October is **'a long** month' in education

Addison Alvarado willitsweekly@gmail.com

On the evening of October 10, Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees held its monthly board meeting. This month's meeting was unique and sweet, as it began honoring elementary school students of the month recipients. The board meeting also contained two presentations, as well as comments from the California State Employees Association and the Willits Teachers Association representatives, Superintendent Mark Beebe, and the board trustees.

October's school board meeting honored Brookside Elementary students grades transitional kindergarten through second. All 17 students attended, and a small, heartfelt award ceremony was held to recognize their spirit and hard work. Seventeen small children gathered at the front of the meeting room, smiling and congratulated by the WUSD staff and their parents, and each received a certificate. The celebration finished with a photo op of the students and their teachers if they attended.

Read the rest of Schools

Over on Page 11

Two MCOE board trustees step down

after years of service

Posted by MCOE

October 14 - This year, the Mendocino County Board of Education bids farewell to two dedicated trustees who have made lasting contributions to the county's educational community. Charline Ford and Drew Duncan have both chosen not to seek re-election, closing out their tenures with the board.

Charline Ford, a lifelong educator and advocate for students, has served as the trustee for Area Three: Covelo, Laytonville, and Willits. She began her career in education in the 1960s. With teaching degrees from Cottey College in Missouri, Humboldt State University, and a master's from the University of Oklahoma, Ford's passion for teaching spanned multiple roles. In Arcata, she taught high school English and started classes for expectant young mothers. In Willits, she spent 21 years teaching English and leadership classes while also advising extracurricular activities such as track and the

Read the rest of MCOE

Over on Page 11





Above, left: Class of 2025's Cristian Camargo, left, Calvin Loupy, and Clarah Lacy, right, stand at the pick-up table last Friday handing out beans, rice, and enchiladas to those who purchased tickets to the annual Sober Grad fundraiser. Above, right: The cheese-topped trays are ready for the oven. Below: Camargo and Loupy hand ready-to-heat dinners to Matthew Jennison.



Ready to Eat

Sober Grad holds second annual Enchilada Dinner fundraiser

Below, left: Camargo takes tickets for the dinner. Below, right: Each bag came with easy-to-follow instructions for heating the meal.

"The turnout for our Friday night fundraiser was amazing!" said Willits Sober Grad President April Lamprich. "We want to thank all the parents who donated cheese, enchilada sauce, and tortillas; thank Danny Lewis for smoking the chicken, and thank Marisela Lamprich for making all the beans and rice!"

This was the second annual Enchilada Dinner fundraiser for Sober Grad, which will use the some \$3,000 earned from the event towards the graduation-night party for all local graduates. Free food, games, prizes and fun are all offered as incentive to attend, and to allow a safe, fun night for the graduates.

"Also a big thanks to Christy Wisdom for donating her time and helping in the WHS cafeteria," said Lamprich. "And also a big thank you to all the kids and parents who came and helped package beans and rice, and roll all the enchiladas - without you, all this wouldn't be possible! We appreciate you all!"

- Maureen Jennison





Above: A great green ghost leads a trio of mischievous miscreants.

Below: A happy pumpkin and a raging ghost make strange companions.

Above, right: An archway of jolly orange pumpkin heads leads to an inviting doorway.





Fearful Fun

Willits homes and yards transform into spooky scenes as Halloween nears

Amidst falling leaves and frosty nights, autumn spice is in the air, and the Halloween spirit is coming alive in Willits. From traditional carved pumpkins to giant skeletons and inflatable ghosts and monsters, neighborhoods all around town have turned spooky, with whimsical scenes of mystery and mayhem welcoming trick-or-treaters and passersby with a colorful bit of fearful fun. Take a tour around town, savor the crisp, clear nights, and take in the "Made in Willits" creativity of the season.

- Margi Gomez Guhde



Above: Good Dog Day Care & Social Club's Main Street window sports a Halloween

Below: Psychopaths wait along a spooky path.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde



JDSF

set to wrap up

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit is set to finish its educational burn on Jackson State Demonstration Forest on Thursday, October 24. Willits was hard hit by smoke from the JDSF burn late Tuesday, October 23, with some areas on the south end of town up to "red"(unhealthy air). The air monitor at the Willits Charter School registered "purple" (hazardous air), at 271 PM2.5. Areas in Ukiah and Redwood Valley also had smoky air Tuesday afternoon.

"We'll be wrapping up the JDSF operations, and we should be done by tomorrow [Thursday]," CAL FIRE division chief Chris Vallerga told Willits Weekly.

At press time late Wednesday afternoon, air quality in Willits was considerably better than Tuesday, reporting "green" (good air quality) at 49 PM2.5, just under the "yellow" moderate level.

The October 18 CAL FIRE press release about the JDSF burn announced the burn would begin October 22, and "continue for approximately 3 to 4

Read the rest of Burn

Over on Page 4

State certifies cannabis EIR

for Mendocino County

Posted by California Department of Cannabis Control

Sacramento, October 17 - The Department of Cannabis Control has certified an Environmental Impact Report in Mendocino County, addressing a significant and longstanding barrier to annual licensure for over 500 provisionally licensed cultivators.

This move allows Mendocino's provisional licensees - many of whom were part of Mendocino's cannabis history rich prior to legalization to transition to annual licenses and continue cannabis cultivation in one of California's most storied regions.

"Our goal has always been clear: to support those who helped build California's cannabis industry through licensing program that is environmentally conscious and legally sound," said DCC Director Nicole Elliott. "With the EIR certified, we're one step closer to

Read the rest of Cannabis

Over on Page 4

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Setting the record straight

on park pavilion

To the Editor:

While I greatly appreciate Willits Weekly's coverage of matters coming to Willits City Council, I want to correct the record – as reported by B.B. Kamoroff – in the October 17

Starting with the headline and throughout the article. it's quite misleading to say that what was decided at the council's October 9 meeting was a "new location" for the the originally proposed size and location of the pavilion, as it had been presented in the grant request and at numerous leadership skills. previous public review sessions.

The recently proposed location at the north-east corner was NOT "rejected" by the council. My impression was that, while we had preferences and reasons for differences, all three of us council members expressed flexibility to

We did have a consensus on returning to the smaller footprint (40x60) rather than a larger 40x80 pavilion, and we directed staff to further explore if there are alternatives to concrete that would still be affordable AND compliant with ADA accessibility requirements.

Not mentioned in the article was that an important consideration for the council was our commitment to following through on a project that was a key part of our grant and already into the design stage. We didn't feel we could simply reject the whole pavilion project, which could have jeopardized the City of Willits for future grant

I also noted the popularity and use of the Alex Thomas Plaza pavilion in Ukiah. Despite controversy, many in our community had been, and still are, enthusiastic about the community for missing the deadline for the recent Willits proposed pavilion.

The article correctly pointed out two council members had to recuse themselves due to an FPPC ruling they had a conflict of interest. I regret that left only three of us to weigh in, as best we could!

As mentioned in the article, this was not a "voting" meeting but rather to give direction to staff. You could say we kicked the can down the road: The final plans for the pavilion will come back for a vote later.

Madge Strong, Willits City Council member Thank you

Covid vs. flu

To the Editor:

Dear seniors and anyone with compromised health: You may have heard that Covid is no longer a serious virus and that it is milder than the flu now. While it's true that the rates of hospitalization and death are way down from the provide Insurance as well as volunteering for the event. height of the pandemic, data over the last year shows that it remains much more serious than the flu.

The rates of hospitalization for those of us over 65 is nearly 10 times higher than the flu. The rates of death are 2 to 4 times higher.

The single best way to protect yourself from Long Covid and serious Covid is to get immunized with the updated vaccine. The virus has mutated to where the original

The Rules: LETTERS

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

Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. Deadline is end of day Monday for each Thursday edition. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be



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vaccination series is no longer effective. Similarly immunity from natural infection will not protect you from the latest mutations of Covid.

You can get the new Covid vaccine and the latest flu vaccine at the same time at your local pharmacy. And anyone with Medicare, or Medicaid or other medical insurance does not have to pay.

John Glyer, MD, Willits

Enhancing learning and mental

health for students

To the Editor: As a candidate for the Mendocino County Board of Education, I have made it my goal to increase access to innovative, student-driven learning environments for all students in our county. These classrooms provide proposed pavilion at City Park. The option I suggested students the opportunity to solve real-world problems toward the end of the discussion was actually a return to using advanced technology like coding, 3D printing, and multimedia, while fostering critical thinking, creativity, and

> This type of learning also offers a solution to the former occupational training programs, as it includes mentorships, internships, and other hands-on opportunities with local applications, preparing students for real-world careers.

To introduce myself. I am Michelle Hutchins, your former try to reach, as Greta Kanne said, "whatever serves the county Superintendent. I live in Willits, and my husband and I recently purchased the Novo Theatre. I am deeply committed to our community and its future, both as an educator and a resident.

