



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Recommends Willits Family Dentistry

To the Editor:  
I would like to take this opportunity to express to the people of our town my extreme satisfaction with the professional staff at Willits Family Dentistry and Implants. I have been a resident of Willits for 27 years and of course I have had numerous dental issues, as one would expect. The service provided by doctors Jay, Nate and Adrian has been totally professional in every sense of the word.

Indeed, when a dental emergency arises, they always go out of their way to accommodate me in every way. They are a real asset to our community, and it is wonderful that we have a group of dentists that will not only do extractions, but also implants. In the past dental implants were never done here, which necessitated a trip to Ukiah or Santa Rosa.

I strongly recommend Willits Family Dentistry for all of your dental needs.

Jim Nerli, Willits

## Howard Hospital is amazing

To the Editor:  
At 3 am on January 23, I was rushed from my home in Pine Mountain by ambulance to Howard Hospital. I was in agonizing pain and had a high fever and chills from a serious blood infection. Twenty-six years ago, I slid out on some gravel while riding my motorcycle and broke my back which resulted in a spinal cord injury.

People with spinal cord injuries can be more susceptible to infections.

Immediately upon entry in the emergency room, I recognized a very serious and organized effort to take care of me. Doctors, nurses, nursing assistants and staff were rushing to assist me. By 6 am the doctors and staff had a plan for my treatment and explained to me what was happening and how to go about treating my life-threatening infection.

In the emergency room I had a magnificent nurse named Collin. Every time he entered the room he would make me laugh with some joke or funny statement – laughter truly is great medicine. The next day I was transferred to a patient room upstairs. I had dangerously low blood pressure at this time, and the doctors were very concerned, wanting to transfer me to ICU if my blood pressure did not improve quickly.

I asked if my service dog could come and keep me company. To my astonishment the hospital thought this was a great idea, and my family brought me my dog who greeted me with licks on my face which resulted in

my blood pressure immediately returning to normal! My dog in my hospital bed? This place is amazing!

Due to my numerous back surgeries and spinal cord injury-related treatments, I have been in many hospitals in many cities, even a few in other countries, and can honestly say, we living here in Willits have the most amazing hospital in the world.

Here in Willits, an entire healthcare team was assembled to take care of me and come up with a plan for treatment. Dr. Tidwell and his amazing staff provided me with an infection expert who gave me daily updates from a hospital in San Diego. After consulting with the team and coming up for a plan for treatment, I quickly discovered one of the many things that sets Howard Hospital apart from others, the magnificent fresh healthy food!

It's sad that the global healthcare system does not consider food a healing substance and part of our recovery process. Every other hospital I've ever stayed at have always offered patients terrible pre-frozen, microwaved food, full of salt, sugar, preservatives, bad flavor, and artificial ingredients. A dear friend recently had neck surgery and was given TV dinners, Jello and Dorito chips.

Howard Hospital is the extreme opposite, I had my own nutritionist and dietitian who helped me come up with a healthy diet that would help me recover as quickly as possible. I even asked for beets as they are well known to be healing for the blood, and the staff went out to get them specifically for me within a few hours. Talk about above and beyond!

Did you know Howard Hospital has its own garden where fresh produce and vegetables are grown for the kitchen at the Roots Restaurant located in the hospital itself? I have visited friends in the hospital over the years as well and never seen a food service anything like that which we have here in Willits. The staff in the kitchen was incredibly friendly, helpful, and would make any food I asked for, even offering healthy suggestions. Thank you to all of you in the kitchen that took such excellent care of me while I was in the hospital those two weeks, you know who you are, I'm so grateful for your care and healthy, delicious cooking!

My hospital room was always kept clean and had a beautiful view looking over our picturesque Willits mountains and forests. Each morning I would awake to gorgeous sunrises and clouds coming over our mountains which would inspire me with strength and courage to take on the day and heal up faster. Due to my pain and discomfort, my family would often stay the night keeping me company. The hospital

Read the rest of **Letters** Over on page 4

### 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, February 15:** Chicken Teriyaki Stir-Fry

**Friday, February 16:** Lasagna w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread

**Monday, February 19:** Asian Chicken Sandwich w/Coleslaw

**Tuesday, February 20:** Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Roll

**Wednesday, February 21:** Chicken a la King, Mashed Potatoes, Roll

**Thursday, February 22:** Philly Cheese Steak, Chips

**Friday, February 23:** Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Veggies, Roll

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

**Pancake Breakfast:** every second Sunday, on March 10 next month, 8 to 11 am.

**Meals on Wheels:** The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Juliana 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.

### Seed Sharing event February 25 at the Grange

*Submitted by the Little Lake Grange*

Seed sharing keeps heirloom seeds in our gardens and on our tables. Free seeds and seed sharing event on Sunday, February 25 from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Participate by taking home some seeds you want to plant this year. Just show up and bring any of last year's seeds you are not going to plant out, and give them to someone else.

Participate in the seed exchange by sharing seeds you have collected and saved from your garden, or will not use – we have table space to display.

Saving and sharing seeds can help you become more self-sufficient and independent, can help you build meaningful relationships with your friends and neighbors, and will help all of us to build a strong and secure food system, by growing gardens with some food and flowers from heritage seeds, land races and endangered plants.

We encourage all local gardeners to participate by taking seeds from others and offering seeds you have saved from your own garden. We want to teach and advise with proper seed saving for germination and success, as well as an understanding

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

### CDFW to conduct helicopter surveys to monitor big game populations

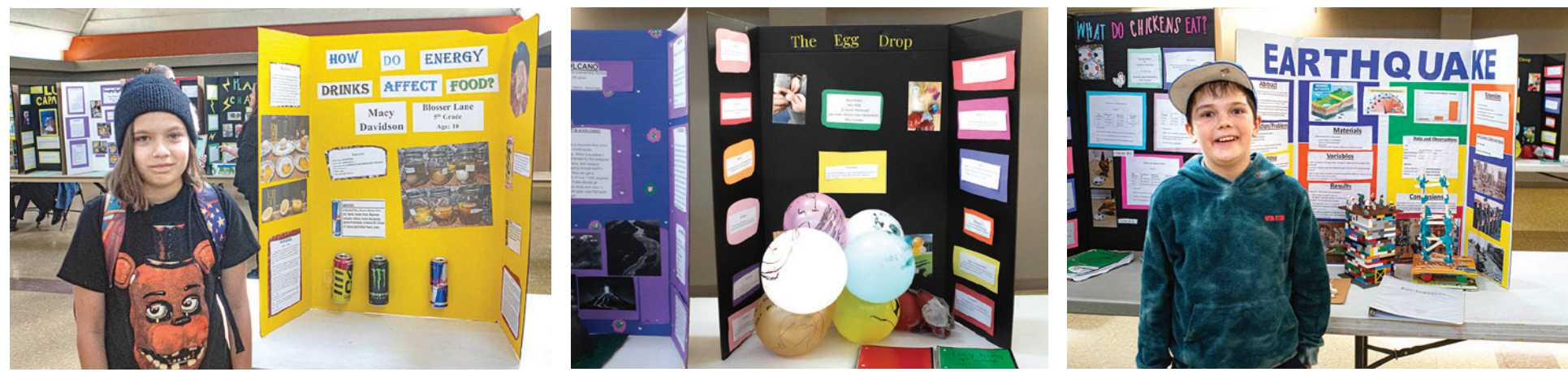
February 8 – The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is initiating annual helicopter surveys to inventory and monitor mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep populations throughout the state.

Flights will be conducted in portions of Solano, Mendocino, Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties during February and March 2024.

CDFW utilizes a variety of survey methods to regularly monitor big game population size, distribution, demographics and trends over time. In more forested environments, CDFW employs the use of trail cameras and fecal DNA. In more open habitats, aerial surveys provide an efficient and rapid method of data collection, affording CDFW biologists the ability to cover larger areas in relatively shorter time periods.

