

Willits Weekly

Online & Print



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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
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Update on March 5 primary election

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Mendocino County will start mailing sample ballot pamphlets "by the end of this week," for local races in the March 5 Presidential Primary Election, Assessor-County Clerk Recorder Katrina Bartolomie told county supervisors at their Tuesday meeting.

Ballots themselves for local voters will be mailed on February 2. All active registered voters in California are set to receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the March 5, 2024 election.

"By law we began mailing our military and overseas ballots out on January 5," Bartolomie noted. "We've sent out 303 military and overseas ballots, and we're already getting them back in."

In addition to statewide presidential and U.S. Senate primary races, Mendocino County's U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman, who also represents Marin, Sonoma, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties in Congressional District 2, is up for reelection.

There's an open election for state Assembly, as incumbent Jim Wood announced in November he would not be running for reelection to a sixth and final term. California legislators are limited to serving a

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

2nd District Assembly candidates forum in Willits

Submitted by WEC

The Willits Environmental Center will host a 2nd District candidates forum in Willits on Monday evening, January 29, from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Little Lake Grange, located at 291 School Street.

All seven candidates have been invited: Ariel Kelley, Democrat from Healdsburg; Chris Rogers, Democrat from Santa Rosa; Rusty Hicks, Democrat from Arcata; Frankie Myers, Democrat from the Yurok Tribe, Humboldt County; Michael Greer, Republican from Crescent City; Cynthia Click, Democrat from Willits; and Ted Williams, Democrat from the Town of Mendocino.

The forum will start with introductions from the candidates, followed by questions from the public on a range of issues pertinent to the office of assembly member. Refreshments will be available. Meet your next Assembly member ... your voice in Sacramento!

For more information, call Ellen at 707-459-2643, or 707-459-4110.



Above, left: Caltrans workers rake up bark, branches, and other remnants from the northbound lane of Highway 20/Main Street after a large oak crashed and fell Tuesday morning. Above, right: Caltrans supervisor Jaron Nunnemaker noted the whole interior of the oak's stump was rotted out, and just the exterior portion of the tree was all that was holding the whole thing up. Below: Heavy equipment was needed to help remove the larger branches. The bumper of the car which made a non-injury contact with the tree was still sitting on the sidewalk. Nunnemaker estimated the tree to be large enough for four to five cords of wood, but with the rot, it wasn't really usable as firewood. "Thankfully it didn't fall into the residence to the east, or straight across the road. That'd mess up someone's morning coffee for sure," said Nunnemaker with a relieved laugh. "It's a good reminder to have your trees checked!"



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above: The interior of the oak's stump was the texture of a dry sponge. Below, left: Caltrans workers assess a possible water leak as a puddle grew larger and larger in the lawn, from under the tree. Below, right: This Google Maps view from before, shows the tree in its previous state, before it fell Tuesday morning.

At bottom: Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez caught this photo of the early morning mess, including the car which was involved. Thankfully, it was a non-injury accident and no one was hurt.

Photo by Saprina Rodriguez



'The State of Things' community briefing

Margi Gomez Guhde
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Willits residents gathered at the Willits Community Center this past Thursday evening to take part in "The State of Things," a community briefing presented by the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez, Mendocino County Third District Supervisor John Haschak, and Ruth Valenzuela from California State Assembly member Jim Wood's office spoke in a town-hall style reporting session from the various levels of government.

The January 18 meeting began with a welcoming greeting from Willits Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Susan Mahoney, who gave a brief rundown about the mission of the Willits Chamber. Mahoney listed networking with and advocating for local businesses, providing information about local resources, and engaging with and promoting the local community as top priorities for the chamber.

The first of the guests to speak was Ruth Valenzuela, district director from the

Read more of **State**
Over on Page 10

BOS OKS funds to defend against Cubbison civil action

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At their Tuesday meeting, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved \$100,000 via the consent calendar for San Francisco attorneys Liebert Cassidy Whitmore to provide additional outside legal services for the county "for the litigation matter of Chamise Cubbison v. Mendocino County, et al, Case No. 23CV01231."

Case No. 23CV01231 is the court writ filed in Mendocino County Superior Court on December 15 by suspended Auditor-Controller Treasurer-Tax Collector Chamise Cubbison against the County of Mendocino, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, and "Does 1 through 20."

The "Petition for a Writ of Mandate" asks the court to "issue a peremptory writ ... commanding the Respondents to reinstate Petitioner to her position of Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector, with back pay and benefits

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

Tree Down

Oak tree topples and falls on Main Street

Posted by Willits Police Department

Early this morning before 7 am, Willits Police Department began receiving multiple calls for a downed tree blocking the northbound lanes of the 1000 block of South Main Street. Mendocino Sheriff's Office deputies in the area heard the initial dispatch and quickly arrived to assist.

As officers responded, dispatch requested Public Works and Caltrans to mitigate the downed tree and debris in the road. A short time later, dispatch received a report for a non-injury traffic collision into the downed tree.

Little Lake Fire was dispatched and responded shortly thereafter to provide medical aid as needed and assist with morning traffic.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

No more cash for recyclables

To the Editor:

I have been happily recycling since I arrived in California in 1969. During those years there have been many good changes, and I feel like I'm doing something for the environment!

Last week, I had about 15 plastic gallon water jugs to recycle and drove up to the scales. When it was my turn, the worker asked me for my ID. You can imagine how surprised I was. Being a curious person I asked, "Why?" He answered that the Solid Waste business had been sold, and I would need my ID in order for them to issue me a check!

No more cash reimbursements! Wow!!! That meant I would have to go to the bank and cash or deposit the check! I thought, "What about the many homeless/ low-income people that don't have a bank account! Many of them depend on that money to live! We have all seen them working on collecting and carrying bags full of cans and bottles."

So I went to the bank and cashed my check for \$2.80. Also I like to tip the Solid Waste workers with part of my cash, but now I'll have to plan for this! Is this progress? A better way?

I didn't read anything about this in the article, "Garbage Service," in the January 18 issue of WW.

Nancy Reed, Willits

Sherwood Road

To the Editor:

Sherwood Road is long overdue for a facelift. There is money now available for a study of ingress egress regarding Brooktrails. Sherwood Road serves those purposes but has never been brought up to a standard that properly serves residents in everyday life or in event of an emergency.

It has been suggested that a third lane be added to the existing Sherwood Road for a bike lane and emergency purposes. In the event of a natural or unnatural disaster the third lane could be used by fire departments, ambulances, CHP, police, etc. Wide turnouts could also be added where appropriate.

I am suggesting that instead of squandering the funds that are available on elaborate schemes to blast through private property that is fraught with obvious drawbacks (unstable clay soils, earthquake faults, class 2 and class 3 streams, historic springs, and difficult steep terrain) that a thorough study on the re-making of Sherwood Road be the focus.

The approximately 1/2 mile of Sherwood Road that lies within the Willits city limits would be the toughest problem for the engineers. It is steep and has many curves necessary to maintain a drivable grade. Using available retaining wall technology, such as Hifiker Retaining Wall or Welded Wire Wall, combined with minimal uphill cutting, it does look possible to vastly improve that portion of Sherwood Road and maintain existing driveways and homes.

I sincerely hope that the powers that be will consider the improvement of Sherwood Road as the first step to safety for Sherwood Road residents. Caltrans work at the bottom of Sherwood Road is proof that seemingly impossible solutions can be achieved with sound planning and solid engineering.

John Wagenet, Willits

The Rules: LETTERS

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

Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

Willits Weekly

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Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Thursday, January 25: Monterey Roast Beef Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

Friday, January 26: Turkey, Cranberry Stuffing, Veggies, Roll

Monday, January 29: Beer Battered Cod, Rice Pilaf, Veggies

Tuesday, January 30: Turkey Curry over Rice, Roll

Wednesday, January 31: Eggs Benedict, Potatoes, Fruit

Thursday, February 1: French Dip Au Jus, Loaded Mashed Potatoes

Friday, February 2: Stuffed Peppers, Rice, Roll

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

Pancake Breakfast: every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am. \$10; \$9 center members; \$6 children under 8.