> When the pandemic devastated our education system, realized more needed to be done to address the mental health crisis it created. This led me to join the Blue Zones Project, which provides schools with researchbacked strategies to promote mental and physical health. The project emphasizes movement, healthy food, connectedness, and relaxation-practices that we all know make us feel better. When these are integrated into school culture, they significantly improve both the mental and physical well-being of our students, and the science

> Additionally, I would like to sincerely apologize to the Weekly publication that reviewed candidates for local office. I appreciate your understanding and remain committed to serving our students, teachers, and families to the best of

Thank you for your continued support.

Michelle Hutchins, candidate for Mendocino County Board of Education

To the Editor:

Thank you to all who participated in the Celebration of Life - Trail Trek on Sunday, September 29. We had close to 60 people who either hiked or ran the 6k. Half marathon, or Par Course loops. Proceeds will go to: Willits Area Cyclists who, with the help of dedicated volunteers, build and maintain trails in Brooktrails and North Coast Striders who

Congratulations to the first three 6k finishers: Brian Bowles (16 yo @ 34:17 min), Pele Esserman Melville (13 yo @ 38:43 min), and Nicole Smith (42 yo @ 38:50 min).

Congratulations to the first three 1/2 marathon finishers: Alexander Kramer (44 yo @ 1:56;34 hr), Cole Lane (17 yo @ 1:57:47 hr), and Ry James (16 yo @ 2:01:19 hr).

appreciate the Brooktrails Community Services District for their continuing support of the Trail Trek, providing approval, cones, vegetation clearing, and mowing, as well as instant help at a phone call. Stephen James, who provided drone photos and video from the start of the event and then ran the Half. Susie and Glenn Violette for supporting the event through their generosity. I had lots of help from NCS, WAC, and Mendo Comp members with trail clearing, flagging, hydration and snack tables, and event registration. Especially thanks to Bronach for making loads of delicious treats. Everyone especially loved the cookie monster macarons.

WAC is always looking for volunteers to help with trail building and maintenance; sign up to join the

Over on page 11 Letters

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, October 24: Chicken Salad Sandwich, Chips, Pickle

Friday, October 25: Turkey, Stuffing, Cranberry,

Monday, October 28: Korean BBQ Chicken, Rice,

Tuesday, October 29: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Roll Wednesday, October 30: Hot Dogs, Chili, Chips

Thursday, October 31: Goulash, Veggies, Roll Friday, November 1: Hot Open Faced Turkey

Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10

Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, on November 10 next month, 8 to 11 am

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 Thrif 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.

Sheriff warns on phone and email scams

Posted by Mendocino Sheriff Matt Kendall

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office has been notified by numerous concerned citizens of ongoing telephone and email fraud scams. These scams seem to be targeting elderly subjects who are informed they won a sweepstakes prize or some large sum of

Thankfully, most of the recipients of these emails and calls recognized these were fraud attempts and did not provide any personal identifying information

There has also been an increase in subjects attempting to cash fraudulent or stolen checks at businesses in Mendocino County.

• Do not provide any personal identifying information to anyone on the telephone or by email.

· Do not agree to pay any fees or fines to accept large sums of money or prizes as this is a fraud

• If it sounds too good to be true, it is likely fraud. Do not be a victim, and protect your personal identifying information and finances.

• If cashing checks, please require multiple forms of identification and examine every check and call the bank before providing money.

If you receive a suspicious telephone call or email you think is fraudulent, please contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office at 707-463-4086 to report the











Above, from left: Michelle Hutchins and Jim Devine found their favorite seats in the big theater. The Noyo Theatre is available for private events and parties, as well as the publicly scheduled movie showings. Michelle Hutchins tends their goats on their acreage in the Little Lake Valley. Below: Michelle Hutchins and Jim Devine are enjoying their new business venture and have several plans to create

Noyo Theatre

New owners bring new films, a comedy event Saturday night, and a lot of gumption

in the office space above the screening rooms at the Noyo Theatre with Jim Devine and Michelle Hutchins, the new owners.

The office has more Annie Evarts of a storage closet vibe. They haven't

had the theater long, and renovating unseen spaces is not as high a priority for them as is running the business and keeping the lights on.

Michelle is seated in a chair next to me. I can tell as we chat that she's got a good sense of humor, which probably came in handy during her time as Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools. Jim is standing, leaning against a table. Before I met them together, I ran into Jim at the Willits Hometown Festival around the beginning of the summer. He was doing security for the booze area, and I was volunteering as a bartender of sorts. We got to talking, and it was an easy flow of conversation that wandered towards his new business venture, the Noyo Theatre.

As best I could, without sounding totally rude, one of the first questions I asked Jim was, "Why?" You don't have to be too business savvy to come to the conclusion that the Noyo Theatre might not be where the money is in 2024.

Now that I have them both in the same room and the deal is done, I repeat the question. Jim, a taller than average guy, crosses his arms and laughs a little. He tells me: "A friend of mine, he owned the Clover Theater in Cloverdale. I was following the way he was doing business, and he was doing clubs and specials and trying to make events. As I was getting closer to this getting real, I reached out to him. I told him, 'Hey I'm getting close to closing the deal on the Noyo. I think maybe you're in the position to talk me out of this. Tell me how bad of an idea this is.' Come to find out, he was going out of business just at the moment I was telling him I liked how he was doing business. He said to me, 'Jim, I'm sure it's a bad idea, but that doesn't mean vou shouldn't do it."

This could be Jim and Michelle's new motto, their mission statement. Perhaps it is a bad idea. But hey, the adventure is in the attempt! You can't take on owning a 3-screen movie theater, in the small, rural town of Willits, during the online, metaverse, quantum computing, AI extravaganza,

FARMERS

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It's mid-September of this year, and I'm while the town itself is going through an economic "reshuffling," let's say, without the sly smiles of a couple of risk-takers, a little starry-eyed optimism, and a whole lot

> Jim and Michelle go over the nuances of how they came to be able to afford the Novo. No bank would give them a loan. But the marrow of our conversation is not the numbers or their bottom line. When I talk to them about what it means to own the Novo. what we're discussing essentially, is the survival of small-town America built around

It's eerie and uncomfortable to see boarded-up storefronts as you drive in and out of town. As a community, it's even more eerie and uncomfortable that we're getting used to it. Local business matters. Main

"We've never owned a business of this size," Jim tells me. "And we've never worked in any kind of cinema or motion picture kind of thing, but the circumstances just kinda lined up that we felt like we needed to do this, despite the risk. Despite the fact that nobody with a good head on their shoulders said this was a good idea.

"At the heart of it," Jim continues, "this was a project for the community. It was not that the world needs another theater. It's just that Willits needs this theater. Willits has had enough body blows over the past decade to see this thing shuttered and changed fundamentally. It just seemed like it was gonna be too much to see the theater go down that wav."

Perhaps you've noticed that the Novo is showing a better variety of films, more frequently? This is by design. Overall in the short amount of time Jim and Michelle have had the theater, things feel more streamlined and intentional. This Saturday, October 26, the Novo is hosting a live comedy event with North Coast Comedy, and October 27 kicks off the Novo's John Carpenter Mini-Fest in preparation for

As someone who loves Willits for its charm and its people, I can appreciate the desire to want to help keep things alive here. I don't know about you, Willits Weekly readers, but I want to live in a town with a pulse. I want to live in a town where there's art, culture, places to go, and things to do! Jim and Michelle are taking a leap of faith that if they build it, you will come.



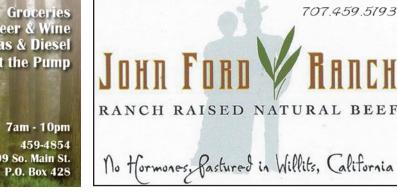
Below, left: Popcorn is a staple food for movie theater patrons. Below, right: Jim Devine offers concessions and goodies to munch while watching the films at the Novo Theatre.

Photos by Mathew Caine

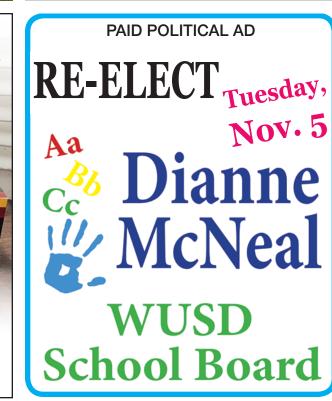






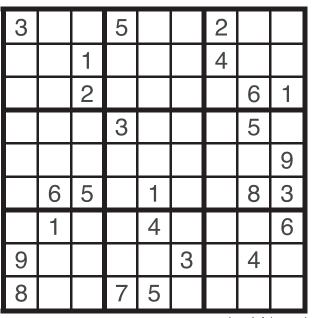






Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



Level: Advanced the puzzle!