CDFW scientists use the survey data in statistical models to estimate the total population size of each species in different hunt zones or management units. This information helps wildlife managers better understand population performance relative to a variety of factors,

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



Above, from left: Macy was curious as to how energy drinks affect foods, so she poured various brands on foods to see the results. Kaya Reiter, Lucy King and Averie McDonald tried to drop eggs protected by various materials to see which best protected the eggs. Rory, a fourth grader at Blosser, did his project on earthquakes and which materials were best to withstand the tremors. Below, left: Classes from the participating schools were encouraged to explore the exhibits and fill in a scavenger sheet. Below, right: Slime was an ever-present subject, being the main theme of several of the displays.



Photos by Mathew Caine

# Observe and Interpret

## Intriguing questions abound as 400 students participate in Willits Science Fair

Have you ever wondered: What would happen if the world had two moons? What shape of a brick construction would withstand the most weight? How to make fruit ripen faster? Do magnets promote plant growth? Which designs and materials make better paper planes?

These and other subjects were queried, tested, hypothesized, and concluded in the latest Willits Science Fair, which was open to the public on Tuesday, after the crew, led by Willits Charter School administrator and teacher Erin Vaccaro, spent their entire weekend facilitating, arranging and judging the approximately 400 entries from most of the public schools in the area.

Young minds have an innate curiosity about the world. Their thirst for knowledge can be directed and organized through use of the scientific method, which is a system of arriving at truths and information through observation and interpretation. The scientific method can be applied to most situations and inquiries and is a powerful tool in creating a life free from unsubstantiated speculation.

"I think it's important that we have the Science Fair and that students do science fair projects," said Suzanne Matheson, one of the community members tapped to judge the myriad of exhibits and one of the original participants. "It is so important for us to be informed citizens. Life is so complicated now that we cannot, in our schools, teach students every single fact of science, but we can teach

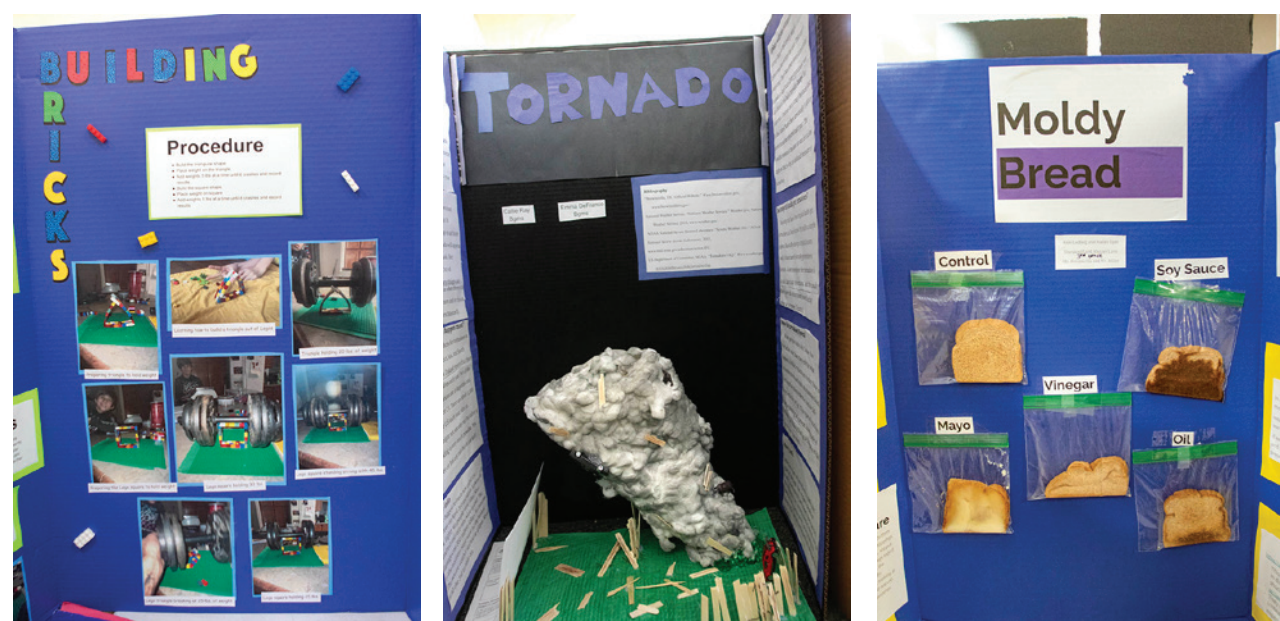
them how to analyze the facts that they are given, how to think in a clear, scientific way. This is what Science Fair does.

"Civics classes teach you how to be a thoughtful citizen," said Matheson. "Science Fair teaches students how to be critical thinkers about all things that are scientific. That is such an important thing as our world becomes more and more complicated. That is why I am so excited that teachers are assigning science fair, teaching them the scientific method, because we want to make intelligent, scientific thinkers as citizens of our country."

The judges were chosen for their expertise in various fields and were given a sheet of criteria to fill out in order to choose which projects were deserving of honors or to go on to the Mendocino County Science Fair, to be held at Mendocino College in March.

"You judge them on originality, creativity, scientific thinking, design, organization and completeness, clear and effective communication," stated Jen, a local biologist. "They are graded one through five, one being 'emerging considerations, emerging development, and then highly developed.' There are four classifications. I'm working on grades six through eight. I asked to be put where there are plants since I am a life science professional. I volunteer for a number of hours. Every one of the

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



Above, from left: Phoenix Hetherington tried to discover which shapes would withstand the most weight. This student created his own tornado and explored their origin and destructive nature. Students from Sherwood School and Blosser Lane study which materials make bread mold faster.

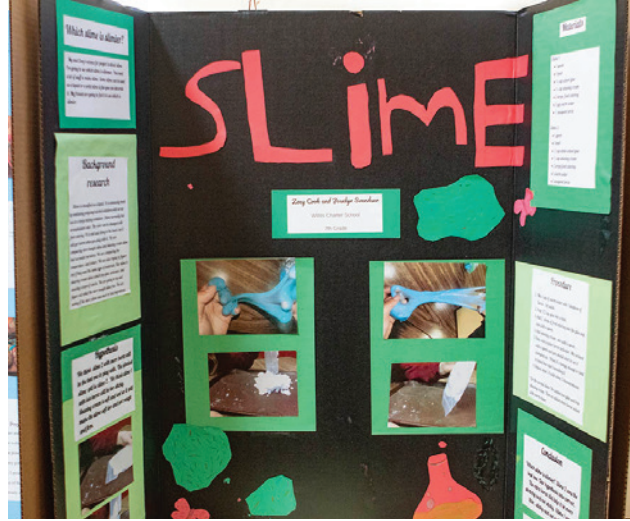
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The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Biosocial Media is a vote-based contest for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, 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.

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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.

### Ukiah hearings next week on AT&T and landlines

The California Public Utilities Commission has set hearings in Ukiah on Thursday, February 22 on AT&T's request to abandon most of their landlines in California.

The Ukiah hearings are set for 2 and 6 pm on February 22 at the board of supervisors chambers, 501 Low Gap Road. The hearings are in-person only.

For more information, go to [www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/att-colr-etc-proceedings](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/att-colr-etc-proceedings)

To comment online on AT&T's application for relief, to the above link, then hit the "Make an online comment here" on the right side.