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

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

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

CAL FIRE has \$20 million in grants for forestry business projects

Submitted by CAL FIRE, Sacramento

CAL FIRE is soliciting applications for California business and workforce development projects that support healthy resilient forests and the people and ecosystems that depend on them.

Competitive projects will sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A total of \$20 million in funding is available. Applications will be accepted until midnight on March 8, 2024.

To apply, go to the Wood Products and Bioenergy webpage at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/environmental-protection-program/wood-products-and-bioenergy> for a link to start your application.

"The CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grant program has been instrumental for the development of both our own biomass utilization facility and so many others across the state of California," said Matt King of Tuolumne Biomass.

CAL FIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy Program supports the creation of a robust and diversified wood products industry to facilitate the economic and sustainable management of California's forests. This grant funding will create financial incentives for industries to invest in clean technologies, develop innovative ways to process wood products, and support the growth of a strong forest-sector workforce.

A virtual pre-recorded workshop is available to explain the grant process and requirements. Please check the Wood Products and Bioenergy webpage to view the workshop. Questions can be directed to WoodProducts@fire.ca.gov.

Business and Workforce Development grants are part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public

Read the rest of **CAL FIRE** Over on page 11



Above, from left: A new metal ramp is an aid to helping clients mount their horses. Diane Cannon leads one of the horses to the round pen. The large riding arena will be the next facility to be refurbished. At right: Isabela Lopez Mora, who enlisted her family's help in staining the fence, poses for a photo with her brother, her mom, and Diane Cannon. At right, below, left: A client awaits a trail ride with the volunteer side walker. At right, below, right: Diane Cannon demonstrates how the equizer can help clients get the feel of a real horse until they are comfortable enough to ride the real ones. At right, bottom: This tree, with magnetic paint, by artist Anna Judd, will enable clients to place their emotions on the tree when completed.

Group Effort

Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center has new round practice pen thanks to help from several community members and businesses

"The Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center is an adaptive riding program dedicated to teaching the skill of horsemanship to children and adults with disabilities, using the movement of the horse to promote coordination and personal awareness to develop skills and strength that will help them thrive in their daily lives," so says

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
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the literature provided by the riding center. And after 30 years and several iterations, the program has been a proven effective process, providing vast benefits to its clients and to the volunteers, who are the lifeblood of the program, and the staff, who are certified, dedicated, and well-trained. The teachers who run the lessons are certified by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship.

The facilities, located on a portion of Ridgewood Ranch, have been growing and improving lately in order to provide the best benefits to its clients, who are autistic, suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome, or a myriad of other developmental and challenging maladies. The latest improvement was the rebuilding of the round practice pen, built over 20 years ago and in dire need of refurbishment due to rotting wood.

"This is used for children who want to ride independently. They can get lost in the big arena. In this pen, it's a very safe area where they can focus on the horse. It's not quite in use yet. It's enclosed so the client gets to feel independent but in a safe area. It's also a very good place to warm up the horses before the clients get here," explained Diane Cannon, instructor and facilities manager.

"Roger Howard (not of the Charles Howard family) was one of the original builders of the pen. He and his wife were involved down here 20-something years ago," said Cannon. "He realized how run down this was getting and all the wood needed to be replaced." Cannon had some wood from a nearby logging project milled into boards.

"Then we hired the fencing company which gave us a great deal. Then B&B Industrial gave us a great deal on the bolts. Then the Scouts came and did the painting. It was a huge project. It took 20 gallons of stain which we bought from a local Ukiah company that makes their own stain. Everything was sourced locally," said Cannon

The staining of the approximately 380 planks that make up the large enclosure was taken on as a project of Troop 42, spearheaded by Eagle Scout candidate Isabela Lopez Mora. "I got a couple volunteers together and we stained the round pen, which is supposed to help preserve it because it was all green wood before, so it was really susceptible to wood rot and other problems. In staining it, we're helping to preserve it so it will be able to benefit the program for a long time."

Mora has a history with STRC. "My brother used to come here as part of the program when he was a lot younger," said Mora. "This is a place that my family drops by quite often. My brother was coming to this program when Erin [Holzhauer] was just a volunteer and now she is head

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



Photos by Mathew Caine

State taskforce seized \$312 million in illegal cannabis last year

Submitted by California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Cannabis Control

January 16 – Continuing to protect public safety, safeguard natural resources, and advance the integrity of the licensed cannabis market, California's Unified Cannabis Enforcement Taskforce seized more than \$312 million in unlicensed cannabis during its first calendar year of operation.

Among the highlights from the operations in 2023 was the seizure of almost 190,000 pounds of illegal cannabis, the eradication of almost 318,000 plants, and the seizure of 119 illegally possessed firearms.

"California is effectively decreasing the illegal cannabis market by leveraging the strengths and knowledge of over 20 state agencies and departments alongside our local and federal partners," stated Director Nicole Elliott of Department of Cannabis Control. "The UCETF's progress in 2023 reflects California's ongoing commitment to disrupting and dismantling illegal cannabis activity. I look forward to working with all our partners in 2024 to build on this progress."

"Since its inception in late 2022, California's Unified Cannabis Enforcement Taskforce has hit the ground running with year-round operations that spanned from the Oregon state line all the way down to San Diego," said CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham. "We've sent a strong message that illegal operations that harm our natural resources, threaten the safety of workers, and put consumer health at risk have no place in California. While there is more work to be done, we made progress last year, and I look forward to going further alongside our county, state, and federal partners."

In 2023, the taskforce statistics show they served 188 search warrants, seized 189,854.02 pounds of cannabis at a retail value of \$312,880,014.35. They eradicated 317,834 cannabis plants, and sized 119 firearms and \$223,809 in money.

The task force's top 5 counties for enforcement activity (according to value of cannabis seized) in calendar year 2023 were: 1. Alameda at

Read the rest of **Cannabis** Over on page 11

CHOOSE YOUR FAVE SENIOR PICTURE

All photos for the Class of 2024 are loaded on the gallery now!

Students need to choose their photo by **Thursday, Feb 1, 2024** or it will be chosen for them!

Instructions in student emails and on social media!



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Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits.

Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify.

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HARBOR SENIOR CENTER
SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



Sudoku grid with numbers 3, 9, 7, 2, 6, 4 in the top row and other numbers scattered throughout.

Level: Beginner

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

COMMUNICATION WORD SEARCH

Word search grid containing letters for finding hidden words.

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

Word search answer key with words listed in columns: ACTIVE, ADVERTISEMENT, AGENDA, AUDIENCE, AWARE, BENCHMARK, BRAINSTORM, CALL TO ACTION, CAMPAIGN, CHARISMA, COLLABORATIVE, COMMITMENT, COMMUNICATION, CORPORATE, CULTURE, GATEKEEPER, GROUP, IMAGE, INFORMAL, INTERACTION, LEADERSHIP, LISTENING, MARKETING, MESSAGE, METAPHOR, NOISE, OPINION, PATTERNS, PERSONALITY, PERSUASION, POSITIONING, PUBLIC, SPAMMING, STORIES, TARGET, TRENDS.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 51 indicating starting points for clues.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Winged nut
7. ___ Humbug!
10. One who sets apart
12. Circle above a saint's head
13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh
14. Expressed pleasure
15. Feminine given name
16. Company of badgers
17. Popular Dodge pickup truck
18. Witty sayings
19. Leader
21. Autonomic nervous system
22. Premolar
27. Atomic #28
28. Holiday decorative item
33. Exclamation of surprise
34. Rusk or cracker
36. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language

CLUES DOWN

- 38. Eat
39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.)
40. Ceases to exist
41. Male Arabic name
44. Series of ridges on an organ wall
45. Places where bees are kept
48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin
49. Church office
50. Single lens reflex
51. Pieces of fibrous tissue
12. Small quantities (Scot.)
14. Poisonous plant
17. Laugh at
18. Vogul
20. C. European river
23. Type of cat
24. Exclamation of disgust
25. Stephen King novel
26. Without armies
29. Expression of sympathy
30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
31. Previously
32. Illegal drug
35. Kiloelectronvolt
36. Large, flightless birds
38. For smoking
40. Binary
41. Competition
42. Mark resembling an arrow
43. Containers
44. Root mean square (abbr.)
45. Commercial
46. I.M., architect
47. 007's creator

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

December 18 to December 28

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 96 incidents in this 11-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

December 18

7:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

December 19

7:33 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of Coast Street and issued a warning.

