog Pizza parking lot was filled with the spirited music of Robin Suzanne and Soul Circus.

These were just a few of the wide-ranging array of vendors and informational booths available for people to peruse. In a time of such divisiveness in the country, it was good to see people put their differences aside, ignore politics, and just have fun in a pro-community setting.

The rest of **Workday** From page 5

working with his crew for four years, and who loves working outdoors.

"It's a good place to work. It's great to be outdoors," he said. "This is my office. Mountains, hilltops, valleys, rivers. We even work on the coast. We're all over Mendocino, from Leggett down to Yorkville and almost Cloverdale, to the coast, Covelo, all over."

Angie Herman of the Pine Mountain Firewise/Firesafe Communities, said: "We have to have events like this, educational events. It's just a step above a firesafe council. It's quite a bit of work to get there. There are just four firewise councils in Mendocino County. A lot of it is education in getting the community together. We do free chipping days through the Mendocino Firesafe Council who provides the chipper."

Scott Cratty, executive director of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, gave a short talk prior to the day's work to familiarize the volunteers and crews with the task and the plan for the morning.

"We exist to help people learn how to survive and thrive in a wildfire-prone environment," Cratty said. "Fire is inevitable. It is part of this environment. It is supposed to happen here. Earthquakes are a part of our environment, but we learn to adapt to them, building better buildings, so most survive now.

"People learn to build on stilts where it floods," Cratty continued. "We've adapted to all kinds of disasters and for some reason, it has taken us to about now to adapt to wildfires. Instead of trying to fight every fire, we need to realize that fire is going to happen, and we need to change how we build and landscape.

"The trick with wildfires," he said, "is that it is much more difficult than those other things because you not only need to change the way you build but also the way you landscape around the buildings. And you need to do it every year, because things grow back. We hope we're helping people learn to adapt their lifestyles to where they live so we can successfully coexist with fire."

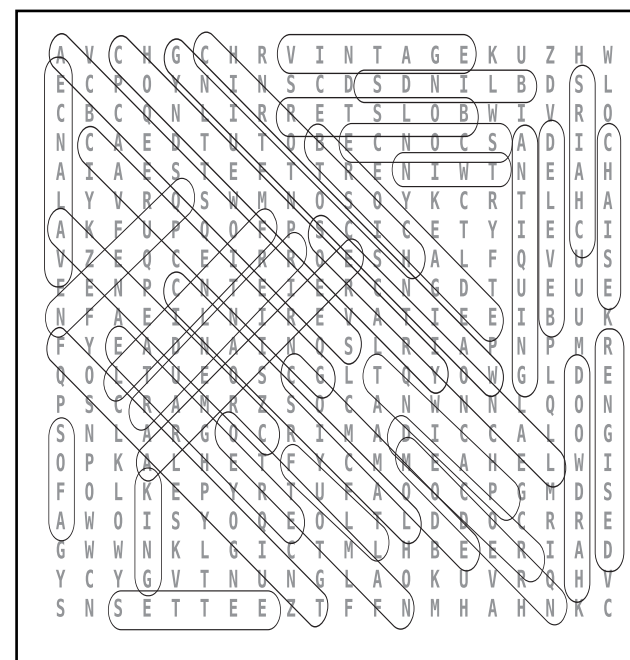
Recently, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council purchased an \$84,000 remote-controlled mower that will climb up and down extreme slopes and mitigate great swaths of dry growth which can fuel fires. The RC Mower has large rubber tracks and a 60" width. The remote control has a screen so the operator can see what is being mowed even if they can't see the machine. The mower was demonstrated on a neighbor's field to eliminate the prospective fuel.

Throughout the day, the crews, armed with chain saws, weed wrenches, the RC Mower, and a rather large chipper worked diligently to mitigate the fuel, cutting manzanita and smaller trees, pulling up new trees before they can repopulate the side of the break, and generally trimming anything that could be a hazard in the future.

Chai, Varney's dog, spent the day running up and down the hills, chasing his ball and trying to stay out of the way.