**Willits Weekly**  
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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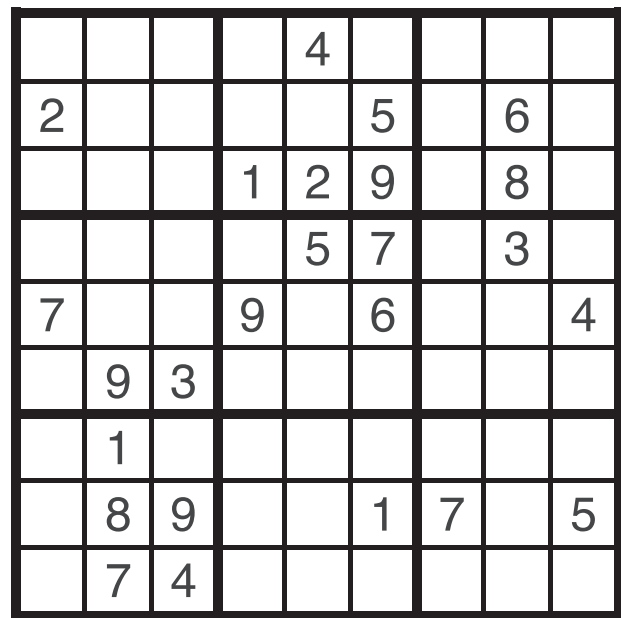
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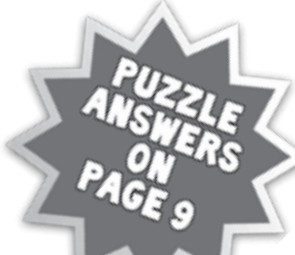
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# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



Level: Intermediate



## HOW TO SUDOKU

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

## The rest of FAQs | From page 1

Integrated Voting Systems is one of 12 ballot print vendors approved by the Secretary of State.

In this case, Registrar of Voters Katrina Bartolome was informed of the errors Wednesday, February 7. After learning of the errors, the Registrar of Voters contacted Integrated Voting Systems and was informed that Integrated Voting Systems utilized a third-party vendor to assist them in the process and that the third-party vendor sent an incorrect data file to Integrated Voting Systems for printing and mailing.

The third-party vendor was selected and hired by Integrated Voting Systems without involvement by the county. The Secretary of State's Office has been informed about this error and the county has been informed that it is conducting its own investigation.

### What is the process for checking ballots for errors?

The process for checking ballots for errors involves numerous checks and balances. In this case, the ballots were proofread by the Mendocino Elections Office and approved for printing. The Mendocino Elections Office informed Integrated Voting Systems that the ballots were correct and ready to be printed and mailed. We are informed that the third-party vendor sent Integrated Voting Systems an incorrect data file for printing and mailing, after the ballot images were reviewed and approved by the Mendocino Elections Office.

### Is the ballot printing and mailing completely handled by an outside company?

No. There are numerous steps in the ballot compilation, printing, and mailing process. The Mendocino Elections Office is involved in many of the steps and proofreads the ballots before they are transmitted to Integrated Voting Systems to be printed and mailed.

In this case, the Mendocino Elections Office approved correct ballots. The error occurred when the third-party vendor used by Integrated Voting Systems transmitted an incorrect data file to it to print and mail.

### What is the protocol for checking ballots?

The Secretary of State has oversight responsibilities for the conduct of elections and sets forth rules and procedures that each county must comply with. Section 20200 et seq. of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations sets forth many of these regulations. There are also other provisions of law that govern this process. Mendocino County complied with the regulations for checking ballots.

### How did this ballot printing error occur?

Based on what we know at this time, this appears to be an unfortunate case of a simple human error at the last steps of the process.

### How long has the County had a relationship with this ballot printing vendor?

Mendocino County used Integrated Voting Systems for approximately 15 years, until approximately two years ago. After utilizing a different vendor for a short time, the county returned to using Integrated Voting Systems in fall 2023 because it felt that Integrated Voting System was more responsive.

### Who vetted the ballot printing vendor? What are the requirements for a vendor to manage an entire county's election materials?

The vendor is one of 12 vendors approved by the California Secretary of State for ballot printing. Chapter 4, Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations governs ballot printing, including certification of ballot printers.

### What are the errors in the ballots for the actual Republican voters in the First District?

## The rest of Letters | From page 2

provided a very comfortable sleeping cot as well as healthy delicious meals for my family when they stayed with me.

Once again this is incredible, I've never heard of a hospital giving healthy foods to the patients, let alone to your family and caregivers. Heber the hospital pastor would come check on me and pray for me. I am not Christian, but greatly appreciated him. He is a caring and amazing man.

All the doctors, nurses, nursing assistants, staff, and everyone involved at the hospital was a joy to be around and treated me with the best care and the most respect I've

The county is concerned that there may be errors on even the ballots for those individuals registered as Republican in the First District that could cause the ballots to be read incorrectly. In an abundance of caution the county is asking that all ballots be reprinted, and that voters use the reprinted ballots, to ensure that all ballots are processed without error.

### How do you know the overseas and military ballots were not affected?

The Elections Office prints and mails the overseas and military ballots.

### When did the Elections Office learn about the ballot error?

On February 7, 2024, the Elections Office began receiving reports that some voters had received incorrect ballots. That evening the Elections Office determined that all voters in the County had received a ballot with the same ballot image. The county immediately began working to determine the best way to remedy the error and notify the public.

### How will the county ensure that every registered voter can vote?

The Elections Office is working with our ballot printing vendor to get correct ballots mailed out to every active registered voter. Voters will receive corrected ballots with sufficient time to submit ballots by mail or in person. The Elections Office also has procedures in place to identify incorrect ballots that are submitted and to provide voters with an opportunity to submit correct ballots.

### How will the county ensure that no one votes in a primary election for which a person is not permitted to vote?

If the Elections Office receives any of the incorrect ballots mailed that have been filled out, the Elections Office will attempt to contact the voter to ensure that the voter fills out a corrected ballot. The Elections Office will not count votes cast for any election in which the individual casting the vote is not permitted to vote.

### How will the county ensure that no one is able to vote more than once?

When the Elections Office receives a ballot, the privacy label is removed, the address scanned, and the file is uploaded into the elections management system. If a challenge code comes up in the election management system, the ballot is put aside for the elections official to review.

Additionally, Elections Office staff check the signature on each ballot envelope by hand. If there is a discrepancy in the signature, it is challenged in the elections management system and brought to the elections official for signature verification. If the elections official verifies the signature, the challenge is removed, and the ballot is filed by precinct to be opened and counted. If the signature does not match, the Elections Office contacts the voter to re-sign and/or complete a new registration form (a person's signature may change over time).

If a voter sends in one ballot and then sends in a second ballot, the system will recognize that the person has already voted and challenge the second ballot. Elections staff will research to verify the reasons for any subsequent ballot. If the reason is a result of the mailing of incorrect ballots, the incorrect ballot will be voided.

### Is this error being reviewed by any outside agency?

The county has been in contact with the California Secretary of State regarding this ballot error. The Secretary of State agrees with the process being used by the county to correct the error. Additionally, the county is informed that the California Secretary of State is conducting its own investigation into what occurred. The county is appreciative of the assistance provided by the California Secretary of State regarding how to remedy the error and for its review of this situation.



Above: Willits Wrestling poses for a team photo: from left, back row, Chris Glenn with future wrestler Maverick Glenn, Coach Brian Bowles, Brian Bowles, Jr., Will Burcell, Josh Duran, Joey Smith, Nikola Ritchley, Gunner Globe, Donald Glenn, Corey Rocky, Ely Bowles and Coach Will Dunaway; middle row, Lucy Vargas, Nevaeh Jones, Rickey Ramirez, Christian Ramirez and Coach Dana Karkar; front row, Liz Meyer, Bella Glenn, Dannyka Smith, Stormie Nowlins, Vada Morgan, Emelia Owsiany, Ava Dockins and Deon Smith. Below, from left: Champion Nevaeh Jones poses with her second and third-place opponents. Teammates support Ava Dockins after her championship win: from left, Liz Meyer, Vada Morgan, Ava Dockins, Lucy Vargas and Stormie Nowlins. Josh Duran, left, after intense wrestling in a heavyweight match – he was just one point from win.