10:01 pm: CARRASCO, Nora Leigh (42) of San Francisco was contacted in the 300 block of North Street following a pursuit. She was arrested pursuant to 69 PC (Resisting an Officer), 148 (A) (1) PC (Resisting Arrest), 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), on felony charges of criminal conspiracy and assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm, and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (drugs and alcohol).

10:01 pm: NEVAREZ III, Miguel Angel (31) of San Francisco was contacted in the 300 block of North Street following a pursuit. He was arrested pursuant to 69 PC (Resisting an Officer), 243 (B) PC (Battery on an Officer), 2800.2 VC (Reckless Evading), 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher), on felony charges of harboring or aiding a principal wanted for a felony and criminal conspiracy, and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and evading an officer.

December 20

12:59 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Wood Street.

1:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 24000 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

1:43 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 24000 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

1:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:02 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1600 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

2:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Williams Street and Casteel Lane and issued a warning.

3:13 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1600 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.

8:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

9:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of Robert Way.

10:20 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Meadowbrook Drive and Crest Drive and issued a warning.

December 21

9:35 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:14 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Highway 20 and issued a citation.

7:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:03 pm: JENNISON, Erin Victoria (45) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

December 22

1:01 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft report in the 100 block of Sanhedrin Circle.

2:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

4:58 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

a warning.

5:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Muir Mill Road and South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 23

1:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:30 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Central Street and Alameda Avenue and issued a warning.

1:58 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

2:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

5:30 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:41 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:00 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of School Street and West Mendocino Avenue and issued a warning.

7:58 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

8:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 600 block of Crest Drive and issued a warning.

9:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:43 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 500 block of East Commercial Street.

December 24

12:54 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside Court and issued a citation.

4:40 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue.

7:11 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of North Main Street.

7:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 25

4:07 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Manor Way and issued a warning.

December 26

8:03 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

10:32 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

December 27

1:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

5:38 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

6:43 pm: MATTSON, Cheryl Kathleen (51) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Barbara Lane. She was arrested on felony charges of domestic battery.

December 28

11:10 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Commercial Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:27 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:28 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Lovely Endora

Endora is small for her breed, but she has a BIG personality! This stunning girl is very friendly and likes to be close to her person. Endora enjoys going for walks, though she needs a bit more training to help build her confidence. She can be nervous around dogs, but becomes comfortable once she spends time with them. Love the German shepherd dog breed? Check out our landing page for information about setting up a meet and greet with Endora!



The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet our feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.

Quiet Gemma

Introducing Gemma, the lovable blue heeler with a heart full of devotion and a desire for tranquility. Gemma is a bit shy at first. Her ideal home is a low-activity environment where she can feel safe and secure. A calm and patient adopter who can create a peaceful atmosphere will be the key to her confidence. She needs time and space to blossom at her own pace.



Once bonded, Gemma wants to stick close by her people. She seems to bond easier with females. If you're ready to offer Gemma the peaceful haven she longs for, where she can feel safe, secure, and deeply loved, then she's eagerly waiting to meet you.

To learn more about Gemma 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 707-459-4900.

Outgoing Trudy

Trudy is a fun-loving youngster that always likes to have something to do. She will happily be your best friend and can live with other cats too!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to come 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.



Showin' Some Love

It's almost Valentine's Day, and Willits Weekly is once again excited to feature photos of the community's loved ones this holiday.

We will print as many photos as we can in the February 8, 2024 edition.

Please email photos to willitsweekly@gmail.com and please include a caption, identifying yourself, as well as those in the photo. First names only are OK.

As an example: "Happy Valentine's Day to my sweetie [their name]! Love, [your name]." All photos must be submitted by MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5 at 5 pm.



Mendocino National Forest grows by 917 acres



Posted by the Wilderness Land Trust

The Wilderness Land Trust announced recently that it has transferred 917 acres adjacent to California's Sanhedrin Wilderness to public ownership.

In northern California's Mendocino County, tucked between the wild and scenic Eel River and peaks of the Sanhedrin Wilderness, 917 acres of formerly private land have been transferred to public ownership. The property, known as the Thomas Creek project, provides a link between lower-elevation habitats and the mature fir forests that blanket the high country, as well as a critical wildlife corridor between the Sanhedrin Wilderness to the north and other national forest lands to the south.

Its rolling hills are spotted with protected oak savannah and groves of madrone trees, home to a thriving community of rare plants, spotted owls, martens, bears, mountain lions, and deer. Among the rare plant species is the Anthony Peak lupine which only grows in Mendocino National Forest. The property also contains one of the last private sections of Thomas Creek, an important tributary to the Eel River, and critical spawning grounds for its steelhead and coho salmon fisheries.

The Thomas Creek project scored as a high conservation priority for the Wilderness Land Trust and Mendocino National Forest for its climate change resilience value and high threat of development with the potential to be subdivided into six building sites.

"The Thomas Creek Project meets the mark for all the benefits of designating public lands," said Congressman Jared Huffman. "It's going to protect critical habitat and treasured species, support biodiversity, and get us closer to our conservation and climate goals. I'm incredibly grateful to the Wilderness Land Trust and the Mendocino National Forest for stepping up as stewards of this land."

Due to its importance in regional conservation efforts, the project has also gained support from the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers California Chapter, CalWild, Friends of the Eel River, Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Willits Environmental Center.

The Wilderness Land Trust purchased the property in October 2022. The trust had previously purchased another property from the private owner in 2011. With this established relationship, the landowner trusted the Wilderness Land Trust and Mendocino National Forest would ensure its protection for future generations.

For the last year, the trust has been working with forest service leadership at Mendocino National Forest, the regional office, and Washington, D.C. to complete the transfer of this important landscape to public hands. The transfer to public ownership was made possible by Land and Water Conservation funds with support from Rep. Huffman and the late Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Congrats!

Happy Birthday, Alaska!

Hey wait! There's something great! Our sweet Alaska just turned 8! We love you now And loved you then We'll love you still when you turn 10! Happy birthday girl!



Love, Mom, Dad, River, Lilo, Stinky, Mittens, Tuna & Tobi

Advertisement for Lisa Mace, Movement Therapist, Feldenkrais/Myofascial Release/Exercise, Specializing in Hands-on Health. Contact: 707-354-3717, maccemoving@gmail.com, 32 E. San Francisco Ave., Willits.

Advertisement for Edie Ceccarelli's 116th birthday celebration. Includes photo of Edie, balloons, and parade route map. Text: "Come celebrate from 1-1:30 pm on Sunday, February 4 during a drive-by parade!"

Advertisement for Bereavement Support Group. Includes logo for Avenues to Wellness, text: "This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the symptoms of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration." Facilitators: Suzanne Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson.

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.agapebilechurch.com

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

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort
where all are welcome
Pastor Rosemary Landry
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
www.willitsumc.org
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willitsumc
If you want to be included in
this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyotheatre.com
Next Week:
ARGYLLE

Thursday, January 25

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the winter season at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Herbal Wellness Wagon: The Mendocino County Herb Guild and the Community Wellness Collective are bringing the Herbal Wellness Wagon to the Willits Farmers Market in January. Herbalists, nurses, doctors, and other volunteers provide free services including blood pressure checks, health consultations, free herbal remedies and (always!) a cup of herbal tea. Find us in the hallway of Little Lake Grange alongside Nuestra Alianza. More info: 707 272-3373 or MendoCWC@gmail.com

Friday, January 26

'Just Another Audition' opens at WCS: Willits Charter School presents Bryan Starchman's production of "Just Another Audition," a comedy that takes the audience backstage to witness the worst high school auditions EVER - where anything that can go wrong, does go wrong! An overzealous assistant director and a slacker stage manager, along with a wacky group of wannabe actors, are left to cast their senior show themselves. What follows is a rollicking show full of accidental auditions, movie and pop culture hits reworked, bad songs, creepy clowns, overbearing drama mamas, and some slithering surprise guests. Runs January 26 and 27 at 7 pm; February 2 and 3 at 7 pm; and February 4 at 2 pm, at the WCS' new venue, 1431 South Main Street.

Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: A local Mendocino County jam band, "sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community. Friday, January 26 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, January 27

KLLG Pledge Drive, Online Yard Sale: KLLG Willits Hometown Radio hosts a pledge drive and online yard sale, on Saturday, January 27, from 9 am to 3 pm. Tune in to 97.9 FM with our local programmers asking for your support while we spin tunes and tales. See pictures of items for sale at "KLLG 97.9 Willits Hometown Radio" on Facebook. If something interests you, call us at 707-459-5554 or email us at info@kllg.org during the pledge drive. Or check (and donate) at KLLG.org

Sierra Club meets in Willits: The Mendocino County Group of the Sierra Club invites you to our first public meeting of the new year, Saturday, January 27, 12 noon to 2 pm, at the Willits Environmental Center, 630 South Main Street. Bring your ideas, comments, questions, and a bag lunch if you'd like. Are you interested in reviving hikes and outings? Protecting old-growth and second-growth redwoods from logging? Exploring the Eel River Watershed? Learning more about healthy fireescapes and how native people have tended these natural places for thousands of years? More info: Robin Leler at (707) 459-0155.

Donnie "Mississippi Saxophone" at Shanachie: Local harmonica (aka "Mississippi saxophone") player Donnie and his friends and fellow musicians play an improvisational variety of Chicago style Blues, Rock,

What's Happening Around Town

Funk, Latin & West African music. Saturday, January 27 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, January 28

Grange Pancake Breakfast: Join your friends at the Little Lake Grange Breakfast, the first of 2024, on Sunday, January 28 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 Local Farm Fresh Eggs, Real Butter, Juice, Organic Coffee or Tea." \$10, \$9 for seniors, \$5 children under 10. Also: extra sides of Organic Fruit \$2, Amish Organic Maple Syrup \$1, Fresh-made fruit syrup \$1, Extra Beelers Bacon \$1. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of Main Street).

Intro to Iyengar Yoga at the Art Center: Intro to Iyengar Yoga, a practice for resilience and freedom, with Kirra Swenerton on Sunday January 28, from 11 am to 1 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Workshop is FREE and donations are gratefully accepted. Discover how yoga can energize your body and improve mental clarity, emotional stability, and circulation. No experience necessary. For any sized body or ability. Kickoff for February Beginner's series. Sign up now at www.rootwisdom.com or call (206) 618-2552.

31st Annual Professional Pianist Concert: featuring Spencer Brewer, Wendy DeWitt, Tom Ganoung, Ben Janice and Janice Hawthorne Timm. Sunday, January 28 at 2 pm, at Mendocino College Center in Ukiah. Tickets start at \$25. Info or tickets: www.ukiahconcerts.org/professional-pianists-concerts

Monday, January 29

2nd District Assembly Candidates Forum: Come meet the candidates for 2nd District Assembly, at a candidates forum at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, on Monday, January 29, 6:30 to 8 pm. Sponsored by the Willits Environmental Center. All seven candidates have been invited. Introductions from the candidates, then questions from the public. "Meet your next Assembly member - your voice in Sacramento." Info: call Ellen at 707-459-2643, or 707-459-4110.

Wednesday, January 31

Auditions for WCT's 'The Glass Menagerie': Auditions for the Tennessee Williams classic, to be directed by Michael Ducharme, begin Wednesday, January 31 at Willits Community Theatre 37, West Van Lane. The roles are for two women and three men, and the play will run 9 shows from April 12 through 28. To RSVP for a specific time, email wctperformingartscenter@gmail.com with the subject line "The Glass Menagerie Audition RSVP." Walk up auditions as slots are available. "Prepare a 2-3 minute monologue of your choosing and be prepared to read from the script. Info or to borrow a script: email michael3139@gmail.com or text 707-313-6623.

Thursday, February 1

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the winter season at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, the Herbal Wellness Wagon, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, February 2

'Just Another Audition' at WCS: Willits Charter School presents the second weekend of Bryan Starchman's production of "Just Another Audition," a comedy that takes the audience backstage to witness the worst high school auditions EVER - where anything that can go wrong, does go wrong! A rollicking show full of accidental auditions, movie and pop culture hits reworked, bad songs, creepy clowns, overbearing drama mamas, and some slithering surprise guests. This weekend's shows: February 2 and 3 at 7 pm; and February 4 at 2 pm, at the WCS' new venue, 1431 South Main Street.

Sunday, February 4

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop: Richard Tootreese Jeske will present and demonstrate how to properly prune fruit trees and grape vines for the home gardener. Sunday, February 4, from 10 am to 2:30 pm. Topics include heading vs. thinning cuts, summer vs. winter pruning, tree parts and health and vigor, sun requirements, tools, ladder-less orcharding, and what grows and produces best in our region. The first part of the workshop will be indoors at the HUB (Willits Environmental Center/WELL), 630 South Main Street. After a short lunch break we will resume at Richard's home orchard on East Hill Road. Cost: \$25. To register call Richard at 459-5926. Space is limited.

Celebrate WELL's 20th year: Willits Economic Localization hosts an open house and "Brainstorm," Sunday, February 4, at 4 pm, at the Willits Hub, 630 South Main Street, to envision projects and priorities for 2024 and beyond. "We are all part of building a sustainable, thriving community. What do YOU want to see happen?" Everyone is welcome. More info: contact Madge at 707-459-1493 or mstrong@willitsonline.com or Jane at janemccabe1944@yahoo.com.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'The Boys in the Boat'

The Story: University of Washington during the Great Depression: Joe Rantz (Callum Turner) is a prideful loner. He walks in worn-out boots and he sleeps in a broke-down jalopy. He counts his few pennies to eat. He needs to come up with tuition as an engineering student,

but there are no jobs. Joe's told that if he could get on the University rowing team, he would be paid a salary and he'd be given a real place to live. The University itself had the admirable, but unlikely goal of representing the United States in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. In that hellish decade, Germany was a weird place to compete (or even just be)! Enormous swastika flags of the Third Reich hung from all the buildings. In the crowded bleachers, enthusiastically obedient Nazi Party members chanted loud Sieg Heils to der (smug and wretched) Führer himself.

My Thoughts: Director George Clooney probes the Era. The flick emphasizes the class and money

divide that made it especially difficult for the working-class students to compete against the wealthy Eastern U.S. college teams, much less beat those Ivy League schools in the competition for the Olympics. I knew nothing of rowing as a sport. This flick does a swell job of explaining to the average doofus (me) just what it takes to be a legitimate competitor. I left the theater with a tremendous respect for the particular rowing skills of the athletes.

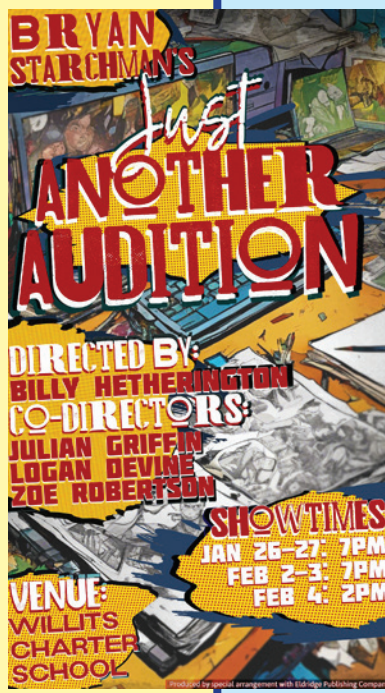
Also, this flick is a touching love story. Special shout-out to female lead Hadley Robinson - her emotions radiate like blessings from the big screen.

Parents: This flick celebrates effort and commitment and courage. It's a useful movie to watch with your older kids and help them understand the times and places.

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



Dan Essman
Columnist



Edie Ceccarelli's 116th Birthday Parade, February 4

It's official ... Edie Ceccarelli of Willits is now the second oldest person in the entire world and the oldest in the U.S.! Edie will turn 116 on Monday, February 5. A drive-by parade for the community to celebrate her birthday is set for Sunday, February 4, starting at 1 pm.