For more information, visit the Mendocino County Firesafe Council website at <https://firesafemendocino.org/>

Or visit Pine Mountain Firewise/Firewise Communities at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1797444903620673/>



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- Account Specialist III**
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- Deputy Assistant I**
\$61,588 - \$74,838
- Deputy Director - Social Services (Family and Children's Services)**
\$120,411 - \$146,390
- Deputy Probation Officer I & II**
\$55,577 - \$74,505
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner**
\$84,323 - \$102,460
- Mental Health Clinician I/II**
\$62,337 - \$87,630
- Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist**
\$58,843 - \$71,510
- Network Systems Analyst I/II**
\$77,064 - \$98,363
- Nutritionist**
\$66,019 - \$80,267
- Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D**
\$51,729 - \$97,448
- Supervising Health Program Coordinator**
\$75,920 - \$92,268
- Supervising Public Health Nurse**
\$113,609 - \$138,091
- Youth Corrections Officer**
\$55,348 - \$67,267

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

The rest of **Gala** From page 8

sponsored the music. Additional sponsorship came from Long Valley Health Clinic, Selzer Realty, and RE/MAX Gold. Laurie B's Rocks created a painted rock for each of the attendees to take home as a party favor.

One of the show stoppers of the evening was young Desa Holt (who played Wednesday in the recent Gateway to the Stage production of "The Addams Family Musical") who sang Aretha Franklin's "Think."

By the end of the evening, the theater benefitted by approximately \$12,000 through the ticket sales, donations, and silent auction.

"It was a beautiful evening, a beautiful crowd, an awesome venue for the event. There was a lot of generosity for the night. We definitely needed that, so much appreciation to our sponsors and our donors. I'm looking forward to next year's event on September 21, location to be determined," said Romero.

For more information, visit the Willits Community Theatre Facebook page or www.wctperformingartscenter.org/, or call 707-216-1826. The theater is located at 37 West Van Lane, behind Shanachie Pub.

Below: Jeff Shipp, Kevin Moore and Mike A'Dair entertain with some stirring renditions of old commercials and the theme song from "Gilligan's Island."

Photo by Mathew Caine



CLASSIFIEDS

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

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 1 true cord of 16 inch firewood. Fir starting at \$250 plus delivery. Call Dave at 707-459-2868.

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 Propane Fireplace-Regency Classic C34-LP10. Best Offer! Almost new, barely used with 10-foot flue, remote control. For photos and details write to: GoodStuffGoingFast@yahoo.com

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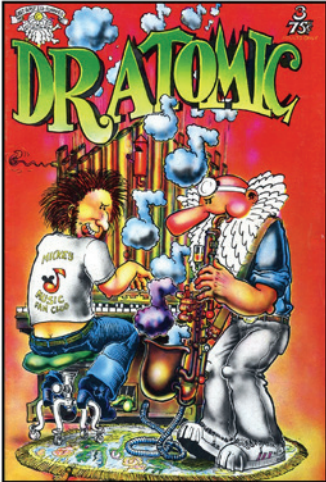
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Willits Weekly can run legal notices including fictitious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and more.

Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@gmail.com

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WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS Presents



DR. ATOMIC

A Retrospect of Larry Todd
Opening September 28 6-9 PM.
through October 20

71 East Commercial St. Next to the Noyo Theater
Willits, CA 95490
Open weekends Friday-Sunday 11 AM - 5 PM
willitscenterforthearts.org

'A Retrospect of Larry Todd' at WCA, opens September 28

Submitted by WCA

The Willits Center for the Arts is thrilled to announce an exciting upcoming retrospective featuring the work of the legendary cartoonist, Larry Todd. The exhibition, which opens September 28 and runs through October 20, will showcase a selection of Todd's dynamic and thought-provoking works that have captivated audiences for decades.

Larry Todd, widely known for his vivid imagination and cutting-edge style, has been a significant figure in the world of underground comics since the 1960s. Best known for his collaborations with Philip K. Dick and his work on the popular "Dr. Atomic" series, Todd's art blends science fiction, satire, and socio-political commentary. His unique approach to storytelling has earned him a devoted following among both comic book enthusiasts and art lovers alike.

The exhibition at the Willits Center for the Arts will offer a rare opportunity to explore Todd's career from its beginnings to the present day. Attendees will see a comprehensive collection of his iconic works, ranging from early underground comics to more recent projects. Through his use of vibrant colors, detailed line work, and innovative narratives, Todd's illustrations invite audiences to reflect on technology, the environment, and the human experience.

"We are honored to host Larry Todd and celebrate his contribution to the world of comics and visual storytelling," said Gary Martin, curator for the Willits Center for the Arts. "Todd's work is not only artistically compelling, but it also offers a powerful commentary on the cultural and political issues that have shaped our society over the last 50 years."