# Sports Roundup

## Lady Wolverines JV basketball wins first-place league pennant, WHS wrestlers qualify for NCS Sections

The Lady Wolverines JV Basketball team hit the polished floors of the Steve Short Gymnasium in Willits for their riveting rematch game against Lower Lake. They had been undefeated until the previously played game against Lower Lake, and were approaching this one with an unstoppable enthusiasm to win! These girls were gleaming with positive energy and teamwork.

Lower Lake held their own, but in the end could not take down the Wolverines who took the game with a final score of 44-40. Jazmarie Henson was the MVP for scoring 17 points, 5 rebounds, and 4 steals. Arion Martin had 12 points, 6 rebounds, and 3 steals.

The last game of the season was against Cloverdale. They were down 9 points in the second half. Martin had 13 points and 14 rebounds. They were down 2 points with 4 minutes left when Ava Holmen sank a huge 3-pointer for the lead, winning the game 35-33.

This win ended their season with an impressive 11-1 record. They received a first-place league pennant for the first time since 1994 at WHS!

"This was such an amazing group of girls to coach. Every single one of them gave 100 percent all season," said Coach Amanda Pierson. Congratulations on a dynamic season ladies. It was amazing to watch you all shine, and grow as a team!

The Willits Wolverines Wrestlers entered the Upper Lake den, along with wrestlers from Clear Lake, Cloverdale, Credo, Fort Bragg, Kelseyville, Lower Lake, Middletown, St. Helena, and Upper Lake for the CMC League Championships this last weekend.

This is a very strenuous sport that takes a tremendous amount of physical and mental commitment along with guts, glory, and long hours on the mat every weekend for months of the season. The championships are a time for the wrestlers to collectively show that work as a team, and individually. It was an exhilarating set of matches as each wrestler fought for their desired outcome, and left every bit of their heart on the mat!

Parents, coaches and teammates were on the edge of their seats, cheering with motivation at every intense move. The feeling of accomplishment was etched into every worked muscle, and each furrowed brow with a gleam in their eyes as each match ended, knowing they left it all on the mat!



Above: JV basketball team smiles after winning the first place pennant: from left, bottom row, Amelia Franco, Jazmarie Henson, Kate Winter, Prisila Ramos, Amsatou Ndoeye, Ava Holmen, Lisa Arkelian and Lyly Herman; top row, Izabella Sims, Arion Martin, Micaella Williams and Abigail Shert, Coaches Amanda Pierson, Tom Daughton and Gary Williams. Below: Arion Martin breaks through the opposing team's defense with the ball.



Photos by Ava Dockins

## CLUES ACROSS

- Golf scores
- Shock therapy
- Ballplayer's tool
- Quench one's thirst
- Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
- Every one of two or more things
- Member of Muslim people
- Play
- Type of cheese
- Type of lounge chair
- \_\_\_ King Cole, musician
- Fellows
- North, Central and South
- In an early way
- Foes
- Georgia rockers
- Cryptocurrency
- Narrow path along a slope
- Disallow
- Joyousness
- Inaccessible
- Evoke emotions
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Boston Celtic punk

rockers (abbr.)

- Sword
- Actor Idris
- Affirmative (slang)
- Afflicted
- One point north of northeast
- Born of
- Arabic name
- Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)
- Extremity
- Post

## CLUES DOWN

- Pacific Standard Time
- Protruding ridge on nematodes
- Indian king
- Type of milk
- One who brings home the bacon
- More comprehensible
- Connected with sense of touch
- Red mineral
- Breezed through
10. Therefore
- Supplement with difficulty
- Early kingdom of Syria

- Satisfy
- They confuse doctors (abbr.)
- Brass instrument
- Domesticated animal
- Ribonucleic acid
- Snake-like fish
- Woman (French)
- Economically-minded aircraft
- When you hope to get somewhere
- Tease
- Actress Gretchen
- Midway between northeast and east
- Inoffensive
- Yellowish cotton cloth
- Consume
- Does not tell the truth
- Improved something
- Spiritual leader
- Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- Fix
- Evergreen tree genus
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Major C. European river
- Long, narrow strap
- Male parent

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At left, top: These brave Rotarians brave the early morning cold to offer crab to the people of Willits. Above, left: Steam rises from the freshly cooked crabs after they are pulled from a pot of boiling water. Above, right: Helen Simms displays a rather fat and meaty specimen.



Above: Volunteer Amy works with Rotarian Joe Bratt to keep the crabs coming to the sales table. At left: Reza's Breadery generously donated 25 loaves of their sourdough bread for people to buy and enjoy with their crab. Below, left: Tara Moratti coordinated much of the sale efforts, arranging for volunteers and sales. Below, right: Richard Baker, Helen Simms, and Amy remove the freshly cooked crabs and arrange them on the table.



## Success at last

### Willits Rotary Club raises \$10K for WHS senior scholarships at belated annual crab sale

Good things are worth waiting for. Once again, the Willits Rotary Club came through and provided the people of Willits with freshly cooked Dungeness crabs, better late than not at all. Along with the generous help of Sparetime Supply, who provided the two huge boiling water pots and transport for the equipment; Reza's Breadery, who donated 25 loaves of their famous sourdough to be sold; and all the Rotary volunteers, the club was able to amass a net of an estimated \$10,000 to donate to deserving seniors at Willits High School in the form of scholarships.

The annual sale, held over two blustery, cold days, was another successful venture for the Rotary Club. Several members showed up at 6 am both mornings and braved the elements to prepare the pots and accept the shipment of crabs.

"We got the crab from a different supplier this year: Shane Chilson's Fishing of Willits," explained Rotary Club President Cathie Gernhardt. "Our previous supplier is now in Bodega Bay and we had no way to transport a ton of live crabs because Sparetime was not able to send a truck. It would have cost us an extra \$300 to have our old supplier deliver them. So, we found a different supplier through one of our Rotarians. Chilson said they would deliver the crabs for free over from Fort Bragg."

"The crab season started quite late this year due to the Fish and Wildlife people protecting the migrating whales and not opening until the 18th of January. Due to El Nino and the warm ocean temperatures, the whales are returning later to Alaska," explained Gernhardt.

The people who were asking about the sale for months were finally able to enjoy the tasty treats, and many bought several for family and friends.



## Winter Energy Bill Help

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- Available discount programs
- Your usage. It might be time to reassess your energy habits.
- Practical winter energy savings tips

Every little bit helps when it comes to your bill. We look forward to hearing from you.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

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.

WW473

### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2024-F0069  
The following person or persons are doing business as Revival Transportation, 521 Capps Lane, Ukiah, CA 95482.  
Registered owner: Ashley Elliott, 521 Capps Lane, Ukiah, CA 95482.

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 25, 2024

/s/ Ashley Elliott

Publication dates: February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024.

WW474

### Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name

File No: 2021-F0220  
The person or persons listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name: Loet Vanderveen Legacy Editions, 12 Maple Street, Willits, CA 95490, Mendocino County.

The FBN was filed in Mendocino County on April 21, 2021. File Number 2021-F0220. Registered owners: Mas Art, LLC, 12 Maple Street, Willits, CA 95490.

This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

This FBN Statement of Abandonment was filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 2, 2024.

/s/ Martha Ann Seifert

Publication dates: February 15, 22, 29, March 7, 2024.