G A E P X Y C V Z S Q U H H I P O

FOGGY

FOLIAGE

GOURD

HARVEST

HARVESTING

HAY

54

58

60

9. Knight (chess)

12. Source of fiber

birds' beaks

17. Energy

13. Flesh covering some

19. Night monkeys genus

21. Pleasant-smelling liquid

20. Small, sharp nails

25. Affirms one's hold

31. Texans can't forget it

38. Lacking poetic beauty

43. Sports personality

45. Liquefied natural gas

47. The most worthless part

46. Snakelike fishes

of something

49. City in Crimea

56. Bad grades

57. Reichsmark

Michelle

44. Robber

41. Tall, swift and slender dog

32. 'Oppenheimer' actor Matt

29. CNN's founder

33. Expression

35. Vessel

41. South Dakota

48. Hawaiian island

51. Of a single person

53. Barbary sheep (Fr.)

55. Specific gravity

56. Engage in petty

bargaining

58. Boxing's 'GOAT'

60. Notable offensive

59. Split between parties

CLUES DOWN

1. A place to lounge

2. Skewed views

3. Peacefully

4. Commercial

5. Auxiliary forces

6. Large mollusk

7. Take out again

8. Sharp and forthright

52. Rigid bracelet

54. Not even

50. Smaller

42. Gnawed at with teeth

I B C O R N U C O P I A T C T C G Y L V

CORNUCOPIA

COZY

CRISP

EQUINOX

FALL

FIREPLACE

APPLES

AUTUMNAL

CHESTNUT

CHILLY

COOLER

CORN

59

CLUES ACROSS

1. '60 Minutes' network

4. Train line

10. Go quickly

11. Straightforward

12. Canadian province

14. At any rate (abbr.)

15. Genealogy

16. Make changes

18. Utter repeatedly

23. Type of ship

26. Not out

22. In a way, turned up

24. Agents of one's downfall

27. Something to scratch

28. Round water pot

30. Refreshing green

34. Primordial matters

36. One-time world

40. An Arab ruler

power (abbr.)

37. Source of illumination

39. The content of cognition

fruit (slang)

31. Promotions

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

8:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Madden Lane. October 15 1:20 am: SEGMILLER, Tara Janene (40) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of Redwood Avenue. She was arrested on felony charges of cruelty to a child (inflicting injury), and on misdemeanor charges of willful cruelty to a child and disorderly conduct (drugs and alcohol). 3:19 am: Officers initiated a burglary FALL SEASON WORD SEARCH

7-day reporting period.

October 14

investigation near the intersection of East Hill Road and Haehl Creek Drive.

Summary of Active Investigations

and Arrests

10:29 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

7:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Walnut Street and Locust Street.

7:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued

October 16

7:28 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road.

8:02 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of

6:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

October 17

LEAF

OCTOBER

PUMPKIN

RAKE

SCARECROW

SWEATER

12:35 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of Robert Drive and issued

11:30 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Madrone Street. Commercial Street

3:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of Drive. Creekside Drive.

8:34 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of East Oak

The rest of From page 1 Burn

weeks, as favorable conditions allow for safe and effective operations."

But Vallerga said conditions this week gave them the window of opportunity to get the goals of the JDSF operation accomplished, including fuels reduction and training, as well as forest research. The burn "provides good training and education for the new firefighters that we have."

The JDSF burn was set to cover "six different burn spots on the forest, with UC researchers doing field research," Vallerga said.

CAL FIRE coordinates with University of California researchers, adjacent property owners, and with the Resources side of the state fire agency to schedule prescribed burns.

Division Chief Vallerga confirmed that the Tuesday afternoon smoke in Willits did not include smoke from the Shamrock Ranch burn, south of Laytonville, because there was no CAL FIRE burn activity at Shamrock on Tuesday. "Our operations at Shamrock Ranch were done Monday," he said.

CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit had also put out a notification about a research burn in Hopland set for Wednesday, October 22 to Friday, October 24, but Vallerga said the Hopland burn was not happening this week, and CAL FIRE was looking at possibly figuring out a day for the Hopland burn next week.

Comments on social media varied between "Thank you CAL FIRE!" and "Control it now so it's not out of control later," and "The smoke from these burns is much less than if the forest were on fire," to "Wasn't the smartest time to burn," and "Pretty irresponsible to ruin an otherwise beautiful fall day," and "Why can't they wait to burn until it rains?"

Asked to respond to that last comment about burning in wet conditions, Division Chief Vallerga politely asked: "Have you ever tried it?"

To watch the impacts of smoke on air quality in Mendocino County, visit https://www.airnow. gov/ and enter your zip code or address

The officers of the Willits Police of Kawi Place. He was arrested on felony Department handled 55 incidents in this charges of possession of a controlled substance or paraphernalia in an attempt to bring into a custodial facility and failure to appear, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance. possession of drug paraphernalia, and violation of probation.

October 18

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

October 14 to October 20 By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

> 11:19 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:59 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

investigation in the 800 block of South Main 4:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

4:06 pm: Officers initiated a theft

5:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Street and Central

Street and issued a warning.

800 block of South Main Street and issued

October 19

10:57 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Magnolia

2:11 pm: STEISKAL, Tobin Wayne (45) of Fortuna was contacted in the 400 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

8:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning

October 20

12:19 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

10:02 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of

2:30 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Marcela

5:43 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Central Street and East Oak Street and issued a citation.

7:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop near 10:51 pm: GOWER, Jason Andrew (33) the intersection of South Main Street and

> The rest of Cannabis |

From page 1

keeping Mendocino's pioneering cannabis spirit alive."

"This project is a testament to what's possible when legal operators and local and state government work together towards addressing California Environmental Quality Act requirements and focus on meeting an important objective," said Maureen Mulheren, chair of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. "The solution developed and implemented by the Department of Cannabis Control and Mendocino County makes it possible for legacy cultivators to focus on what they do best - growing highquality cannabis legally by eliminating the final roadblocks.

The DCC will continue reviewing individual annual license applications and preparing addenda to support the ongoing transition of licensees in Mendocino County from provisional to annual licensure. The department expects the first transitions resulting from the October 17 certification to occur later this month.

The California Department of Cannabis Control licenses and regulates commercial cannabis activity. From licensing to policy, the DCC is committed to ensuring California's legal cannabis market reflects the state's rich history and legacy operators as part of creating a sustainable legal cannabis industry and a safe and equitable marketplace. To learn more about the California

cannabis market, state licenses, or laws, visit: www.cannabis.ca.gov.



October 24, 2024 | Willits Weekly



Congrats

Happy 85th Birthday, Doug Brown

Glenda Brown threw a birthday party last weekend for her husband, Doug Brown, with family and friends showing up to have food and 85th birthday cake. Doug, still a professional water witcher in the Willits area, and former longtime mailman, said he had a great time gathering with friends and family he had not seen for a while,

Above, left: Willits' Doug Brown, surrounded by 85th birthday balloons at last week's family party. Above, right: From left: Eric, Glenda, Micah, Doug himself, Bailey, Nick and Austin gather for a photo to celebrate Doug's 85th birthday.

Get your ballots in!

Willits residents Kate Black and her mom, Billie Kurtz (who recently turned 92), drop off their 2024 general election ballots, sealed in their official return envelopes, at the Willits ballot drop box, located outside City Hall at 111 East Commercial Street.

Don't forget to sign, date and print your name on the back of the return envelope -

under the privacy flap - before sealing it. There's still plenty of time to get your ballot in the mail, too – California law allows ballots postmarked by Election Day (November 5, 2024) and received no later than seven days after Election Day, to be counted.

You can check the status of your mail-in ballot at https:// www.mendocinocounty.gov/ government/assessor-countyclerk-recorder-elections/elections/ vote-by-mail-absentee-status.

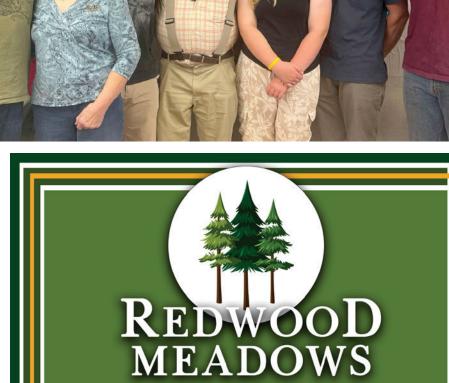
If you have any questions about your voter registration, call the Mendocino County Elections Office at 707-234-6819.











Senior Apartment Community 1475 Baechtel Road | Willits, CA 95490

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW

Call now: 707-459-1616



Early detection may slow or even stop the cancer from progressing. That's why it's so important to get a breast cancer screening starting at age 40.

Give yourself the advantage of early detection. Talk to your doctor today about scheduling your screening.



ONG VALLEY

CALL FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT (707) 456-9600 LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER



We want to take time to appreciate our Hygienists and promote oral hygiene!

We have two R.D.H. eager to help you during oral cleanings! Oral cleanings are recommended every 3-6 months Call to schedule today!

OUR SERVICES WITH CLEANINGS

- Fluoride Varnish Dental Education
- Free oral hygiene bags
 - Dental Office Open Mon-Thur 8:30-5:30 707-984-8222 51 Branscomb Rd, Laytonville, CA



Pg. 4 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | October 24, 2024

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

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

materials and imagination, build your own special fairy living space, and enter your finished masterpiece into the "Wonderful Ways Enchanted Fairy House Scavenger Hunt" that will take place at the Museum in November and December. Thursday, October 24, from 5 to 8 pm. Admission is FREE but space is limited to 16 participants. Please call the Museum at 707-234-6365 to reserve your spot.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors through October, including Thursday, October 24, 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 and drinks, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Friday, October 25

Book Lovers Discussion Group at the Library: This group meets monthly to discuss books, authors and genres, this month: Friday, October 25, 12 to 1 pm. Come talk about why you love books! All adults welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Brooktrails "Trick or Trail": Willits Area Cyclists 1st annual Trick-or-Trail with free trick or treating in the woods is on! WAC will be handing out candy Friday, October 25, from 4 to 6 pm. FREE. Located in Brooktrails, at the



candy along the

new 3/4 mile long

trail. Parking will

be on Primrose

Drive next to

Lake Ada Rose.