To join the parade, go straight at the stop sign at Haehl Creek Drive and Grove Street. Take a left on Grove Street and continue to Edie's address of 414 Grove Street, which will be on your right-hand side. Drive through with a decorated car (signs, streamers, balloons, flags). Wave as you pass her house to wish her a happy birthday!

Organizers remind the public to please make sure to stay behind the boundary as not to crowd Edie, and allow her to see the parade, and the parade to see her.

This event is hosted by the Holy Spirit Residential Care Home and the Frank R. Howard Foundation.

'Printed & Stitched' artwork at Grace Hudson Museum

"Printed & Stitched: Examining the Overlap between the Hand-Pulled Print and the Art Quilt," opened at Grace Hudson Museum in late October, and will be on display until February 19 - closing a month early due to pressing maintenance needs. This exhibition features textile and paper artworks that blend techniques from both printmaking and art quilt disciplines, exploring the overlap between the two methods.

The Grace Hudson Museum, 431 South Main Street in Ukiah, is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Sunday from noon to 4:30 pm. General admission is \$5; \$12 per family; \$4 for students and seniors; free to all on the first Friday of the month; and always free to Museum members, Native Americans, and standing military personnel. More info: www.gracehudsonmuseum.org or (707) 467-2836.

WELL's 20th Birthday BRAINSTORM

Willits Economic Localization celebrates 20 years of COMMUNITY ACTION with an OPEN HOUSE and BRAINSTORM for all influencers of the future and agents of change

What is Willits doing right? What do we need to do better? Where do you want to fit in? MAKE IT HAPPEN

Sunday February 4, 4 PM
WELL Office, 630 S. Main St. Willits
2 doors south of Mariposa Market

There will be a brief WELL membership meeting, in the presence of Coordinating Committee members and approval of by-laws. Questions, email Rodge at mstrong@willitsonline.com

New Works on Paper by local artist

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AT NORTHSPUR BREWING COMPANY
101 N. Main St.
Willits, CA

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DRAMS & NIBBLES
Music by WENDY DEWITT

SATURDAY
FEB 17
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM
6-8PM
Tickets available at willitscenterforthearts.org
71 E Commercial Ave Willits, Ca

Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym: Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers a free karate program for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 pm, for new students ages 7 and above. Use the back doors to enter. Special small child (Lil Dragons) classes only on Thursdays at 6 pm, ages 3 to 6. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0565. Program is continuous year-round. Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street.

Free TECH HELP

SATURDAY, JAN. 20TH, 2024
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
@ WILLITS BRANCH LIBRARY

Is your computer on the fritz? Can't figure out how to open your email? Want to install a new app on your system? Bring your questions here. Stop by the library to get help from our tech savvy volunteer. Happening every first and third Saturday of the month. All ages are welcome.

Mendocino County Library
Willits Branch Library
390 E Commercial St
Willits, California 95490 | 707-459-5998
www.mendocinolib.org

KMECLP 105.1FM
Mendocino Environmental and Social Justice Center & KMEC Radio
present a benefit for
Doctors Without Borders
Be Prepared to Share
LIVE DJ SETS
by
Smokin' Joe & Bill MC Squared
light snacks, beer and wine
Saturday
January 27, 2024
1 to 5pm
free admission
106 W Standley St Ukiah (@ the courthouse/State St)

Mae Williams

On Sunday, December 10, 2023, Mae Williams of Willits died at age 86. She was a nurse at Howard Memorial Hospital for 25 years, two years as Director of Staff Development at the Kona Hospital in Hawaii, plus several others. She had two children, both deceased, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She lived in the Willits area for 53 years, with her husband, Walter Williams. There will be no memorial services.



Rick Hawley

January 10, 1946 - August 21, 2023

It is with great sadness that the family of Rick Hawley announces that he died suddenly on August 21, 2023, in a St. Helena hospital of a ruptured abdominal aneurysm. He was born in Oakland, California on January 10, 1946 and lived in the East Bay area as a child and teen.

In the late 1960s, Rick came to Willits bringing with him experience in remodeling old Victorians, apprenticing in the black smithing trade, and a few years of steady tree falling. Those skills would serve him for a lifetime.

He was a self-made man who always thought that anything is possible using ingenuity, hard work, and sheer grit. He manifested his own destiny.

He loved big challenges and found ways to make them happen. Rick had a successful redwood burl woodyard business in the early '70s. By using a WWII amphibious Army DUK, he was able to access remote beaches along the north coast where he collected and cut burl slabs with his large chainsaws. Anyone who wanted to come along on this adventure was invited! The proceeds from this business he invested into small fixerupper homes.

Rick had great affection for the Willits community and donated hours of work towards projects that he loved. With tools in hand, he helped with the remodeling of the Willits Center for the Arts, the original Willits Charter School, and for many years provided a flatbed of greenery and boughs to decorate the Community Center for the Christmas Craft Fair.

Rick and Anita together built a beautiful home and nature preserve, up a long dirt road, and welcomed friends, family, and everyone with open arms. (And usually a beer or two.) There was nothing this man couldn't build or fix using his various pieces of heavy equipment to design and fabricate the things he needed.

Rick also had a penchant for large-scale projects. He engineered and built a bridge, a large lookout, and large shops to accommodate all his projects, including casting ornamental cement garden benches, birdbaths, and planter boxes of all shapes. All were gifted to family and friends.

His core values spoke of how much he cared about the environment, his land, and being with the people he loved. His actions spoke of getting up each day and living what he believed. He was the consummate mountain man who felt most at ease in the wilderness. His life was filled with a love of music, a deep love of his family, and a love for all the wild creatures of this land.

Rick was survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Anita Sison, son Martin (Hank), brother Peter, and many family members and dear friends. He had a huge heart and will be missed. A private gathering was held in Willits.

Words from Martin, his son: "My dad was an excellent father. He taught me well at a young age. He always believed in me and was a good provider. He helped me through hard times and never gave up on me. I feel forever in debt to him. I will see him in the afterlife and let him know how much I loved him."

BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

Joseph Iaccino, DC, MS
Chiropractor, Lakeview

BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

Anne Martin-Ko, MD
Pediatrician, Hillside

BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

Steven C. Wirth, MD
Family Physician

BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

Family Physician
Hillside, Dora Street, Little Lake, Lakeview

BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

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Cari Stiles

Cari Lee Stiles of Willits, California, passed away on January 12, 2024 at the age of 61. Cari was born in Healdsburg, California on January 26, 1962.

Cari and her family lived in Willits where they raised their two children and Cari began her 30-year-long career with Willits Unified School District. She was a coach, mentor and friend to many and had a positive, ever-lasting impact on the many lives she touched. Cari was strong-willed, worked tirelessly to help the children, adults and fellow members of the community, and would go to great lengths to support everyone she knew.

After retiring, Cari enjoyed volunteering her time in the kitchen at the Ukiah Senior Center, going on walks with her beloved dog, Shelby, sunbathing, rooting for the San Francisco Giants, and spoiling her two grandsons with care packages and homemade treats.

Cari is survived by her mother, Karen Hill, father, Ronald McAdon, brother, Richard McAdon, daughter, Katie Williams, son-in-law, Jesse Williams, and two grandsons, Mason and Benjamin Williams.

Cari is predeceased by her grandmother, Erna Webb, uncle, Gregg Clary, and son, Matthew Stiles.

Those that knew Cari had the privilege of embracing the life and unforgettable laugh of a one-of-a-kind person. Cari's family, friends, and members of the community will deeply miss her. She will live in our hearts and memories forever.

Cari's Celebration of Life will take place in the Willits High School Gymnasium at 10 am on Saturday, February 17, 2024. A luncheon will take place at the WHS Cafeteria following the memorial, and is open for those who wish to attend.



Chad Hake

On May 14, 1988, Chad Tylor Hake was born in Ukiah Valley Medical Center to Tracy and David Hake of Willits, a beautiful healthy baby boy with 10 fingers and toes, an angelic face, and an as-yet-to-be-seen gypsy heart. The next three years were spent being loved by his adoring family, including many cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents Donald and Patricia Risch and Donald and Dorothy Hake.