### Registration open for 'Grassroots' at Mendocino County Soccer Academy

#### Submitted by MCSA

In a community where the love for soccer runs deep, Mendocino County Soccer Academy is gearing up to launch its much-anticipated Grassroots Academy for the spring season. With registration now open, families in Willits are encouraged to enroll their budding athletes in this 8-week program that promises not just soccer skills, but a foundation of confidence, courage, and camaraderie.

MCSA's Grassroots Academy aims to ensure that every child's initial encounter with soccer is not only positive but also leaves a lasting mark. The program, designed for 3- to 11-year-olds, runs from April 1 to May 26.

The philosophy behind Grassroots is simple: to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for children to learn the basics of soccer while falling in love with the game. "Our goal is to build brave, confident, and strong individuals through the beautiful game of soccer," says MCSA Director and Coach Ian Fitzpatrick, who brings his passion for the sport and years of coaching experience to the forefront.

The academy's approach is distinctly different, focusing solely on practice sessions that are both instructive and fun. In Grassroots, children hone their skills at their own pace in a supportive atmosphere. Fitzpatrick emphasizes the importance of instilling a genuine love for soccer from the very beginning.

"Grassroots is the first foundational step in our MCSA Developmental Pathway. We believe that the early experiences shape a child's perspective toward the game. Our professional coaching staff is dedicated to teaching the basics while ensuring every child enjoys the journey," says Fitzpatrick.

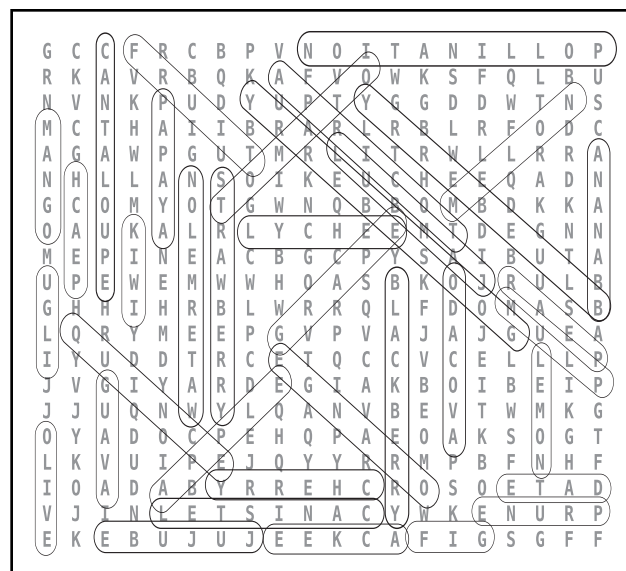

What sets Grassroots apart are the engaging and entertaining games incorporated into the sessions. Games such as Lions on the Loose, Red Stop, Green Go, Ice Monsters, and more add an element of joy to the learning process. With each child having a ball at their feet at all times and no tedious lines or laps, the emphasis remains on enjoyment.

For parents looking to enroll their little ones, the program caters to different age groups, with children under 6 practicing twice a week for 45 minutes each, while U8s and U11s practice three times a week for sessions ranging between 60 and 75 minutes. The schedule is tailored to balance skill development and the sheer enjoyment of playing soccer.

To further facilitate access, MCSA offers scholarships for those in need.

Take advantage of this opportunity to kickstart your child's soccer journey with MCSA's Grassroots Academy and join us in building a community of confident and skilled young soccer enthusiasts!

For more information on the schedules and registration, visit [MendocinoSoccer.com/Grassroots](https://MendocinoSoccer.com/Grassroots). Save 10% with early bird registration by February 15th by using discount code EarlyBird. You can also email questions to Coach Fitzpatrick at [lan@MendocinoSoccer.com](mailto:lan@MendocinoSoccer.com).

**Mendocino County invites applications for:**

- Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights & Measures**  
\$125,112 - \$152,068
- Animal Protection Officer I**  
\$38,771 - \$44,907
- Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights & Measures**  
\$88,899 - \$108,076
- Assistant Director of Social Services**  
\$130,062 - \$158,100
- Auditor/Appraiser**  
\$68,515 - \$83,283
- Bookmobile Driver**  
\$40,892 - \$49,712
- Community Health Worker I/II**  
\$38,937 - \$47,195
- Cook**  
\$47,881 - \$58,177
- Corrections Deputy**  
\$55,369 - \$67,308
- Deputy Probation Officer I/II**  
\$51,937 - \$69,617
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner**  
\$75,878 - \$93,142
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner in Training**  
\$25.08 - \$29.03 Hourly
- Eligibility Specialist III**  
\$52,520 - \$63,856
- Legal Secretary I/II**  
\$38,563 - \$54,392
- Mental Health Clinician I/II**  
\$60,340 - \$84,843
- Real Property Appraiser I/II**  
\$59,779 - \$79,664
- Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C**  
\$71,094 - \$100,027
- Supervising Juvenile Corrections Officer**  
\$61,734 - \$75,046

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs)  
EOE

### SCP offers grants to customers to set up e-bike commuting programs

By Suzanne Pletcher for Sonoma Clean Power

Mendocino County schools, government, non-profits and businesses that would like to purchase electric bicycles (e-bikes) for employees to use for commuting to and from work are invited to apply for e-bike grants available through Sonoma Clean Power, Mendocino County's default electricity provider.

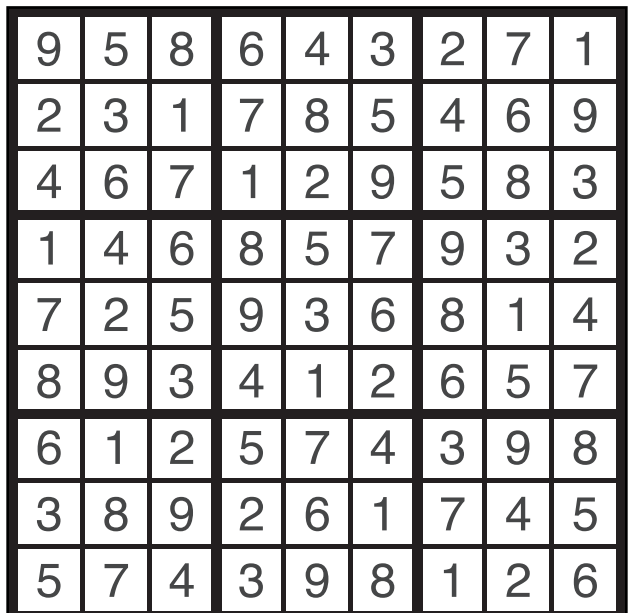
"Electric bikes offer another option for clean commuting by reducing vehicle travel and related costs and emissions," said Scott Salyer, program manager at Sonoma Clean Power. "Our goal with this effort is to provide the comprehensive funding and support that organizations need to build a successful electric bike commuting program."

Starting February 14, Sonoma Clean Power will take applications for grants of up to \$20,000 to cover all or most of the cost of setting up an e-bike commuting program, including money for helmets, locks, bike racks, chargers and storage. The application will be available online at the Sonoma Clean Power website, <https://sonomacleanpower.org/bike-electric>.

The application deadline is April 3, and the target date for awards is May 22, 2024.

Eligible organizations include businesses, non-profits, public entities, Tribal nations, and educational institutions. Applicants must also be a Sonoma Clean Power customer and have at least five staff, volunteers or students who commute using light-duty cars and trucks.

SCP is Mendocino and Sonoma counties' default not-for-profit electricity provider and is actively engaged in addressing the climate crisis through powering more of our lives with clean energy. SCP also offers customers the option to purchase 100% renewable electricity made from local geothermal and solar resources through its EverGreen service. For more information, visit [sonomacleanpower.org](https://sonomacleanpower.org).



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### John Ford Ranch Beef

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

### For Rent

2 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Brand New. Only 2 apartments left. Close to town and Howard Hospital. Well-appointed kitchens with granite counters and large pantry. Spacious bathrooms. Laminate floors throughout and window coverings. 1200 sq. ft. Air conditioned. \$1800.00/mo. More information call 707-489-1080.