In addition to the exhibition, Larry Todd will be present for an opening reception on Saturday, September 28, from 6 to 9 pm, where visitors will have the chance to meet the artist and discuss his career, inspirations, and artistic process.

The Willits Center for the Arts invites the public to join in celebrating the creative genius of Larry Todd. This is an event not to be missed for anyone interested in the intersection of art, comics, and social commentary.

Admission to the exhibition, 71 East Commercial Street, is free, and donations to the Willits Center for the Arts are appreciated. Galleries are open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am - 5 pm.

For more information, please visit willitscenterforthearts.org or email Gary Martin at gtm1950@gmail.com

'High Fashion' performance art at WCT, October 5

Submitted by Willits Community Theatre

"High Fashion," an absurdly sublime performance art fashion show created by Pearl Marill in collaboration with local talent, will take place at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, October 5 at 6:30 pm.

What happens when you throw clothing from a garage on multiple performers, tell them to be dramatic, and invite an audience?

Models, actors, dancers, singers, and comedians performing in the show will include Bavy Ducharme, Deanne California a.k.a. Bunny, DJ Franco, DJ Bartender Boi, Faith Atenanu, Gurrri, Jeshboogie and Halesbailes, Matrix, Pearl Marill, and Prana.

Come and watch. For ages 18 and older. Tickets are \$20 and available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org.

EmPOWERing Access provides library study booths, solar chargers, and more

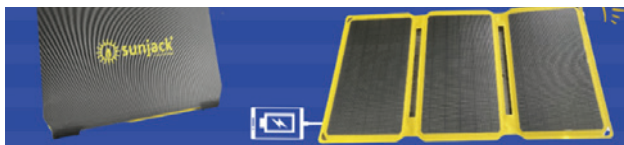
Submitted by Mendocino County Library

Mendocino County Library was selected to receive an EmPOWERing Access project award from the California State Library. The project encouraged library users to connect with their community and provided Californians new ways to access information at libraries and learn new skills. The project provided study booths, portable solar chargers, and technology repair toolkits.

Three branches, Ukiah Library, Willits Library, and Coast Community Library have been provided with ADA study booths equipped with lighting, ventilation, electrical outlets, adjustable desktops, and installation provided. The study booths meet the needs of residents who have requested a place for small study sessions, conducting online interviews and meetings, test taking, and learning job skills. To reserve a study booth, please contact your local library branch.

The EmPOWERing Access program also provided Mendocino County Library with 50 solar chargers available for check out with a library card at every branch. These can be used for charging phones and other devices while on the road or in the country away from power outlets. Three iFixit Toolkits were also provided for the branches to have tech events.

EmPOWERing Access was a partnership between the California State Library and the Southern California Library Cooperative. For more information, please view www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Mendocino County Library at 234-2873.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU THROW CLOTHING FROM A GARAGE ON MULTIPLE PERFORMERS, TELL THEM TO BE DRAMATIC, AND INVITE AN AUDIENCE IN MENDOCINO COUNTY TO COME AND WATCH??

WILLITS COMMUNITY THEATRE
Saturday October 5th
ONE NIGHT ONLY!
6:30-9:30pm
18+ only

We HIGHLY recommend bringing CASH to throw on the models or for clothing purchase opportunities

HIGH FASHION

AN ABSURDLY SUBLIME PERFORMANCE ART FASHION SHOW

EmPOWERing Access proporciona cabinas con cargadores solares y kits de tecnología

La biblioteca del condado de Mendocino fue seleccionada para recibir un EmPOWERing Access premio al proyecto de la Biblioteca Estatal de California. El proyecto alentó a los usuarios de la biblioteca a conectarse con su comunidad y brindó a los californianos nuevas formas de acceder a la información en las bibliotecas y aprender nuevas habilidades. El proyecto proporcionó cabinas de estudio, cargadores solares portátiles y kits de herramientas de reparación tecnológica.

Tres sucursales, la biblioteca Ukiah, la biblioteca Willits y la biblioteca Coast Community, recibieron cabinas de estudio ADA equipadas con iluminación, ventilación, enchufes eléctricos, escritorios ajustables y se proporcionó instalación. Las cabinas de estudio satisfacen las necesidades de los residentes que han solicitado un lugar para pequeñas sesiones de estudio, realización de entrevistas y reuniones en línea, realización de exámenes y aprendizaje de habilidades laborales. Para reservar una cabina de estudio, comuníquese con la sucursal de su biblioteca local.