At the tender age of 3, the Lord called his father home, but in His grace soon gave him a second dad and two little sisters also. By the time Chad was 7 years old he knew every deer trail, raccoon path, and squirrel crossing behind his Laytonville home – and those of his grandparents' as well, which satisfied his gypsy heart.

His horizons were further widened by his frequent outings to the San Francisco theater and Alaskan and Mexican cruise trips with his grandma Dorothy. With Tracy's marriage to John Knight, Chad gained a big brother and a cousin as close as a brother.

At 16, Chad's family moved to Craig, Colorado where he graduated high school and began working a series of eclectic jobs which reflected his gypsy heart. Chad frequently traveled to and from California and Colorado for extended periods, working and living for a time in each.

On November 14, 2023, Chad's gypsy heart, filled with the happiness of a life well-lived, went to join both sets of his grandparents and all three of his dads that passed before him. His huge earthly family, that loved him with all their hearts, will mourn his passing, while being thankful knowing that he is truly at peace.

A memorial service will be held at 1 pm, on January 27 at Calvary Chapel Willits, 145 Wood Street.



LEGAL NOTICES

WW467
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2023-F0568
The following person is doing business as Dead on the Creek, 26000 String Creek Road, Willits, CA 95490; (707) 459-3015; arborwood49@gmail.com.
Registered owner: John Phillips, 26000 String Creek Road, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on October 15, 2004.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on December 7, 2023.
/s/ John Phillips
Publication dates: January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, 2024.

WW468
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2023-F0590
The following person is doing business as Ron's Muffler and Automotive, 850 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Loren Luedemann, 354 Coast Street, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2019.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on December 20, 2023.
/s/ Loren Luedemann
Publication dates: January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, 2024.

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

WW469
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0003
The following person is doing business as Hair by Brittlyn, 91 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Brittlyn Areana Barnett, 20211 South Main Street, Unit 9, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 3, 2024
/s/ Brittlyn Barnett
Publication dates: January 18, 25, and February 1, 8, 2024.

WW470
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0007
The following person or persons are doing business as Willits Chiropractic Clinic, 1225 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Levy-Pearl Chiropractic Corp, CA, 1225 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 3, 2024
/s/ Dr. Diana E. Levy Pearl, DC, President
Publication dates: January 25, and February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights & Measures** \$125,112 - \$152,068
- Agricultural Field Inspector - Extra-Help** \$19.33 - \$22.39 Hourly
- Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights & Measures** \$88,899 - \$108,076
- Animal Protection Officer I** \$38,396 - \$44,470
- Corrections Deputy** \$55,369 - \$67,308
- Deputy Probation Officer I/II** \$51,937 - \$69,617
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II** \$66,913 - \$93,142
- Mental Health Clinician I/II** \$59,737 - \$84,011
- Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D** \$48,942 - \$92,206

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

WW472
NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provision of the Civil Code.
The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 3rd day of February, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. or immediately following the GLENMARK SOUTH auction, on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK NORTH 395 North Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:
Andrew Augustine 540
Neal Blinken 224
Yolanda Calderon Flores 529
Ryan Conlan 334
Veronica Duran 407
Sidney Foley 134
Brady Goforth 207
Leonard Harmon 704
Larissa Malnerich 511
Teresa McKenna 608
Teresa McKenna 322
Mark White 229
David Zarate 478
The goods are described as: Tools, furniture, fridge, washers/dryers, clothing, misc totes and boxes, propane tanks.
Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.
Glen Green
Bond-#70784656
(707) 459-4628
Publication Dates: January 25 and February 1, 2024

WW471
NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provision of the Civil Code.
The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 3rd day of February, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK SOUTH 1788 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:
James Carlton B21
James Carlton C85C
Sherry Fenske D05
Dominic Garcia G15
The goods are described as: Camping/outdoor gear, tools, furniture, misc totes and boxes.
Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.
Glen Green
Bond-#70784656
(707) 459-4628
Publication Dates: January 25 and February 1, 2024

The rest of **Seabiscuit** From page 3
of the program. I've become a volunteer here."
Lopez used the project as part of her Eagle Scout process and now only has to submit the paperwork to join the five scouts who received their Eagle status last month. She is currently a freshman in the School of Agriculture at Chico State.
The next Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center project is to rebuild the big arena in which much of the instruction takes place. A half-cover for the arena was made possible a few years ago through receipts of the annual Claws for a Cause event, originally put on by the Willits Rotary Club, who still volunteers to help out with tickets, cooking, and other aspects. The cover allows the classes to continue on hot days. The enclosure needs new fencing to make it safer and more sustainable.
Recently, the riding center purchased a pre-fab building which acts as its office and training center. Inside is a device known as an equicizer, a mechanical horse which emulates the motions and size of the horses. It is operated by the movement of the riders and provides a safe, non-threatening method by which those clients who initially fear horses can become more familiar and relaxed around the animals.
Also inside the office is a painting of a tree and a horse (still in progress), which is being painted by local artist Anna Judd, with magnetic paint, which will enable clients to create apples and other shapes that will contain their emotions and messages, and will adhere to the large wall mural.
The STRC is looking to raise more money through

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

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Computer Help
Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearball@gmail.com

Love Willits Weekly?
Help support our free-circulation community newspaper by becoming a "street subscriber"! You send in an annual donation, and pick up the edition on the street each week! We love our regular subscribers too: \$75 for home delivery in the Willits area; \$100 for a year's subscription in the U.S. mail. Visit www.willitsweekly.com for a signup form and more info.

Firewood for Sale
Firewood and Douglas fir poles for sale. FIR \$300/cord, OAK \$400/cord, KINDLING \$15/box (14x20). POLES: (skinned and unskinned) for tips or building. Delivery \$45 near Willits, \$75 near Ukiah. Call (707) 456-0270, (707) 354-2244

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tp>

For Rent
4 bedroom, 2 bath, single-family home, newly refurbished, \$1550+ Deposit. Call: Lincoln Realty at 707-459-4599.

What Are Your Dreams Trying to Tell You?
Dreams can act as a telescope to view something that is normally out of your reach: your spiritual side. All dreamers are welcome! Come share or just listen. Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St., Saturday, February 10th, 10:30 - 11:30. Free books available. Questions? Call Joy at (707) 367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of Lake & Mendocino County.

Free Home Trailers
FREE - 2 home trailers approx 25' & 30' complete kitchen, dining area, bathroom & bedroom. FREE 1/24th-1/28 ONLY for pick up in Willits. Call for details: 760 505-1891.

Indoor Yard Sale
Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, February 10** from 8 am to 4 pm

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

Willits Food Bank
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the front office at 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits CA 95490 - knock or leave in the locked mailbox in front. Food distribution is available at the back door on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.

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various fundraisers like the Muffin (the very popular miniature donkey) Christmas tree ornaments they offered last year.
Their other need is for volunteers to help with the facilities and trail rides. They require a minimum of 30 volunteers to maintain the high-level of lessons.
"The next orientation for volunteers is February 3, at 10 am. It is to allow people to get familiar with the facility and to learn what volunteer opportunities are available in both participating in lessons and helping with facility care. If people have any questions, they can call the facility number, 707-391-3873, to register," said Lydia Senter Colvig, co-president of the board of directors.
For more information on the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center, email seabiscuitridingcenter@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page.



Celebrating Edie

Willits woman will turn 116 years old next month

Edie Ceccarelli, the eldest person in Willits, in California, and in the United States of America, is also the second oldest verified living person in the world, and will celebrate her 116th birthday on February 5.

A drive-by parade for the community to celebrate her birthday is set for Sunday, February 4, starting at 1 p.m.

To join the parade, go straight at the stop sign at Haehel Creek Drive and Grove Street. Take a left on Grove Street and continue to Edie's address of 414 Grove Street, which

will be on your right-hand side.

Drive through with a decorated car (signs, streamers, balloons, flags). Wave as you pass her house to wish her a happy birthday!

Organizers remind the public to please make sure to stay behind the boundary as not to crowd Edie, and allow her to see the parade, and the parade to see her.