Book

Lover's

Rum at the Grange: The School of Adaptive Agriculture presents Hot Buttered Rum and friends in a benefit concert, Friday, October 25, at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Hot Buttered Rum returns for its sixth performance in Willits. Fiona Mariposa opens the show, followed by local stars Soul Circus, with special guest Bella Rayne. Willits' own Bug Guts will also put in an appearance, and the Real Sarahs will be onstage with HBR. Doors open 6 pm, music from 7 pm to midnight. Food, drinks, silent auction. Tickets available at J.D. Redhouse, Flying Dog Pizza and the Farmers Market, or online at https://schoolofadaptiveagriculture.org/events-andworkshops/or Eventbrite

"The Whisperer" opens at WCT: Loca playwrights Elizabeth Dellett, Garrett Moore, and Jeff Shipp premiere a new staged horror story, "The Whisperer' at Willits Community Theatre, opening October 25 and running through November 3. Co-directed by Mathew Caine and Jeff Shipp, new play focuses on teenager Lena Patrick, arriving home after a stint at a mental hospital where electroconvulsive therapy prevents her from remembering why she was first checked in. Taking her pills sends her into nightmares. When she stops her medication, the terror leaves her nightmares and pursues her family. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are

\$20 and available at the door, 37 West Van Lane, or online at: www.vctperformingartscenter.ord

Around Town 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." Friday, October

Saturday, October 26

Animal Tales & Crafts at the Library: Bring the little ones for a Saturday morning story and special craft once a month at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Saturday, October 26 this month,

25 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

'A Tour of the Heart': Artist Sue Ellen Parkinson's

Open Studio is this weekend, Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27, 12 noon to 5 pm. "She has been painting some of the most iconic mystics, and all aspects of the Sacred Feminine. There'll be many originals and prints on display." Also, a preview of Donna Kerr's upcoming

Sunday,

October 27

Grange Pancake Breakfast: Join your

ends at the monthly Grange breakfast

on Sunday, October 27, from 8 to

11 am. "Our tasty breakfast is a

wonderful combination of comfort

foods: All you can eat pancakes

(choose our Sourdough Wholegrain

Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or

Gluten-free), Beeler's Quality Bacon, Organic

"Earth Witness Tarot Deck," which focuses on the endangered

the planet. Studio address is 3450 Ridgewood Road, Willits. More info:

Ghoul's Gala at the Library: Join us for the Willits Branch Library free annual Halloween Party. Saturday, October 26, 3 to 5 pm. There will be games, crafts, stories, refreshments, and candy. It will be a spook-tacular event that is fun for all ages. 390 East Commercial Street.

Trunk or Treat at City Park: Kick off Halloween with Trunk or Treat at City Park, Saturday, October 26 from 4 to 6 pm. Decorate your trunks with your favorite spooky decorations, and win prizes. Contest

rules: Be ready by start time; at least one person must be in costume giving out candy and treats; vehicle trunk must be decorated for Halloween. Make sure you have enough candy to pass out to the kiddos. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners by vote at the end of the event. Willits City Park, across from the police station on Commercial Street). Have fun with the family in a safe controlled environment.

20th annual Photography Club show at WCA: 20th annual exhibit by members of the Willits Photography Club features the stunning work of local photographers, offering a wide range of styles, subjects, and techniques. Opens Saturday, October 26 with a gallery reception from 6 to 9 pm, free admission and complimentary food. Beer and wine also available. Runs through November 17 at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. More info Card. Info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, at www.willitscenterforthearts.org



'The Whisperer" continues at WCT: premiere of a new staged horror story by local playwrights at Willits Community Theatre continues Saturday, October 26 at 7:30 pm. See Friday, October 25 listing for details.

Halloween Bash at Shanachie: The Pub's annual Halloween Party features Soulevity, a fourpiece Mendocino County band born from members of Willits' famed band Tubesteak Jones, who in the 2000s branched off to become Rhyme Related, playing: "soulful rock and jazzy funk with rhythmic metal ska-like punk." Opening: NorCal punk rock from

Friends Anonymous. Saturday, October 26, 9 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 Main Street.

What's Happening Little Lake Fire and Brooktrails Fire (at 74 East Commercial)

www.Willits.org

299 East Commercial Street Wil

info@willits.org

707.459.7910

Local Farm Fresh Scrambled

Eggs, Real Butter, Juice

Organic Coffee or Tea." \$10

\$9 for seniors, \$5 children

under 10. Also: extra sides

of Organic Fruit \$2, Amish

rganic Maple Syrup \$1

resh-made fruit syrup \$1

Extra Beepers Bacon \$1

Cocina Picante salsa \$.50

ittle Lake Grange #670, 291

School Street (2 blocks south

of Commercial, 1 block west

'A Tour of the Heart': Artist

Sue Ellen Parkinson's Open

Studio is this weekend,

f Main Street.

Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27, 12

noon to 5 pm. See Saturday, October 26 listing for

"The Whisperer" matinee at WCT: premiere of a

new staged horror story by local playwrights at Willits

Community Theatre continues Sunday, October 27 at

History Makers at the Museum: The Mendocino

County Museum presents after-school family friendly

themed crafts and activities inspired by the permanent

gallery exhibits on Wednesdays in October from 2

to 4:30 pm. The Wednesday, October 30 activity

is "DIY Reflective Trick or Treat Bags," 400 East

Commercial Street. Program attendance is included

with regular Museum admission. Enjoy free admission

on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library

museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365

Happy Halloween!

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers marke

is outdoors through this week, Thursday,

October 31, 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 and

drinks, live music, the new edition of Willits

Weekly, and more. Market will move inside

Halloween Family Dance Party at WCA:

Willits Center for the Arts presents a free

Halloween Costume Family Dance Party

at Willits Center for the Arts on Thursday,

October 31, from 4 to 7 pm. Featuring DJ

Mama J, dancing with the Rhythm and Flow

Dance Class, Crafts, and Treats. 71 East

to the Grange on November 7.

Commercial Street.

Thursday, October 31

2 pm. See Friday, October 25 listing for details.

Wednesday, October 30

Willits Police Department (at 125 East Commercial), CAL FIRE, Mendocino Sheriff's Office, and California Highway Patrol (at 470 East Valley), and the County of Mendocino (at 472 East Valley) have present a Halloween

Halloween Night Trick or Treat:

Night Trick or Treat event on the east side of Willits. Thursday, October 31, from 5 to 8 pm. Stop and visit your local agency staffers, and pick up some

Agape Church Harvest Party: Agape Bible Church hosts a free Harvest Party on Thursday, October 31 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Come join the party! Fun, games, a bounce house, candy! 290 South Lenore Avenue.

Friday, November 1

WCS Spooky Haunted House:

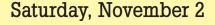
Spooky House is set for Friday November 1, and Saturday November 2, from 7 to 9 pm 1431 South Main Street. This year's theme is Haunted Medieval Prison, complete with eerie dungeons and haunted corridors. Admission is \$5; \$20 for families up to 6 members; with all proceeds supporting student activities. Brought to you by WCS Leadership. It's going to be a frightfully good time – join us if you dare!

"The Whisperer" continues at WCT: premiere of a new staged horror story by local playwrights at Willits Community Theatre continues Friday, November 1 at 7:30 pm. See Friday, October 25 listing for details.

The Blue J's at Shanachie: The Blue J's (formerly known as Blues and Blues, regrouped

a 4-year pause hailing from the

Mendocino Coast, but some rock and originals too. Friday, November 1 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub. 50



"A Taste of Italy": Enjoy this authentic pasta dinner, a fundraiser for the St. Anthony's Ladies Guild, Saturday, November 2 at St. Anthony's Parish Hall, 61 West San Francisco. Cocktails at 6 pm; dinner at 7 pm, includes antipasto starters and dessert. Tickets, \$35 (adults only event), are



any Guild member. **WCS Spooky Haunted** House: Willits Charter School's Spooky Haunted House is set for a second evening, on Saturday, November 2, from 7 to 9 pm, 1431 South Main Street, It's going to be a frightfully good time - join us if you dare! See Friday, November 1 listing for more details.

"The Whisperer" continues at WCT: premiere of a new staged horror story by local playwrights at Willits Community Theatre continues Saturday, November 2 at 7:30 pm. See Friday, October 25 listing for details.

Eagle Mountain String Band at Shanachie: Out of Port Hadlock, Washington, the Eagle Mountain String Band plays eclectic Americana, featuring longtime colleagues Tim Holbrook on uke, cojon and vocals; Bill Marlow on guitar and vocals; and Bob Richardson on fiddle, melodica

and vocals. Saturday, November 2 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, November 3

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

OCTOBER

"The Whisperer" closes at WCT: premiere of a new staged horror story by local playwrights at Willits Community Theatre closes Sunday, November 3 with a 2 pm matinee. Friday, October 25 listing for details.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Sunday and Monday. 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.