El programa de EmPOWERing Access también proporcionó a la biblioteca del condado de Mendocino cincuenta cargadores solares disponibles para recoger con una tarjeta de biblioteca en cada sucursal. Se pueden utilizar para cargar teléfonos y otros dispositivos mientras se viaja o en el campo, lejos de tomas de corriente. También se proporcionaron tres kits de herramientas iFixit para que las sucursales realicen eventos tecnológicos.

EmPOWERing Access fue una asociación entre la Biblioteca Estatal de California y la Cooperativa de Bibliotecas del Sur de California. Para más información, consulte www.mendolibrary.org o póngase en contacto con la biblioteca en 707-234-2873.

The rest of PG&E From page 2

Income-eligible assistance programs

The California Alternate Rates for Energy program provides a monthly discount of 20% or more on gas and electricity bills <https://www.pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/financial-assistance/california-alternate-rates-for-energy-program.html>

Family Electric Rate Assistance provides a monthly discount of 18% on electricity for households of three or more people. <https://www.pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/financial-assistance/family-electric-rate-assistance-program-fera.html>

Energy Savings Assistance provides energy-savings improvements at no charge. <https://www.pge.com/en/save-energy-and-money/energy-saving-programs/energy-savings-assistance-program.html>

Low Income Energy Assistance Program is a federally funded assistance program overseen by the state that offers a one-time payment up to \$1,000 on past-due bills to help low-income households pay for heating or cooling in their homes. <https://www.pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/financial-assistance/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program.html>

Other programs include Medical Baseline, which offers a lower monthly rate for customers with certain medical conditions. <https://www.pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/financial-assistance/medical-baseline-program.html>

For more ways to manage your monthly bills and prepare your home for cooler temperatures visit <https://www.pge.com/en/save-energy-and-money/energy-usage-and-tips/residential-energy-savings-tips/winter-energy-savings-tips.html>

The rest of School From page 1

Superintendent Beebe gave an informational annual update on the district, saying there are approximately 40-45 potentially more students enrolled in the district for this school year. More accurate information will be presented after the census in the second week of October.

After the short update, Willits Teachers Association President Brian Bowles was welcomed to the podium for comments and updates. President Bowles shared that formula negotiations have begun and are currently underway, also applauding the new counselor at Blosser Lane Elementary School, Abby Stevens.

Bowles reported that Stevens has implemented a new curriculum that students receive well and has paired children's books with each lesson, supplying teachers of all grades with their own set of books for the classroom.

Stevens has also made badges and plastic lanyards for the staff at Blosser Lane, placing common problem-solving language on the lanyards to be used and taught to students for issues like playground conflict or interaction that goes wrong in the classroom, aiding students in adding to their toolbox of communication skills.

She has also created skill groups that refer students to group work to develop skills they need to work on, including "The Calm Club." This club allows students to have positive reinforcement instead of early morning recess.

Stevens is also making herself available to students by creating one-on-one conflict-resolution meetings, morning and end-of-day check-ins with some students, and offering parents the option to contact her if their child needs extra support at school. "I'm really excited that the program is off the ground," Bowles said, "and the amount of work has been an incredible amount over the summer."

The WTA also has more in the works, starting a Mentor Reading Program championed by Mr. Lewis and backed by the superintendent and board trustees. The program would bring Willits High School students to Brookside Elementary on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to help mentor, teach, and encourage younger students to read. "Young kids are more motivated to read because of their older peers," Bowles said, with the program aiming to close the district's reading gap.

Another issue that people expressed concerns about during the meeting was a potential new cellphone policy. Currently, the board is developing a new cellphone policy, but has decided to hold off on implementing any new policy until the state has released the policy "baselines."

Superintendent Beebe said he was "fairly certain that the state's going to roll their plan out just when LA Unified rolls theirs out." Until then, it isn't likely a new policy will be enforced. Currently, the WUSD policy allows cell phones on campus, allowing students to use them outside the classroom, like during passing periods.

However, the discussion continues to lean toward banning cell phones altogether. WUSD board trustees and Superintendent Beebe have watched other schools implement a no-cellphone policy, however, and the results have not been as hoped.

The district is aware that there will be pushback against the policy, and it aims to get student and parent buy-in by educating families on the adverse side effects of cellphone usage in classes and at school sites. Superintendent Beebe has acknowledged that students want to be on their phones and can be smart about how they use their phones in school, but the consequences of their actions can be detrimental to their mental health and hurt their education.