### 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/p>

### Willits Food Bank at new location

Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, pantry staples, hygienic products, and more, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, at their new location at 344 Railroad Avenue. Food distribution is available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.

### Handyman Service

Art's handyman service. I live in Willits. I am qualified for many tasks. Carpentry, etc. Call me. Let's talk. 707-841-1991.

### Help Wanted

Willits Food Bank warehouse associate part-time position. Able to lift up to 40 pounds; patient, tolerant of those less fortunate. Inquire at 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits. Must be Covid vaccinated and substance free.

### Willits Weekly

Place your ad: [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

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### The rest of Helicopter

From page 2 including climate change, habitat quality, human-wildlife conflict, and habitat fragmentation, among others.

Results are also used to make regulated harvest recommendations to the California Fish and Game Commission, which is the state regulatory authority that adopts tag quotas, hunting seasons and zone boundaries.

These efforts are important for managing California's wildlife populations and are especially critical due to recent harsh winter conditions that may have had negative impacts on population numbers.

Big game hunters and other members of the public are encouraged to participate in the commission's annual regulatory cycles. Information regarding upcoming meetings, including dates, locations, background documents, and virtual meeting links are available at the California Fish and Game Commission website here: <https://fgc.ca.gov/Meetings/2024>

### The rest of Sharing

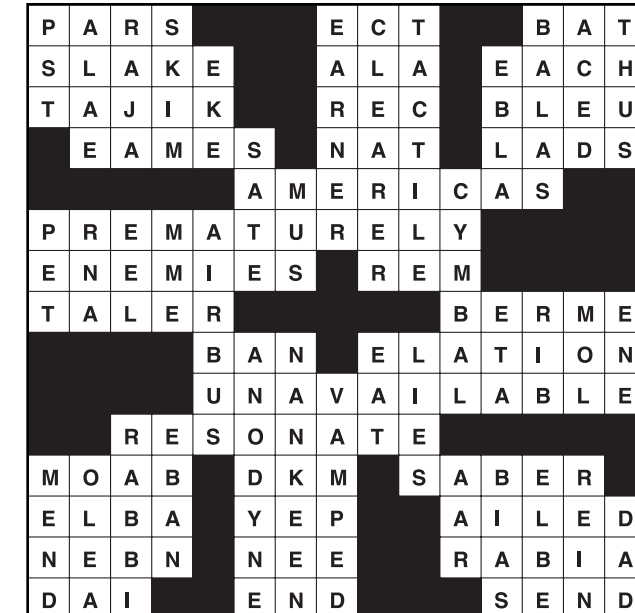
From page 2 of what plants can be best saved and shared or replanted successfully by beginners.

There will also be grape vines and plant starts and herbal remedies for sale.

The monthly Grange Pancake Breakfast is the same day, February 25, from 8 to 11 am - come for both events

Co-sponsored by your local Grange and the Mendocino County Pomona Grange, and your local library.

"Our mission is to conserve and promote America's endangered and culturally diverse garden and food crops for future generations, and to share heritage, open pollinated heirloom seeds and plants with all."



## Celebrate folk artist Mark Walker's birthday at the Museum

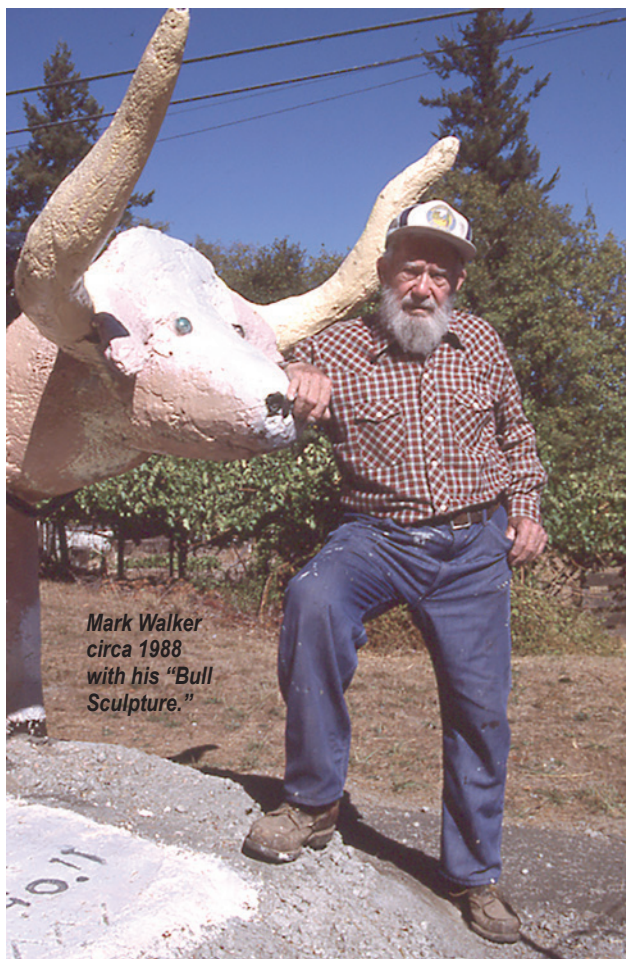
Submitted by Mendocino County Museum

This Leap Day, Thursday, February 29, join us as we celebrate the birthday of beloved Mendocino County folk artist Mark Walker (1892-1999) who was born on Leap Day 1892.

Mark Walker prided himself on his resourcefulness and clever use of found materials to make charismatic sculptures. Taking inspiration from his art, join us in creating whimsical hats to celebrate his birthday and legacy of creativity.

Guests are invited to view art works from his collection, learn about his long industrious life in Mendocino County, and enjoy birthday cake provided by the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum.

Event attendance is included with standard Museum admission: \$7 adults, \$2.75 children 6 through 13; children 5 or younger are free; For more information, including other discounts, visit [www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum), email [museum@mendocinocounty.gov](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.gov) or call 707-234-6365.



Mark Walker circa 1988 with his "Bull Sculpture."

## Athletic Sugar

Sugar was born here at the shelter back in May and was adopted when she was 10 weeks old. She returned to the shelter in January – her adopter abandoned her at the shelter's front door. Sugar is a very friendly and energetic young dog that will need lots of exercise. If you're looking for a dog-walking or jogging partner, Sugar is your gal! Sugar's mom is a husky and Sugar has a lot of the husky traits. Sugar would enjoy a playful canine friend in her new home.

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](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com).



## Pack-mate River

River came from a trailer park near the San Joaquin that was flooded and there were homeless people with unaltered dogs... this fellow had two litters, River (aka "Brother") was from the older litter ... but bit by bit rescue groups are helping to get them fixed and find homes.

River is lovely, clingy, playful and charming! Learning the ropes, and learning about leash walking, with help from his mentor buddy, Max!

Surprisingly he did just fine in foster care and in going up and down steep stairs to the yard. River was curious and a bit barksy when seeing a cat for the first time but he can learn. He wants to please and to learn about being a happy, well cared for dog in a happy home! A yard and a buddy dog would be ideal. Being alone is not going to be a happy place for him, having always been surrounded by dogs ... but he can learn. This is a sweet, sweet boy wanting security and love!

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



## Sweet Chey

Meet Cheyenne! We call her Chey and while she might shy away at first, give her a little time and soon you will hear the soft thumping of her tail wagging. Chey can't hide her love for people who speak kindly to her and bring extra yummy treats. She is still settling in here and what we know so far is that she LOVES other dogs. Chey is already coming out of her shell and we look forward to learning more about her!