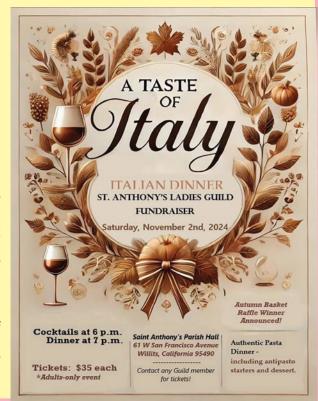
Story Time: Friday mornings each week, 10:30 to 11 am. Join us in the children's area of the library.

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!



COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Monster Summer'

The Story: Teen horror on Martha's Vineyard. It's summer. The main characters pretty much all play Little League baseball. And they complain to each other about being "trapped" on The Island. Young, good looking and earnest Noah (Mason Thames)



Dan Essman

HAMES BRACCO GIBSON

lives with his mother who owns a bed and breakfast. Noah wants to be an investigative iournalist iust like his famous, long ago deceased father.

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

unday Bible Study-10:00 a.m

Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening Service-

6-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study-

7-8:00 p.m.

The Church of

Jesus Christ of

Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive

Willits, ČA 95490

ALL ARE WELCOME

Sacrament Meeting

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path

of Spiritual Freedon

Spiritual Living Courses

ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?

Call 530-224-8703

www.eckankar.org

Grace Community

Church

Celebrating Life In Christ

25 Hazel Street, Willits

Worship Service

10 a.m. For appointments call:

(707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua

Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.

Willits, CA 95490

Father Aaron Bandanadam

Mass times:

Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

Saturday-5:30 p.m.

Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English

10:30 a.m. - Spanis

Confessions on Saturday

4:45 - 5:15 p.m.

Or by appointmet at 707-459-2252

nttps://stanthonywillits.org/

intanthonywillits@gmail.com

Ve welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis

Episcopal ChurchNorth 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

A University for Soul

•Spiritual Discussions

One of Noah's best friends is attacked by an unknown something and seems to be in an eyes-wide-openand-staring trance. Noah is convinced there's a witch on the island. Of course, no one believes him. Noah joins his buddies Eugene (Julian Lerner) and Sammy (Abby James Witherspoon) in a hunt to find and stop the supernatural perpetrator. Then more kids disappear. An older, long-retired police detective (Mel Gibson) believes that Noah may be on to something, though "witch" might be a little too wacky. Still, there are some real victims, and some kind of serial psychopathic monster who needs to be stopped.

> My Thoughts: This is a well-made, quite pleasant movie, written and produced by professional filmmakers who know all the rules of making a commercial movie. Yes, it's a horror flick. It's supposed to be scary. But is it scary? Not really.

> It does have its moments when the main characters are outside at night in the dark and being chased, or swimming in the ocean at night. And still, it's more "thrilling" than scary in a couple of scenes. Not to ruin things for you viewers, but the good guys win in the end. I left the Noyo feeling pretty good, or at least "just fine"

for having spent 97 minutes of my life at the movies! Parents: It's PG-13. It would be too scary for little

ones, and the death of a father is an issue. (Again! It's the missing father trope.) Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated

by the wisdom of the imagination.



Methodist Church Bake Sale and Gift Bazaar, November 9

The annual Methodist Church Bake Sale and Gift Bazaar Is set for Saturday, November 9, from 10 am to 2 pm, at Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street (across from the Grange). Baked Goodies, Crafts, Art Works, and White Elephants. All proceeds are used to help families and our homeless population have a wonderful Christmas.

'Fungi: Web of Life,' November 9

Little Lake Grange's Now and Then Film Series presents a screening of "Fungi: Web of Life," a "visual feast and ode to a hidden kingdom of life that sustains life on our planet. All life on Earth is connected by a great mystery we are only just beginning to unravel. Hidden between the world of plants and animals, another world exists: Fungi. See trailer here: www.fungimovie.com/ Friday, November 9 at 7 pm at the Grange, 291 School Street. Suggested donation \$10 to help replace the roof over the Grange - no one turned away. Refreshments will be available.

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

Friendly, open worship Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. Norship Service - 10:45 a.m. oom 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 astor 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 willits umo If you want to be included in this column please call:

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

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

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

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 gmail.com or 707-456-7729

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. 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

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. Literacy Volunteers of Willits: We teach adults to read! Free personal tutoring at the library. Call or email to make an appointment: LiteracyWillits@

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.

Last weekend for Pumpkin Patch at J&J **Pumpkins**

J&J Pumpkins, at 19606 Walker Road, south of Willits, hosts its Pumpkin Patch, one last weekend, Friday, October 25 through Sunday, October 27. Bring the family to enjoy a Mini Corn Maze, Ring Toss, Face Painting, Petting Zoo, Mini-Roller Coaster, Jump Zone, Photo Props, Food and Treat Vendors, Giant Jenda, Corn Pit, Pumpkin Picking, Cornhole, Tic Tac Toe. Visit J&J Pumpkins on Facebook for more details.



Cine Noyo! Movies in Spanish will be moving

to a new day.

VENOM: THE LAST DANCE (PG-13) 1 hr 50 mins

OCTOBER 26, 2024 3-5 PM SATORDAY

WILLITS BRANCH

LIBRARY

Mon.-Thurs. 4:45 & 7:15

Fri.: 4:45 & 7:15 Sat.: 2:15 & 6:00 Sun.: 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15

There is no Spanish Language movie this week. Movie Times for Oct. 25 thru Oct. 31

JOHN CARPENTER FILM FEST THE THING (R)

Sun.: 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15 • Wed.: 4:30 THEY LIVE (R) Mon: 4:30 & 7:30 • Tues.: 7:00 HALLOWEEN (R)

Tues.: 4:30 • Wed.: 7:00 Thurs. 4:30 & 7:00

Gala del Ghoul Willits Song Circle, November 6 ¡Fiesta de Halloween! The next Willits Song Circle is set for Únase a nosotros en la biblioteca succursal de

Wednesday, November 6, from 5 to 6:30 pm at Willits mientras organizamos nuestra fiesta anual the Methodist Church, School and Pine streets. de Halloween, el sábado 26 de 2024, de 3 p.m. a A free event. Sing-along songs of all genres are 5 p.m. Se recomiendan disfraces. Habrá juegos, mostly led by Fran, Madge and Theresa. All are manualidades, cuentos, refrescos y dulces. ¡Este welcome to join in with your own favorite songs. será un evento familiar para todas las edades! (Optional: Send lyrics in advance to its2fran@ aol.com.) "Since this first Wednesday falls the day after the big election, we will undoubtedly

unknown, anxious, etc."

El evento tendrá lugar dentro de la biblioteca. Para obtener más información, visite www. mendolibrary.org o comuníquese con la biblioteca Willits Branch al 707-459-5908.

OVER 21 CLUB — Luxury Recliners, laser

sing some songs that fit our mood: happy, sad,

VENOM: THE LAST DANCE Fri.: 5:00 & 7:30

> SMILE 2 (R) 2 hrs 12 mins Sat.-Thurs.: 6:45

Tightwad Title for Tuesday (Oct. 29) is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!









At top, left: Richard "Tootreese Zanapon" Jeske assists other FOWL members in facilitating the book sale. At top, right: David Baldacci, John Grisham, Dan Brown and other authors are represented in the mystery section of the book sale. Above: These two ladies enjoy looking over the romance books and choose several to purchase. At left: Beth Riedel of FOWL works the checkout table where people purchase their choices.

Below, left: The Willits Library provides a space for perusing books, choosing audio CDs, reading, or surfing the web. Below, right: The Willits Branch of the Mendocino Public Library is asking for people to submit their fall-colored photos of Willits to be displayed.







Obituary **Betty Mitchell** 1929 - 2024

A former resident of Willits, CA, Betty Mitchell, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away on September 2, 2024 at the age of 95. Her loving family was by her side and find comfort in knowing she is now reunited with her loving husband, Ron, of a remarkable

Born on January 21, 1929, in St. Helena, CA, to parents Ted Hayes and Ellena Clark, Betty was the third of five children. Her family moved often and settled in the Sacramento area where she attended school. Through family friends she was introduced to her future husband, Ron Mitchell, who would soon go off to serve in World War II.

After the war and a first date to a baseball game, Betty and Ron married in April 1947. They established their home in Willits, where they raised three children: Sandra, Bonnie and Ted. As a devoted mother and homemaker, Betty enjoyed a full and vibrant life, spending her time between her family, gardening and creative hobbies. She was an avid reader and enjoyed collecting a wide variety of books. She was one of the first women hired at the Seaside Lumber Company in Willits and later worked as a veterinarian's office assistant. In 1983, they moved to Ukiah and resided there for 38 years and in September of 2021, relocated to Carlsbad (San Diego County) to be closer to family.