Willits, what do you think about cell phones in schools? Take our survey here, or click the QR code, above: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctc9TISCrSawWFC13DZGQbKx3_UjMG332GA26ZLQHvqj45CgA/viewform

The rest of Housing From page 2

many tribal communities. Native Americans are disproportionately represented among the state's homeless population, which is rooted in historic racism, long-term underinvestment, and lack of funding for eligible housing," said Pro Tem McGuire.

"To truly fix this crisis, we've worked in close partnership with California tribal leaders and organizations to end this injustice by passing the Tribal Housing Act. This measure will advance desperately needed dedicated affordable housing funding that meets the unique needs of tribal communities. I appreciate Governor Newsom's support for this effort, and signing this critical legislation into law."

Despite the clear need, the overwhelming majority of tribes in California have been unable to access existing state affordable housing funds. Pre-existing funds are often too restrictive for tribes to meet the threshold and compliance requirements, and many of the requirements are mismatched compared to the needs that exist on tribal land.

The Tribal Housing Act will address the severe housing shortage that exists on tribal lands by creating a new and separate housing program for tribal governments, taking a similar approach to the Joe Serra Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program, which is a designated fund that exclusively serves the housing needs of farm workers across the Golden State.

Mike McGuire is President pro Tempore of the California Senate. He represents the North Coast of California, which stretches from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border, including Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin counties.

The rest of LLFD From page 1

shared sentiment between all the Little Lake crew right now. Some of the department's new trucks have been coming down with mechanical issues. One in particular, Deputy Chief John Thomen's duty rig, a vehicle he's spent a great deal of time outfitting himself, had its transmission break. That rig is currently out of commission and being repaired. The department hasn't had it long, and its practically brand-new, so it's a disappointing setback.

Additionally, Engine 5469 had some electronic trouble which was causing it to slip out of gear. This same truck, which comes spec'd to CAL FIRE standards, also began to lose chunks of rubber from its tires while in operation. Administrative Assistant Schnitzius is hoping the tires are still under warranty as they run about \$1,000 per. The department is sourcing better-quality tires for this vehicle, but these issues, along with a few others, have the department shaking their heads and crossing their fingers that there will be no more "kinks" to work out with the newer trucks in their fleet.

Administrative Assistant Schnitzius also told the board she's on the hunt for grant money to purchase an interactive, inflatable, fire education house for the children in our community. The inflatable house, similar to a bounce house, would be used during Little Lake's events and trainings for kids, but could also be lent out to other county fire departments to use during their own events.

"Inside this blowup is a house," said Schnitzius. "It has a kitchen, a living room, a bedroom ... smoke alarms on the walls, things you have to crawl underneath. We can simulate smoke, and smoke alarm sounds to keep the cost down, otherwise it would be around \$10,000." Without all the bells and whistles, Schnitzius says she's hoping for grant money to purchase one at around \$6,500.

If so, it would be the only inflatable, fire education house in the county, and it would not only be used to teach kids how to get out of their homes during a fire emergency, but it would also be used to help kids understand how to put small, household fires out.

"I think about [fire education] all the time because I'm here. I hear about things all the time," said Schnitzius. "A lot of things that can be helped and were unfortunate. That's why I really push for education for the kids. Any kid can save a life."

Grant money is hard to come by and there's a lot of competition, but Schnitzius is always actively looking for opportunities.

Lastly, the board discussed the possibility of burn permits being issued solely through Mendocino County's Air Quality Management District and not the fire house. Right now, folks can get a small, 4X4 burn permit from Little Lake for free. Larger burn permits are issued through Air Quality. However, those smaller permits might also need to be sought through the Air Quality office, though the Little Lake team is unclear if that will be the case just yet.

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, September 26: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf
Friday, September 27: Turkey Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll
Monday, September 30: Tuna Casserole, Veggies, Roll
Tuesday, October 1: Turkey Tetrazzini, Veggies, Roll
Wednesday, October 2: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Coleslaw
Thursday, October 3: Baked Chicken, Stuffing, Veggies, Roll
Friday, October 4: Fried Pollack, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.
Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, October 12 next month.
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.

The rest of CDFW From page 1

During the service of the search warrants, officers eradicated over 7,478 illicit cannabis plants, destroyed 1,074 pounds of processed cannabis, one suspected poached deer was located, and opium "poppy" plants were seized.