This event is hosted by the Holy Spirit Residential Care Home and the Frank R. Howard Foundation.

Above: Edie Ceccarelli in the news: Willits Weekly has been proud to photograph and celebrate the amazing story of Edie Ceccarelli in our pages over the years!

The rest of Cannabis From page 2

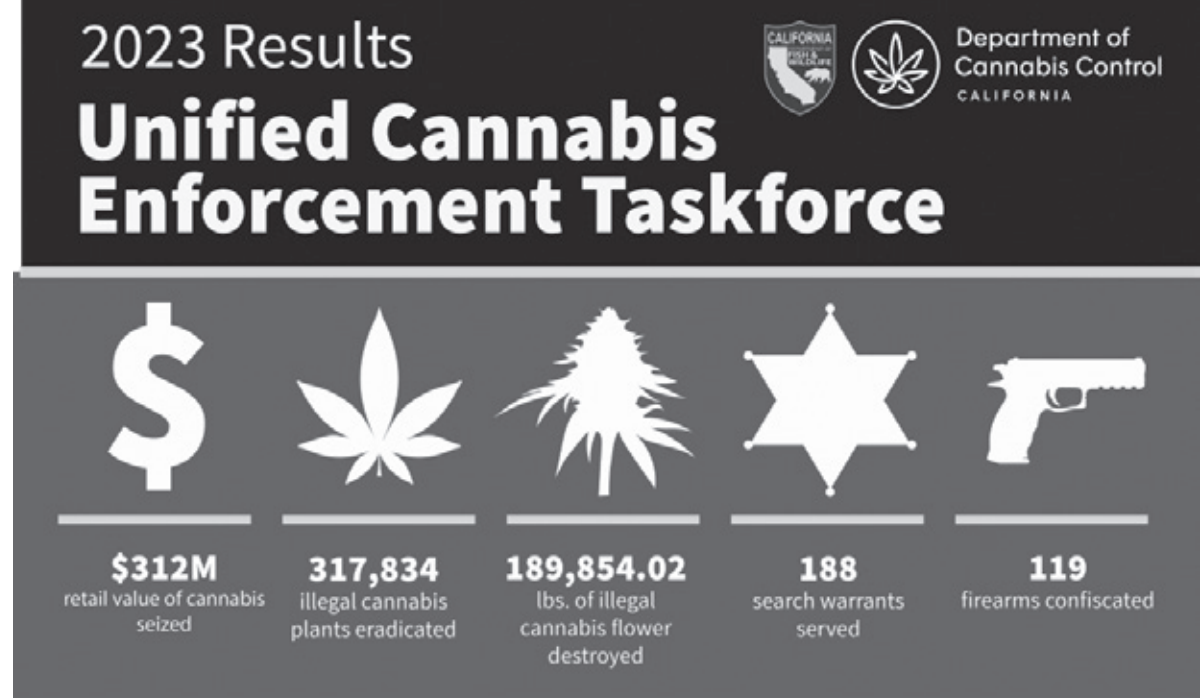
77,828,338; 2. Siskiyou at \$70,747,875; 3. Mendocino at \$48,073,113; 4. Los Angeles at \$28,317,139; and 5. Kern at \$21,578,438.

Since inception in late 2022, UCETF has seized \$317,578,792 in unlicensed cannabis through 218 search warrants. The taskforce has also eradicated 347,321 plants and seized 128 firearms.

Created by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2022, the Unified Cannabis Enforcement Taskforce has been charged by the governor to further align state efforts and increase cannabis enforcement coordination

between state, local and federal partners. UCETF's enforcement actions protect consumer and public safety, safeguard the environment, and deprive illegal cannabis operators and transnational criminal organizations of illicit revenue that harms consumers and undercuts the regulated cannabis market in California.

The taskforce is co-chaired by the Department of Cannabis Control and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and coordinated by the Homeland Security Division of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. The taskforce includes more than two dozen local, state, and federal partners working together to disrupt the illegal cannabis market.



Auditions for 'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT start January 31

Submitted by WCT

Auditions for the Tennessee Williams classic "The Glass Menagerie" will begin Wednesday, January 31 at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, Willits. The roles are for two women and three men.

If you are interested in auditioning, email wctperformingartscenter@gmail.com with the subject line "The Glass Menagerie Audition RSVP." You will be given a specific time to audition, while walk-up auditions will be allowed but will have to wait for the priority slots.

Director Michael Ducharme asks that you prepare a short 2 to 3 minute monologue of your choosing and be prepared to read from the script.

For more information or to borrow a script, please contact Ducharme at michael139@gmail.com or by text at (707) 313-6623. The play runs for nine performances, April 12 through 28.

2024 Willits Community Phone Book

Ads, additions, corrections, please!

The deadline is approaching quickly for 2024 Willits Soroptimist Phone Book!

Soroptimist International of Willits members are busy putting together the 2024 edition of the Willits Community Telephone Directory to be distributed in March. Do you need to update, remove or add a phone number? Add a cell phone? Email willitsphonebook@gmail.com.

Those interested in advertising in or sponsoring the phone book, which is a fundraiser to support the Willits Soroptimist Club and its mission to support women and girls, including awards programs, scholarships, and donations, can also email willitsphonebook@gmail.com. The deadline for ads and changes is February 10, 2024.

- Vicki Ham, SI/Willits Phonebook Committee

More of State From page 1

office of Assemblymember Jim Wood, and former Willits resident. Valenzuela explained the bicameral structure of the California Assembly, which consists of the Assembly and the state Senate. Wood's District 2, which comprises all of Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties, plus northern and western Sonoma County, is the largest geographic district in California. Stretching from Bodega Bay in Sonoma County all the way to the Oregon border, it contains more than 12,000 square miles.

Valenzuela gave a short bio of Assemblymember Wood. Born to low-income parents in Turlock, Wood became a practicing family dentist in Cloverdale. He ran for Healdsburg's City Council and went on to serve two terms as its mayor. Wood was elected to the state Assembly in 2014, became the chair of the Health Policy Committee in 2016, and is now the first Assembly speaker to come from rural California.

Wood has made health care his top priority, with a special focus on rural areas. He is currently supporting legislation to address "surprise" medical billing, and works on many other issues such as rural broadband. Valenzuela said that money recently received as part of the federal infrastructure bill is paying for current broadband installation across Highways 20, 101, and 162. Wood has also been instrumental in spearheading legislation for fire prevention and recovery efforts, and citizen access to health and property insurance.

Valenzuela explained that a nonpartisan review recently determined that the state budget deficit is currently at \$30 billion. As a result, Governor Newsom will be pulling

half of the money needed to balance the budget from state reserves. Valenzuela added that certain programs, especially new programs, will be delayed, and the legislature is currently considering how to address the crisis.

Due to a need to care for his aging mother, who is currently experiencing health issues, Wood will be stepping down from the Assembly after ten years of service. The 2024 legislative election cycle would have been his sixth and final term.

Taking the podium next was county Supervisor John Haschak. Haschak reported that sales tax revenues have been down as much as 6.9% in the past year, a worrying trend that has caused the Mendocino County government to focus on reducing costs and increasing revenues. Haschak said the county identified 70 different areas in which costs can be reduced, and that he expects that this cost-cutting will result in a balanced county budget by June 2024.

The Service Employees International Union reached a three-year agreement with the county in December 2023 that will bring county workers' salaries up to par with those of surrounding counties, Haschak related. He brought up the long-time critical

need to provide a second access for both the Brooktrails subdivision and the Redemeyer Road area east of Ukiah, in the case of potential wildfires and other emergencies. Mendocino County received \$50 million as part of



Former Willits resident Ruth Valenzuela spoke at "The State of Things" event last week, representing the office of Assemblymember Jim Wood.

Photo by Margi Gomez Guhde

Read the rest of State Over on page 11

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

The rest of Cubbison From page 1

no later than one business day following an order for relief."

It also asks for interest on the back pay and "such other and further relief as the court deems proper."

In this civil matter, Cubbison is represented by attorney Therese Cannata of San Francisco law firm Cannata O'Toole & Olson.