Betty was steadfast and determined when she set her mind to something and always dreamed of attending college. At the age of 57 she enrolled at Santa Rosa Junior College where she would eventually join a tour group to China, which she recalled as a highlight in her life. Betty loved to travel and see the world. Several years later, Betty and Ron would travel to Huntly, Scotland, for a Mitchell Family Reunion and to celebrate Ron's grandparents, John Mitchell and Mary

Betty was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ron; her lovely daughter, Bonnie (Mitchell) Dunlap; and her brothers and sister, Donald, Bradford, Melvin and Opal. She is survived by her daughter, Sandra (Joe) Madrigal, Carlsbad, CA, her son, Ted (Jackie) Mitchell, Richland, WA; her seven grandchildren, Angela (Brian) Clark, Teresa Madrigal, Anthony (Jennie) Madrigal, Jennifer Rosebrook, Bridget (Peter) Fabrikant, Kyle Mitchell, Shardai Mitchell; her six greatgrandchildren, Lauryn, Ellis, Liliana, Mae (Levi) Mazza, Grace, Jann; her niece and nephew, Carol (Collier) McClendon, Ukiah, and Ron Collier, Windsor.

Throughout their lives, Betty and Ron enjoyed traveling, gardening and walking every day. Their love of family and being together was the center of their lives. Betty will be remembered for her gentle spirit and compassion. Despite facing the challenges of dementia in her later years, she never hesitated in extending a warm hug and saying "Ohhhh, that's wonderful!" Her unwavering love and kindness will forever remain in our hearts. Betty's final wish – in lieu of flowers or a memorial service - was to consider a donation to dementia research or a favorite charity.



Book Sale

Great reads found at fundraiser organized by Friends of the Willits Library

Each year, the Friends of the Willits Library host a used book sale to raise funds for the library. The books can be purchased at extremely reasonable prices (\$.50 to \$3, and \$3 for a shopping bag full on the final of the four days). In addition, throughout the year, they also host a series of pop-up sales where they will display books for sale on tables in the

TMathew Caine

"Some of the books are from the library, going through and updating their collection," explained Beth Riedel of the Friends of the Willits Library, who was working at the sale, which ran October

17 through 22. "Some are from people who put books in the bin in the back. We sell the ones that are in good enough shape. It makes money for the library to do the different events they put on and we've bought them different pieces of furniture or whatever they need. This money also goes to prizes to the kids for various contests."

Barbara Telich, another FOWL member who was working with Riedel, said, "We could use some young blood in our group. We meet monthly and do whatever we can to support the library, whatever they need. Before COVID, we used to have a gigantic book sale at the Willits Community Center. All of our money we raise goes to the library. One year, the county had no money to pay the staff, so we donated to them so they could have a living

The Friends of the Willits Library currently has approximately 125 members, however, only a few are active. Those wishing to join the organization can go to the website: www.

Books that remain unsold by the end of the sale go to a service called Better World Books. "They have a lot of outlets where they can resell books," said Olga O'Neil, longtime FOWL volunteer. "They also donate a lot of books. We have way more books that people in Willits donated. Our donation bin is always full."

According to O'Neil, there are a lot of people who clean out their books each year, "That's why we have so many donations.

It takes a lot of sorting because not everybody is judicious about the

Over on page 9 Books



Calm Soul Patch

Soul Patch.

This young mama was brought to the shelter with her four newborn kittens. Her kittens have since flown the nest, found homes of their own, and now it's time for this lovely gal to find her forever home. We love the distinctive "Soul Patch" on her chin! She is very friendly and gentle, loves people and being petted, and purrs easily. She is a very calm and lovely cat. Soul Patch even got along with other cats in her foster home!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from noon to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 3 pm (closed for lunch from

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

Cheerful Benji

Benji is a sweet, happy boy! He gets along with everyone! He loves dogs and people and is always ready to go for a ride, a walk, or a hike! Benji is the perfect companion for adventures with family, camping, walking trails, a day at the coast, or just a night in for a movie. Benji would love to be with you! Benji is a playful boy and will need some play time daily, but then will be ready to relax with you. Come meet this sweet boy at Milo Foundation Sanctuary.

To learn more about Benji, 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-



The rest of

From page 8 Books

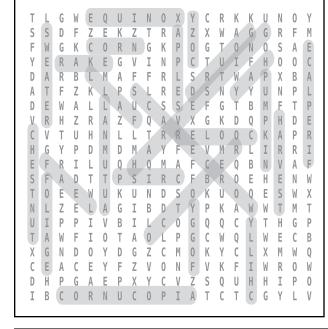
instructions for 'gently used books.' We're happy to be doing this and getting a lot of books in a lot of people's

There are some spooky happenings coming up at the library in addition to their many public programs. "We're calling it our Ghoul Gala," said Branch Librarian Denise Jessie. "This is the first time we're bringing it back inside since COVID. We're going to close the branch at 2 pm next Saturday [October 26] so we can transform this place into a party room. Then, we'll reopen for the party, which is 3 to 5 pm.

"Every kid will get to take a free book," promised Jessie. "We will have games, crafts, origami, a refreshment table, a 'tattoo' parlor (decal type). We're going to turn our meeting room into our 'Wicked Wiggle Room,' with fancy lights all over the room and Halloween music. We're going to have a photo booth and scary stories. All of the staff will be in costume as the kids should be. In the past, this has been one of our largest attended events. This is a fun event that the community is familiar with. It gives the kids a chance to wear their costumes more than just once."

FOWL provides a valuable service to the Willits Library and despite their acronym, are a positive voluntary support organization. As one of the members of the Friends of the Willits Library stated, "I'm glad we're not the Friends of the Ukiah Library, whose acronym would be FOUL." A bird by

The Willits Library, located at 390 East Commercial Street, is open 10 am to 7 pm, Tuesday through Thursday; 10 am to 6 pm on Friday; and 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday. Call 459-5908 for more info.



with you! This retired mama dog needed a safe place to land, so we have opened up our doors. Millie is back and looking for new shot at love! Millie was with us back in 2021 when she birthed seven beautiful puppies that were all names "H" names. After her mama-duties were done, she quickly found herself a home. Unfortunately things didn't work. Millie would love to find herself a family quickly so she can get back to living life in a home like she is used to. Millie is 4 years old now and a little over 60 pounds.

Our Facebook page "Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County" is a great place to check for videos and updates on Millie and others!

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.



LEGAL NOTICES

Willits Weekly can run legal notices including fictitious business name

statements, notices,

gmail.com

Registered owner: Tasha foreclosure storage unit auctions, and Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@ /s/ Tasha Jarshaw

WW512

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2024-F0456

The following person or persons are doing business as Turtle Island Tacos, 71 Northbrook Way, Willits CA

Jarshaw, 71 Northbrook Way, Willits CA 95490 This business is conducted

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

fictitious business name listed above on March 1, 2019. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 23,

Publication dates: October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024



Firewood for Sale Firewood for sale. FIR \$300/cord, OAK \$400/ cord. \$35 Delivery near Willits; \$55 near Ukiah. Call (707) 456-0270 or (707) 354-2244. Ask for Fred. Kindling \$15/box.

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food?

For Rent 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Brand New. Close to town and Howard Hospital. Well-appointed kitchens with granite counters and large pantry. Spacious bathrooms. Laminate floors throughout and window coverings. 1200 sq. ft. Air conditioned. More \$1800.00/mo. information call 707-489envelopes, binders, etc. See full list with photos: Goodstuffgoingfast@ yahoo.com

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\$5.00 and up. Cash box

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John Ford Ranch Beef John Ford Ranch

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

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers – starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at http://www.

Get your ad included here next week! Classifieds are \$15 for 30 words for two weeks



Mendocino County invites applications for:

Corrections Deputy \$58,136 - \$67,308 **County Health Officer** \$185,224 - \$225,139 **Deputy Probation Officer I & II**

\$55,577 - \$74,505 **Deputy Sheriff-Coroner** \$84,323 - \$102,460 **Deputy Sheriff-Coroner in Training** \$25.33 - \$30.78 Hourly

\$53,643 - \$65,187 **Registered Veterinary Technician**

Public Safety Dispatcher

\$54,704 - \$66,497 Substance Abuse Counselor I/II \$46,196 - \$65,020

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

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H SC

Above: Darli Suarez makes his way through the track. Above, right: Kassius Lopez runs through the

At right: An undefeated Cole Lane smiles in front of the WHS cross

At far right, top: Runners from seven different schools start the race off strong. At far right: Cole Lane stavs ahead of all the other

Below: Brian Bowles proudly runs with a group of his teammates.

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COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

WHS Wolverines Cross Country makes great strides with home meet and undefeated runner; varsity football still on top despite loss to Kelseyville; varsity volleyball wins and fights this week

Sheri Dockins Cross country

The Willits Wolverines Cross Country Team held a NCL 1 League home meet on Wednesday, October 16, Nestled in our gorgeous Brooktrails is our unique set of hiking trails including the Par Course. Clearlake, Cloverdale, Fort Bragg, Kelseyville, Lower Lake, Middletown and St. Helena all traveled to run amongst the trees, hilly terrain, and grand scenery off the beaten path. Upon arrival, the parking lot was packed full. Meandering down the beginning of the trail, many fans, family members, and teammates were seen exploring the surrounding beauty while awaiting the races to begin.