There were numerous Water Code and Fish and Game Code violations documented. Of the 55 Fish and Game Code violations documented, eight were water diversions from headwater streams of salmon-bearing streams.

During the service of the search warrants three people were detained, and the investigations are ongoing.



Two photos of trash scattered around one of the five grow sites CDFW searched in Northern Mendocino County last week. Photos courtesy CDFW



The rest of Arson From page 1

FIRE," said Director/Fire Chief Joe Tyler.

CAL FIRE would like to extend our thanks to the residents of the affected communities for their vigilance and information which helped in the apprehension of the suspect.

Residents should be vigilant in their preparedness and aware of suspicious persons when a fire does start. Suspicious activity should be reported including the time, individual's physical description, and a vehicle description, including the license plate number. Always contact law enforcement, never approach a suspicious person. Anyone with information about arson is urged to contact the CAL FIRE Arson Hotline at 1-800-468-4408. Callers may remain anonymous.

CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Officers have arrested 91 suspected arsonists as of September 1, 2024, and 923 since 2016 as part of the department's ongoing commitment to fire prevention efforts.

For more information, visit the CAL FIRE website at www.fire.ca.gov.

Hernandez trained as inmate firefighter

Editor's Note: National outlet Politico.com reported Tuesday afternoon, "California firefighter charged with arson was former inmate." According to the story, an exclusive by reporter Camille von Kaenel, court records released Tuesday show Hernandez "started a six-year sentence in 2017 after being convicted of vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated in San Bernardino, according to county court records and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation."

The story continued: "He was released on parole in December 2018 after serving eight months as a firefighter at the Bishop-area Owens Valley Conservation Camp, one of several facilities jointly operated by CAL FIRE and the CDCR to put inmates to work fighting fires and shorten their sentences for good behavior. While on parole, he attended the Ventura Training Center, which educates and certifies former inmate firefighters, from January to October 2019. He was discharged from parole in November 2020, according to CDCR."

The Press Democrat reported Wednesday that Hernandez was scheduled to return to court October 11 for a bail hearing.

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Time to sign up for 2024-2025 Willits 4-H



Hello, Willits, and new and returning 4H families!!

It's that time of year again!! Time to sign up for the 2024-2025 year of Willits 4-H.

Youth member: \$67; Adult member: \$28; Scholarships are available. Enrollment Website: <https://4h.zsuite.org>

Willits 4H has new groups with new and returning leaders, including:

Swine; Sheep; Goat: Meat & Pygmy; Poultry; Sewing; Equine; Baking/Cooking; Food Preservation/Canning; Beef; Dairy Cow; and Leadership.

It's going to be a great year!!

*Any youth member intending to take a market project to the 2025 Redwood Empire Fair must be fully enrolled no later than October 15.

For more info, please call 707-463-4495 or visit cemendocino.ucanr.edu

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Young Tex

Tex is happy to meet and greet new people and appears friendly with other dogs. He loves to go for walks but needs a brush-up on leash training – specifically, to not pull while walking. Tex knows “sit” and has good indoor manners. This dude is willing and eager to learn – he’s just waiting to find his special someone who will be his new BFF. And to top it off, Tex is one HANDSOME guy!



people coming in and out.

She has a fear of some (larger, typically) men, and she does do okay with smaller dogs, but is usually possessive of her person, so it is easiest for her to be solo and she will dote on you!

To learn more about Louisa, 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.

Tiny Monkey

Monkey is a sweet little lady who loves all of the attention you can give. She is petite with the smallest little feet and cute monkey tail.



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

Princess Louisa

Luisa has quite the personality for a small dog. Luisa would love a home where it's just her and her people. She would love a yard where she can sunbathe and relax. She needs a single-dog home where there aren't many



OBITUARY |

Curtis Baker

Curtis Martin Baker of Willits passed away suddenly on August 16, 2024, at his home in Ahwahnee, California.

He was born in Santa Clara on August 29, 1961. Curtis was severely disabled from an automobile accident he was in in 1982, but despite his disabilities he enjoyed fishing, shooting, bodybuilding, and going to the ocean. He also enjoyed talking to people wherever he traveled.



Curtis is survived by his father, Ken Baker of Ahwahnee, California, his nephew, Bret Baker Jr. of Blue Lakes, his sister-in-law, Tracie L. Harrington of Willits, and his brother, Bret D. Baker Sr. of Willits.

Curtis was a loving caring soul. I will miss you, my beloved brother.



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