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



## Obituary

### 'Sharreh' Bagby

August 12, 1947 – August 3, 2023

On August 3, 2023, our dear friend, Sharon "Sharreh" Bagby, 75 years old of Petaluma, CA, formerly of Willits, CA, died at home after a brave battle with pancreatic cancer. Her devoted husband, Billy, was by her side.

What a little firecracker! A petite dark-haired beauty, Sharreh was born Sharon Ann Giarrusso in Buffalo, New York on August 12, 1947, daughter to Sam and Bessie Giarrusso and sister to Joyce Dearmin (Giarrusso).

The family moved to Santa Clara, CA when Sharreh was 13 years old. Sharreh married her teenage sweetheart Billy Bagby who needed his mother's written permission, as he was underage. That was 56 years ago. Billy and Sharreh were inseparable to the end with Billy always taking good care.

Sharreh was a talented belly dancer, performer and teacher, a florist, a gardener, a paralegal, a wife and a friend. Sharreh loved baseball and kitties. Sharreh loved Billy.

As owner of Rhapsody Floral Designs, Sharreh delighted clients with gorgeous arrangements.

Sharreh was survived by her loving husband, Billy, sister-in-law Barbara Bagby, and brother-in-law Michael Bagby. Sharreh was preceded in death by her parents Sam and Bessie Giarrusso, sister Joyce Dearmin, brother-in-law Curtis Dearmin, and niece Brianna Bagby, as well as her mother-in-law, Mary Bagby.

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date. Rest in Peace dear Sharreh.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEMBER/ PROSPECTIVE MEMBER AFTERNOON OF FUN!**

Friends of the Mendocino County Museum invites ALL interested people to our "Community Friendship Gathering"

**Saturday, February 24th at 2 p.m. at the Mendocino County Museum**

Join us for an outstanding program about our County history, food and drink, a raffle of Friends merchandise, behind the scenes tours and an update on the Museum and the Friends.

This project is funded by:



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Chiropractor, Lakeview

**Anne Martin-Ko, MD**  
Pediatrician, Hillside

**Steven C. Wirth, MD**  
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## The rest of Science | From page 3

exhibits gets judged twice. That's a lot of volunteers that are required to do this well."

"The advantage for the kids to do these projects: Mainly it is to learn," said WCS Administrator Vaccaro. "They get to learn about something that interests them. They get to have practice designing experiments or doing research about something that they want to know or learn about. They get experience doing a long-term project and setting goals for themselves, following a timeline. They learn how to communicate what they've learned to others. They make a visual presentation of what they have done and learned. They learn how to follow scientific method. If they choose an engineering project, they learn more about the engineering process."

The projects gave the kids a chance to explore subjects of their personal interests, in a directed, precise, and ultimately useful methodology. The conclusions, based on the creation of a question, a hypothesis, introduction, background research, procedure, purpose, variables, and results did not need to necessarily prove that the original hypothesis was correct. It was the following of a coherent scientific method that could be utilized throughout their lives to solve problems that was important, quenching their thirst for knowledge in the real world.



Photos by Ava Dockins



Above: JV girls get a pep talk from their coaches amidst an intense timeout. Below: Jazmarie Henson takes control of the ball, dribbling down the court.



## The rest of Sports | From page 5

This was a very successful venture as Willits boys came up first as a team. Girls were one match away from first, coming in a fabulous second. The entire team brought home 8 League Champions, and many second and third-place wins to qualify for NCS Sections held in the Bay Area next weekend!

The display of athleticism and hard work through these young men and women while maintaining good grades in school and navigating life as a teen is nothing short of amazing. As the famous quote goes, "Once you've wrestled, everything in life is easy."

We wish the boys the best of luck at James Logan High School, and the girls at Albany High School next weekend! We know you will wrestle tough, and we are so proud of you!

## CMC League Championships Results

- 133 Champion: Nevaeh Jones
- 157 Champion: Ava Dockins-Kline
- 235 Champion: Bella Glenn
- 150 Champion: Rickey Ramirez
- 165 Champion: Corey Rockey
- 190 Champion: Donald Glenn
- 177 Champion: Ely Bowles

## Second Place:

- 115 Lucy Vargas
- 128 Stormie Nowlins
- 130 Dannyka Smith
- 147 Liz Meyer

## Third Place:

- 110 Veda Morgan
- 140 Emelia Owsiany



Above: Champion Dean Smith, center, grins along with his second- and third-place opponents. Below: Champion Corey Rockey pauses for a photo op with his opponents.



## The rest of Ballots | From page 1

video. "They assured me we are doing exactly what we need to do to get new replacement ballots out to our voters as soon as possible.

"We have processes in place to ensure that we only process the corrected ballot." [For more details, see the FAQs press release published in this edition, also submitted by the Elections Office.]

To see the video, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVIS6aH0sg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVIS6aH0sg)

The Voter Office recommends everybody destroy the original ballot they received last week. Below is the February 8 press release announcing the discovery of the error.

Elections Office – On Monday, February 5, 2024, the Elections Office mailed ballots for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election to all active Mendocino County registered voters. Late yesterday afternoon, the Elections Office was notified by some recipients of those ballots that there were errors in certain ballots.

The Elections Office has since learned that every voter in Mendocino County received a Republican ballot for the First Supervisorial District regardless of their party affiliation. Additionally, the Elections Office believes there

## The rest of PG&E | From page 1

"This would be the group," McGourty said, "that would be taking over the diversion from PG&E and designing a new one that would move Eel River water to continue the flow of Eel River water to our region."

"PG&E basically said, nope we don't want to do that anymore even though they had invited us to participate," McGourty continued. "Something has changed within their own view of their risk management, and we're no longer uh included.... We're still kind of reeling from it. It feels very much like Lucy and Charlie Brown and the football every time that we deal with PG&E, trying to come up with some sort of a solution for how do we take over that project which is so essential to our economy and about 600,000 people are affected by that diversion, from Potter Valley to the Marin County line."

McGourty said the Eel Russian Project Authority group was still going to continue, and had planned a meeting with the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission this week to talk about the situation, "but this is really a significant, existential threat to us and our water supply."

According to the JPA website, ERPA has "the power to negotiate with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company as the utility moves ahead with plans to surrender operations of the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project and to decommission the Scott and Cape Horn dams on the Eel River."

The new JPA also has "the legal capacity to own, construct and operate a new water diversion facility near the Cape Horn Dam," the website says.

Members of the JPA include the Sonoma County Water Agency, Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, the County of Sonoma, and Round Valley Indian Tribes.

On December 19 last year, Congressman Jared Huffman announced a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to the Sonoma County Water Agency "to study a diversion from the Eel River to the Russian River that will have the least possible impact on salmon and steelhead."

"Now that PG&E has decided to remove the dams, these federal funds will set us up to develop the Two-Basin Solution I have been encouraging for years," said Rep. Jared Huffman, in the December 19 press release. "In the face of compounding climate change impacts, dam removal, and a modern diversion for water will help protect salmon and steelhead while ensuring a dependable water supply."

PG&E has not put up a press release or official statement online about dropping the regional JPA from its proposal, but a Santa Rosa Press Democrat story quotes PG&E spokesman Paul Moreno as saying the company supports the regional goals and "remains committed to continue working together." But Moreno also cited a too-complex process and "the prospect of liabilities and uncertain costs Moreno said the utility would have to pass onto customers."



Photos by Mathew Caine

At left: Suzanne Matheson judges many of the exhibits; she has been judging since the Science Fair began in Willits. Above: Charter School administrator Erin Vaccaro works tirelessly to arrange and judge the exhibits.

may be errors in all ballots mailed out, even those ballots for voters registered Republican in the First District.

The Elections Office has been working with the vendor that printed the ballots to quickly remedy the error. The error was caused by a third-party vendor. The vendor is printing replacement ballots for all active Mendocino County registered voters and will mail them out, at the vendor's expense, to all registered voters early next week.