"In Wednesday's race, the varsity boys team finished fourth out of six schools," said Coach Kenny Smith. "Although the team didn't place high, there were some notable individual performances. Junior Cole Lane finished first out of 42 runners with a time of 16:55 for the 2.87 mile course. This time earned Lane a spot on the 'All Time List,' and is the 22nd fastest time ever recorded by a Wolverine. Lane is currently undefeated in NCL 1.

"In addition," continued Smith, "sophomores Darli Suarez, Kassi Lopez and Brian Bowles all had their best races of the season, which is especially impressive considering all the hills on the Brooktrails course. Suarez ran 19:43 (6:52 average) which is the first time his average mile pace has been under seven minutes. Closely behind was Lopez with a time of 20:22 (7:06 average), his first time finishing third on the team. Bowles finished with a time of 22:19 (7:47 average), which set a new personal record."

Cole Lane began his season finishing first place against

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seven other schools, and continued as a steady trailblazer, placing first in all other league meets. He placed in the top 25 at two Division III invitationals in Sonoma County, with far more competitive races than our league races, with a lot more runners. He is an impressive runner to see and an all-around great human being.

"Cole is having a great season," said Smith. "He's been training hard and already put in over 200 miles since the first day of practice. His hard work is paying off and his times continue to drop as we progress through the season."

We are proud of you, Cole, and all of our cross country runners! Keep up the amazing work! Go Wolverines!

Friday night's game against Kelseyville was exactly what you would expect to see from two undefeated teams going head to head. Each team displayed their skills as to why they are in this position. Despite coming up just a bit short (three points) to Kelseyville, Willits remains second in the league with a great record of wins. They are 5-1 in the

Despite the final result, quarterback Corev Rockey played a game to be proud of. He threw for 167 yards and a touchdown, while completing 75 percent of his passes, and also rushed for 39 yards. The team's top performers and their current stat totals: Corey Rockey with 1,534 passing vards. 15 touchdown passes. Kolbe Bufardeci with 947 receiving yards, Porter Garman with 97 tackles and 634 rushing yards, Ryan Carter with six interceptions.

Willits will travel to Kelsevville a second time this season to play the Clearlake Cardinals. Good luck, Willits! You are doing phenomenally and your community is proud of you!

Varsity volleyball

"We had a great win on Tuesday night at WHS against Victory Christian Academy," said Coach Jon Jessup, "and faced Roseland University Prep in our final away game on Thursday. The Lady Wolverines had lots of strong plays and serves, definitely fought hard, but couldn't pull out the

The Wolverines Volleyball team is playing their last game of the season tonight, Thursday, October 24. They will honor their senior players for senior night in the Steve Short Gymnasium. JV plays at 5 pm; varsity at 7 pm. Come support our amazing volleyball players and seniors! We are proud of you Wolverine volleyball players!

WHS Athletes of the Week for October 7 through 12:

Varsity volleyball: junior #1 Lyly Herman JV volleyball: freshman #2 Frida Friend Varsity football: #9 Rickey Ramirez

Boys soccer: senior #6 Giovanni Leon Cross country: junior Cole Lane



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After the heartwarming opening item, this meeting got very serious quickly. Willits High School science teacher Amanda Laskovics presented and educated individuals in attendance on LGBTQ+ Inclusive Curriculum Training. Laskovics is the teacher advisor for the Gay-Straight Alliance Club at Willits High School, this year being her fourth in the position. She has attended two trainings partially funded by the Willits Teachers Association and wanted to share what she has learned with the board of trustees and the public. She focused on four main questions: As a TK-12 teacher, can I discuss LGBTQ+ topics during class minutes? If a TK-12 student requests to be addressed by a different name

From page 1

The rest of

or pronouns, am I obligated to accommodate the student's request? Can books that are authored by LGBTQ people or that address LGBTQ topics be removed from the classroom or library? Can the school board or our administrators require TK-12 teachers to report a student's gender identity or gender expression without the student's consent? Laskovics answered these questions, examining Senate

Bill 48 -The FAIR Education Act, Senate Bill 1266 and The Student Success and Opportunity Act, Assembly Bill 1078 - The Instructional Materials and Curriculum Diversity Act, checking the new laws against WUSD Board Policy 0410. She explains the effects of the legislation, when the bills went into place, their required modifications, and how the Education Code language has changed.

She acknowledged that for the last four years, "being the teacher advisor for this club has been significantly educational," sharing that she learned California state law protects TK-12 students from discrimination based on their gender identity and expression, and that the California Ed Code and WUSD Board Policy gives teachers a green light to continue making their classrooms more inclusive.

After the presentation, there was a small Q&A session, and an unnamed speaker with a non-binary, trans child said, "When I hear people talk about encouraging kids to live a 'double life,' I think the Ed Code is there so kids can survive so that they can live," addressing how many homes are not a safe space for LGBTQ+ and specifically nonbinary and trans students, explaining: "It's our obligation as a culture and a society to protect those kids."

Currently, while the district is facing hard conversations on how to make classrooms more inclusive and safer for students, hoping there will be a time when this is not up for discussion, they are also preparing to help students navigate their perspectives and views through the district's new Ethnic Studies curriculum. The class requirements are one semester and one trimester for WUSD, and the Ethnic Studies curriculum will be implemented in the upcoming years. It will not become a graduation requirement for graduating classes before 2030.

Arora Chavez, executive director of Student Programs for WUSD, explains that the curriculum "is supposed to be representative of multiple voices, multiple narratives. So, we may not feel comfortable ... or may not agree [with some of the curriculum], but we're supposed to teach both perspectives of things, opposing perspectives, and teach the kids how to make up their own minds."

The curriculum encourages students to think at a higher level, merging but not extending to a community college level and mode of thinking with K-12 topics and courses. Students are also encouraged to place how they fit into their environments while learning about the four required ethnicities Native Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic The rest of Americans, and African Americans.

The course poses a conversation, preferably led by students, like how Superintendent Beebe has facilitated open discussions about the cell phone policy, trying to interact with the students and parents it affects, and hear what they say. On cellphones, after a town hall meeting, three things have surfaced from all levels: Educate the parents, inform the students, and if a new board policy is implemented, it must be adopted fully.

When Trustee Alex Bowlds asked when a new policy might be implemented, Superintendent Beebe said: "I'm still dragging my feet a little bit. I'd like to see what the state's going to do. I'd also like to see what some other districts are doing ... [since] we're already satisfied for the 2026 referential by the state.

In response to Superintendent Beebe's statement, the WTA President believes that boundaries regarding cell phone would be more effective if implemented now "instead of dragging our [the district's] feet." He says, "I think we should be way more proactive and treat the community as if they're our own kids," explaining how staff should set cellphone boundaries that follow the current policy rather than waiting to implement a new one and enforce boundaries then.

The WTA president also appreciated staff members who "role model professionalism and superhuman levels of patience" across the sites and departments. However, the WTA president was not the only speaker who showed appreciation for staff; a CSEA representative, who was unnamed, welcomed the shift of site secretaries and recognized those who have shifted and their work. The CSEA representative also expressed that the members were excited about the upcoming fall season and the activities that allow them to help students outside of working

Lastly, the superintendent and trustees also expressed their happiness with the school year so far. Superintendent Beebe touched upon how October is a long month for educators and that it is interesting to see everything in action. Board trustees gave an update on their involvement - all trustees have been visiting sites and working with different staff members to

learn and better programs and sites district-wide as much as

Finally, since the district has still decided to hold off on implementing a new cellphone policy, what do you think about cell phones in schools, Willits Weekly readers?

The rest of

Letters

through the Willits school district. organization and get updates on trail work days (https://wactrails.wixsite. com/ride/membership). If interested in running with a group, join North Coast Striders (https://runsignup.com/Club/ CA/Ukiah/NorthCoastStriders) for Group runs and training in Ukiah and amail.com Brooktrails (https://northcoaststriders. com/2023/05/13/monthly-

Thank you everyone!

Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles,

Adopt a Family for Christmas gifts

To the Editor:

It's that time of the year for the Willits Christmas program. This year Willits Rotary has passed the torch to Willits Frontier Days. We are very excited to take this program on.

We will not be changing the program in anyway; referrals will still be done

Willits Wild Bunch has taken over the business as normal. (Any questions about the Toy Run please contact Rich Venturi at willitswildbunch@

Each year for more than a quarter of a century, our community has come together to help less fortunate Willits children by giving essential items (rain wear, winter coats, shoes, sleepwear, blankets etc.) and other appropriate holiday gifts.

Persons who wish to assist a single child can select a card from display trees located at various locations around town. On each card there is the child's clothes and shoe size as well as their wish list. If you are unable to fill the card, please just donate a toy or clothing in one of the drop-off bins, that way we can assure the child gets what is needed as well as what is wished for.

Selection of a single child works for

most program supporters, but others have voiced an interest in adopting Toy Run part this year and will continue an entire family. If you or your group wish to adopt a family, you are asked to follow a different path.