The filing document reiterates comments made by Cubbison's defense attorney Chris Andrian on the criminal charges filed against her for "misappropriation of public funds" by DA Eyster on October 13.

It argues that government code section 27120, which the county relied on to suspend Cubbison, an elected officer, applies only to a Treasurer, not to "the merged positions of Mendocino County Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector."

The document states that "the Criminal Complaint [against Cubbison] is devoid of any facts or alleged conduct supporting the charge. Respondents simply relied on the fact that criminal charges were filed. No criminal grand jury proceeding or indictment was issued in connection with the Criminal Complaint. No civil grand jury proceeding was commenced concerning the allegations that gave rise to the Criminal Complaint. No meaningful evidentiary hearing – either pre-suspension or post-suspension – was held on the merits of the allegations in the Criminal Complaint."

The filing continues: "Respondents' lack of legal

authority to suspend Petitioner without pay, coupled with a lack of a meaningful hearing on the sufficiency of the allegations at issue to warrant the removal of an elected official, is both an unlawful abuse of power by Respondents and a violation of Petitioner's right to due process."

Court records note that the respondents have been served summons, and that the next step is a case management conference set for May 24, under Judge Ann Moorman.

The \$100,000 the supervisors allocated Tuesday is good through June 30, 2025, at \$50,000 per fiscal year. Liebert Cassidy Whitmore has been performing contracted legal services for the county for more than a decade, including contract negotiations with employees. Liebert Cassidy Whitmore also advised the county back in 2019 / 2020 on the disputes between Cubbison and Mendocino County District Attorney about expense reimbursements he filed.

Moren Jacob of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore spoke for the county at the October 17 board meeting during which the supervisors suspended Cubbison as an off-agenda item, with no public notice.

The latest news in the criminal charges filed against Cubbison is that she was scheduled – again – to enter a plea on Friday, January 19 – and again the plea hearing was delayed, this time until February 14, under Judge Keith Faulder.

The rest of Election From page 1

total of 12 years between the state Assembly and the state Senate.

In the Third District (Willits, Laytonville and Covelo), the March 5 election is quiet as far as local races. Elections for Willits City Council and Brooktrails Community Services District Board of Trustees are set for November 2024, and the next election for Third District supervisor will be in 2026.

Three seats on the county board of supervisors are up for election on March 4, 2024. Two incumbent supervisors, Glenn McGourty in the First District, and Dan Gjerde in the Fourth District, did not file to run again. Board Chair Maureen Mulheren in the Second District is seeking reelection to the board.

Third District voters will say yay or nay to one countywide ballot measure on March 5, Measure R, which seeks to renew Mendocino County's Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program for another 10 years. The program was established in 1991, "for purposes of removal and disposal of abandoned and wrecked vehicles." The Department of Motor Vehicles collects \$1 for each vehicle registered in Mendocino County (\$3 for certain commercial vehicles), then disperses the fees back to the Mendocino County Abandoned Vehicle Authority.

Measure R, which was placed on the ballot by the board of supervisors, requires a 2/3s plus 1 vote to pass. The Two March 5 judicial races in Mendocino County, District 4, incumbent Carly

Dolan, and District 6, incumbent Clay Brennan, are both uncontested, so will not be on the ballot.

County Clerk Bartolomie advised that any county voter who hasn't received their ballot in about 10 days after February 2 should call the voter office at (707) 234-6819 "for replacement ballots and to verify and make sure that the information we have for you is correct."

Although the last day to register to vote is officially February 20, California offers "conditional voter registration," which allows eligible citizens to register or update their information in person at their polling place or the Elections Office as late as Election Day. These late registrants will vote on a provisional ballot, and "their ballots will be processed and counted once the county elections office has completed the voter registration verification process."

The Elections Office at 501 Low Gap Road in Ukiah is now considered "a polling place," Bartolomie told the supervisors, "which means candidates cannot wear any campaign buttons or attire or have campaign signs within 100 feet of our doors, front and back."

Those interested in volunteering as poll workers should call the Elections Office at 1-707-234-6808. For more information on Mendocino County elections, visit www.mendocinocounty.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections.

The rest of State From page 10

President Biden's federal infrastructure plan, and Haschak says that \$12 million has been appropriated for each of these road projects, eliciting applause from the audience. He added that once this money has been spent, the county will be able to apply for the next round of grants to ensure that the plan will come to fruition.

Additionally Supervisor Haschak addressed the growing crisis in property insurance rates. As chair of the General Government Committee, Haschak has been soliciting ideas from concerned citizens, and lobbying state officials to address this urgent issue.

He also spoke about a recent discussion between Mendocino County and the City of Willits and Roots of Motive Power, to address a possible new model for the Mendocino County Museum.

Haschak earned another round of applause with his announcement of \$18,000 received from the state of California, which will fully subsidize the purchase of bear-safe trash cans for the Brooktrails subdivision.

Haschak responded that he is fully committed to keeping the museum open, telling Willits Weekly: "The museum is a valuable asset to the community and the county. We have worked hard over the last year creating a strategic plan for the museum. The museum is a critical part of who we are and brings alive the history of our county."

Rodriguez also spoke to the persistent problem of vacant and dilapidated buildings in Willits, citing the challenge of promoting a hygienic and attractive city environment while supporting property rights. She ended her presentation with a short review on staffing changes in the Willits Police Department, commending Interim Police Chief James Conner for having brought stability to the department since his hiring last year.

health insurance benefits for performing their many duties. Council members' efforts are critical for building relationships with other agencies and governments, and members serve on multiple city boards as well as on county and state-level boards to represent the concerns of Willits residents.

Rodriguez emphasized the importance of having a vision for the city, along with a concrete set of goals. These goals currently include developing a balanced budget, creating a realistic staffing plan, helping to create new housing in Willits, gaining energy independence, and ensuring transparency in city government.

She reported progress in the area of development, with 80 new housing units slated to be built in the coming year, and she mentioned the city's strong partnership with the California Conservation Corps, which is currently building 120 new units off East Hill Road to house Corps members.

Citing ongoing problems with brown water, Rodriguez said that the city has applied for a \$1.5 million grant to address Willits' aging steel pipes, and noted the receipt of grant funding to address water issues and improve streets and sidewalks.

Rodriguez also cited ongoing planning for undergrounding power lines, solar development, and providing underground water storage for use in emergencies.

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Above, left: Christian Ramirez uses an original, impressive move to pin his opponent. Above, right: Nevaeh Jones vigorously goes for the stack on her opponent for the pin.

Below: Gunner Globe aggressively takes control, pinning his opponent. At bottom: Joseph Smith methodically hits the arm bar for the fall.

At right: Deon Smith steadily dominates his opponent, pinning him. At right, bottom: Josh Duran intensely hits a backward cradle to take control of his opponent for the pin.

Photos by Ava Dockins



Home Dual

WHS Wrestling victorious over Lower Lake, St. Helena on Senior Night

On Wednesday night Willits Wolverines Wrestling held their only home dual meet of the season against Lower Lake and St. Helena in the WHS Steve Short Gymnasium.

Sheri Dockins, Sports Reporter, willitsweekly@gmail.com Willits honored their six seniors. Nevaeh Jones, Deon Smith, Gunner Globe, Joey Smith, Christian Ramirez, and Josh Duran stood appreciatively amongst teammates, classmates, teachers, parents and friends who packed the stands.

Coach Will Dunaway and Coach Chris Glenn stood with the seniors. Coach Dana Karkar handed them roses, all of them beaming with pride, as Coach Brian Bowles eloquently spoke about each of his wrestlers.

It was a moment of happiness and sadness knowing that soon the seniors will embark on their journey into life, and leave this school. The memories each of these students etched into Willits High School, and the heart they left on the mat will live on forever.

The crowd went wild with the team, cheering on each wrestling match that went on into the night. These were compelling matches leading to a Willits victory over both the Lower Lake and St. Helena teams, and left each senior holding this moment to reminisce about for the rest of their lives.

We wish these amazing, talented young men and women the very best life has to offer. Be proud of yourselves Nevaeh, Deon, Gunner, Joey, Christian, and Josh. You will be missed as the athletes, and people, you are.



Photo by Misty Blough



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