If any voter has already voted and returned the ballot they received, please contact the Election / County Clerk's Office as soon as possible. Our office will also reach out to voters who returned one of the ballots mailed on February 5, 2024, to make sure the voter is provided the correct ballot.

Please note that military and overseas ballots were not affected by this error. Military and overseas voters received correct ballots.

I would like to thank those voters who called to let us know about this error.

If you have any questions, please contact the Election / County Clerk's Office by calling 707-234-6819 or emailing us at [mcvotes@mendocinocounty.gov](mailto:mcvotes@mendocinocounty.gov)

## The rest of Transition | From page 1

the museum and its plan for the future, and unanimous praise for museum director Mattson and the immense improvements she has brought to the museum and its involvement with the community throughout the county.

But the key issue of ongoing county funding remains undecided. While a public foundation appears to be an excellent way to operate the museum, without the county's financial support, it is unlikely the museum could afford to stay open.

Only two of the supervisors talked about funding of the museum. Supervisor John Haschak, a strong supporter of the museum, stated that the proposed foundation model "will decrease the cost to the county," but "there is still going to be a county contribution."

Supervisor Dan Gjerde first suggested that some financial Lone Ranger ought to step up and rescue the museum: "If someone wanted to financially support the museum, this is a good investment for their dollars." Gjerde then added that any financing, "should include a financial commitment from the county, but also a financial commitment from the City of Willits: Maintain the grounds, maybe pay the utility bill, is a reasonable role for the City of Willits. An honest and earnest conversation about the future of the museum needs to have participation by the City of Willits."

Supervisor Gjerde then made a motion, unanimously approved by the supervisors, to have museum director Mattson "bring back a transition plan [for a community-based foundation] that includes a memorandum of understanding between the county, the City of Willits, and other partners for a long-term funding strategy for the museum."

Willits City Council members, at their January 24 meeting, stated that the county should continue to fund the county museum. Mayor Saprina Rodriguez said, "It is not fair for the county to assume that a nonprofit partner is going to assume the financial liability, and that saying the City of Willits should step up, the city is making a contribution, the museum is on city property, as well as other support services that are not being acknowledged by the county."

Willits Councilmember Greta Kanne stated that the county supervisors should "come back with a strong statement asking for a continued commitment from the county to fund the museum wholly while they figure out how to transition into a new structure." Which, so far, the supervisors have not done.

Groundhog Day was sunny, but groundhogs can't really predict the future. Nor can Supervisor Haschak, though his summation of the supervisors meeting was hopeful: "We have a collection that represents the history of Mendocino County, and as a county we've taken that on. The charge we have is to protect that."

## School board recognizes Sherwood School students and staff

Submitted by Principal Kathleen Crossman

At the Willits Unified School District School Board meeting on January 11, Superintendent Mark Beebe, along with school board members and each student's teacher, presented Sherwood Elementary School's outstanding students and their families with certificates of honor.

The students were selected by their teachers for their positive attitudes toward learning and for being safe, respectful, responsible and kind. Each student has terrific attendance and is achieving at grade-level or above!

The following students earned this designation: in Ms. Hall's class, kindergartners Agata Zieba and Asher Wyatt, and first-graders Aven Steffen and Ryder Elmore; in Ms. Annapurna's class: second-grader Abel Hernandez and third-grader Lexi Ludwig; in Ms. Savannah's class: fourth-grader Nihya Locke and fifth-grader Charlotte Gray.

Two Sherwood staff members were also recognized by their peers for their dedication and exceptional teamwork. These staff members were honored: Classified Para-Educator Trevor Muller and Certificated Teacher Annapurna Steffen.



Above: Sherwood School kindergartener and "Outstanding Student" Agata Zieba, and Sarah Owsiany, at left, Sherwood School first-grader and "Outstanding Student" Rider Elmore, teacher Savannah Norton, and Ray Elmore at right.

At left, below: Katie Gray and Sherwood School fifth-grader and "Outstanding Student" Charlotte Gray smile for the camera at the January Willits school board meeting.

At left, bottom: Sherwood School third-grader Lexi Ludwig, center, holds her "Outstanding Student" award, with Brandon, left, and Kameron Ludwig at the January school board meeting.

## New year, new venue for Avenues to Wellness talks

Submitted by ATW

Avenues to Wellness kicks off their speaker series in a new location, the Willits Methodist Church, with a talk on "People Living Homeless in Willits."

"Safety & Compassion: People Living Homeless in the Willits Community," on Saturday, February 24 from 4 to 5 pm, will be the first of this year's Avenues to Wellness talks at the new location, the Willits Methodist Church at 286 School Street. ATW talks are always FREE to the public, donations appreciated.

When seeing people who are homeless in our community, it is common to feel frustrated, annoyed, sad, and anxious. This talk offers a compassionate and realistic approach to the problem, addressing core factors and suggesting real-life solutions. Please join us to learn what is being done locally, what are the next steps, and how you can help.

Helen Falandes, M.Ed., has been working, training, and teaching in the counseling and human services field for over 40 years. She has worked in residential, shelter and outpatient treatment programs. She is currently part of a Willits-based, grassroots, community effort to better understand and reduce the number of families and individuals who are living without stable or safe housing.

Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit [www.avenuestowellness.org](http://www.avenuestowellness.org) to view Video Archives of previous talks. For more information call: 707-456-9676.



## Friends of the Museum Membership Drive event

Submitted by Friends of the Mendocino County Museum

The Friends of the Museum will host a Membership Drive on Saturday, February 24 at the Mendocino County Museum from 2 to 4 pm. This community event is free and is sponsored by the Community Foundation.

Our goal is to double our membership while enjoying food, a history talk, tours and more!

### Discover our community history

Local author Kim Bancroft will share her enthusiasm for learning Mendocino County history in the context of gathering information for a museum exhibit. The talk will highlight the many resources available at the Mendocino County Museum for researching the history of communities in our county, including archival photographs, books, maps, and films, oral histories, interviews, and historical artifacts.

### Tour the Museum

Mendocino County Museum volunteers will offer "Behind the Scenes" tours of the museum collections and exhibits.

### Socialize

Enjoy light appetizers and drinks provided by the Friends of the Museum. Make sure to listen for your name, as you might be a recipient of a door prize. New and renewing Friends members will be entered into a drawing to win prizes!

Visit the Museum website to learn more at [www.mendocinocounty.org/departments/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/departments/museum), and hit the "Get Involved" button to learn more about volunteering or the Friends of the Museum group. Check out Friends of the Mendocino County Museum T-shirts, aprons totes, mugs, and more at <https://www.zazzle.com/s/fotmcm>. Keep up with the "Friends of the Mendocino County Museum" page on Facebook.

**Safety & Compassion: People Living Homeless in the Willits Community**  
Saturday Feb. 24  
4-5pm

When seeing people who are homeless in our community it is common to feel frustrated, annoyed, sad and anxious. This talk offers a compassionate and realistic approach to the problem, addressing core factors and suggesting real-life solutions. Please join us to learn what is being done locally, what are the next steps, and how you can help.

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Email: [spc@frankrhowardfoundation.org](mailto:spc@frankrhowardfoundation.org)  
Visit: [avenuestowellness.org](http://avenuestowellness.org)

**New Location!**  
Willits Methodist Church  
286 School Street

FREE to the public  
Donations appreciated  
Wheelchair accessible



## You're made for living a happy, fulfilling life.

That's why we have top experts for all your healthcare needs, no matter your age or stage of life. We're proud to offer you more choices, expanded access and higher quality care in Mendocino County, as demonstrated by our Planetree Gold Certification for excellence in patient-centered care. We're not just here to put more years in your life, we're here to put more life in your years.

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