My name is Marcy Barry, and I am one of the coordinators for the Willits Frontier Days Christmas Program. I ask that you contact me so that may assist you in choosing a suitable family. My email is barrysbunch@ vahoo.com and my phone contact is 707-272-5395, or contact Hailey Riley at 707-272-1088. Please leave a message if we are unable to answer we will return your call promptly.

To be efficient, we need to satisfy requests to adopt a family before our usual referral process begins in late November. Please call at your earliest convenience so that we can discuss adopting a family.

We want to thank Willits Rotary for selecting us to continue this program.

Willits Frontier Days Christmas Program, aka Santa's helpers

Save the Redwoods League acquires 750 acres of redwood forest in Sonoma and Mendocino counties

Posted by Save the Redwoods League

San Francisco – Save the Redwoods League announced October 10 that it has purchased three coast redwood properties totaling 750 acres in Sonoma and Mendocino counties that will one day be added to Armstrong Redwoods (Sonoma) and Montgomery Woods (Mendocino) state natural reserves.

The League acquired the properties from private landowners, the Ayers and Robinson families, and from the Mendocino Redwood Company for nearly \$3.5 million. The acquisitions are the first steps toward long-term protection for these coast redwood properties.

Save the Redwoods League now has protected more than 84 square miles (53,850 acres) in Sonoma and Mendocino counties.

These lands are protected for the benefit of everyone in some of the region's most-loved parks, including Austin Creek State Recreation Area, Fort Ross State Historic Park, Montgomery Woods SNR, Mendocino Headlands, Sinkyone Wilderness, Navarro River Redwoods, and Hendy Woods state parks.

"I'm proud of our land protection team that successfully negotiated these three acquisitions and grateful to the former landowners for agreeing to help ensure that more redwood forest can grow and thrive long into the future," said Jeff Stump, director of land protection for Save the Redwoods League. "Together with California State Parks and local partners, we can work toward our shared vision of expanding the neighboring parks that are enjoyed by

From page 1 **MCOE**

school's first student-led Christian Club.

Ford's journey to the Mendocino County Board of Education started at the suggestion of a friend.

"I didn't even know where the office was or that I had to run a campaign, but I decided to go for it," she recalled. During the 17 years she served, she relished visiting schools, connecting with students and staff, and learning about the educational environments across the county.

"It's the people that make it worthwhile and fun," Ford

As she "graduates" into retirement, as she put it, Ford looks forward to spending time with family and friends, staying active in her church, and continuing her involvement in education in new ways. She's also been encouraged by her granddaughter to write her memoirs, a project she's titled, "My Life So Far."

Ford's advice to new board members? Get ready for a great adventure! You're always learning, exploring new places, and staying connected to what's happening in

Drew Duncan has served as the trustee for Area Four: Caspar, Cleone, Fort Bragg, Leggett, Piercy, and Westport, holding the title of board president for the past year.

Duncan is stepping down to focus on his new full-time teaching career. Raised in Mendocino County, Duncan attended local schools and earned his degree in political science before returning to coastal Mendocino County during the pandemic. He was elected to the MCOE Board A legacy of service in 2020, a time when meetings were virtual.

"I miss those pajama pants during meetings," he joked.

Duncan's journey to a career in education stems from his struggles as a student. Inspired by his family - his developed a deep respect for the profession.

"There are so many reasons people struggle in

education, and it's not because they aren't receiving time, support, or resources," he said. After working as a paraeducator supporting teachers

in the classroom, he wanted to give back to his coastal "So much is happening because of the dedication

of the people on the frontlines of education and behind

the scenes - from policies and budgets to schools and

more than a million people each year."

"Armstrong Redwoods and Montgomery Woods state reserves are unparalleled treasures in our district, safeguarding some of the world's tallest trees - coast redwoods that have stood for over 1,000 years," said Bill Maslach, Sonoma-Mendocino Coast district superintendent for California State Parks.

"Collaborating with Save the Redwoods League to preserve the last remaining stands of big trees and expand these parks is not just conservation; it's preserving living history. Now, we must focus on the surrounding forests to ensure they are resilient to fire, securing their legacy for future generations"

Future expansion of Montgomery Woods

The League purchased the 390-acre Dark Gulch property from Mendocino Redwood Company for \$1.5 million. Dark Gulch will be transferred to California State Parks to ensure lasting protection and future public access as part of Montgomery Woods SNR.

Dark Gulch is within the traditional lands of the Northern Pomo people. It is on the western side of Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve and is mostly forested, with a mix of young coast redwoods, Douglas-fir and tanoak, with manzanita, huckleberry and California hazelnut growing in the shade provided by the larger trees. Whiteflowered rein orchids, a special status species that smells like honey, also line the forest.





Above, left: Retiring MCOE Area 3 Trustee Charline Ford is a lifelong educator and advocate for students. Above, right: Area 4 Trustee Drew Duncan is also stepping down from the MCOE

Duncan obtained his teaching credential and is now pursuing his master's in education at UC Davis. In his social science classroom, he enjoys bringing local politics to life for eighth-graders.

"Making local politics interesting, even for tunedin adults, is challenging, but making it relevant for my students is especially rewarding," he said.

His advice to new board members and educators? "It's easy to feel a step removed from education if you only read the board documents. Visit all the sites, graduations, and events. You'll feel more connected if you get out to see things first-hand. It's really rewarding and helps you understand the complexities of the county. It's been an incredibly rewarding experience, and I'm sad to leave it."

Serving as a trustee on the Mendocino County Board of Education offers a unique opportunity to shape educational policies, advocate for students, and make a lasting impact on schools across the county. Ford and Duncan leave grandmother, mother, and brother, all educators - he a legacy of service. The Mendocino County Office of Education and the education community are grateful for their leadership and commitment to Mendocino County schools and students, says Nicole Glentzer, Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools.

The Mendocino County Board of Education comprises five trustees based on supervisorial districts, each elected to four-year terms. This fall, two seats are up for election. In Trustee Area Three, Michelle Hutchins and David R. Strock are running for the open seat. In Trustee Area Four, Nancy J. Bennett will assume the seat after filing uncontested. New trustees will be sworn in on December 16, 2024.

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programs – that make it all possible," he said.

'Butter Ball'

Hot Buttered Rum returns to Willits Friday to benefit School of Adaptive Agriculture

Submitted by School of Adaptive Agriculture

Hot Buttered Rum returns to the Little Lake Grange this Friday for its sixth performance in Willits, accompanied by an exciting cast of musicians. Rising star 19-year-old Fiona Mariposa will kick off the show. Fiona wowed the audience at Willits Blues & Brews Fest in September with her blazing blues guitar and resonant vocals.

Popular local funk rock blues band Soul Circus will open for Hot Buttered Rum, with special guest Bella Rayne. Bella is a 17-year-old, self-taught guitar phenom from Mendocino, California, who is quickly making a name for herself in the Grateful Dead/Jam Band scene.

Willits' own Bug Guts will also put in an appearance. Describing themselves as "free range misfit folk superheroes," Rosebud and Scott Ireland combine playful and inventive lyrics with impeccable harmonies and rich acoustic guitar.

Hot Buttered Rum blends bluegrass, Americana and rock in a rocking progressive bluegrass sound that has audiences up and dancing through the show. They've appeared in Willits with bluegrass legend Peter Rowan and love to mix it up with rising star musicians like The Real Sarahs, who will appear onstage with HBR during the show.

The event is Friday, October 25 at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Doors open at 6 pm, music starts at 7 pm, and goes until 11:30 pm. Beer, wine and hot buttered rum will be available at the bar, along with soft drinks. There'll be food and crafts vendors on hand. And the event is "costume friendly" and kid-friendly, too.

The Butter Ball revives a tradition of Hot Buttered Rum benefit concerts for the School of Adaptive Agriculture. Founded in 2013, the School is located on Ridgewood Ranch, between Willits and Ukiah. It has provided intensive introductions to small-scale farming to dozens of aspiring farmers. Its workshops for local farmers have covered everything from bookkeeping to composting. And workshops for the general public provide vital information for rural living on herbal medicine, rustic furniture making, orchard health, and much more.

The School has just launched a Farm Incubator Program to provide land and access to tools to aspiring farmers while they learn the ropes of starting their own business. For more information go to: www.schoolofadaptiveagriculture.org

A Silent Auction will help raise money for the School. Event sponsors include Blue Zones, Sparetime Supply, J.D. Redhouse, Printing Plus, Northspur Brewing, Frey Vineyards, and Bonterra Organic Estates.

Tickets for the Butter Ball are available now at J.D. Redhouse, Flying Dog Pizza, and the Willits Farmers Market. Or online at https://schoolofadaptiveagriculture.org/events-and-workshops/ or at Eventbrite.









locals Bug Guts are also on the bill for the October 25 show at the Grange. At top, right: Soul Circus opens Friday night with its mix of funk. rock and blues. Above: Hot Buttered Rum brings their rocking progressive bluegrass sound to Willits for the sixth time. At left: Fiona Mariposa kicks off Friday's benefit for the farm school at the Grange. At right, top: Bella Rayne, self-taught guitar phenomena. joins Soul Circus for this show. At right: Local trio The Real Sarahs will join Hot Buttered Rum on stage.

At top, left: Willits







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