

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Chamber coordinator to stay on

To the Editor:

The Willits Chamber Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Susan Mahoney's personal circumstances have changed and now allow her to remain working at the Chamber.

We apologize for the confusion this may have caused, and we look forward to having a successful year of accomplishments as we work together to make Willits a better place to live, work and play.

Thank you.

Lisa Kvasnicka, Willits Chamber of Commerce

A benefit to save Our Daily Bread

To the Editor:

Willits Daily Bread has been serving the hungry four days a week for over 25 years, no questions asked. Their major fundraiser has been "Sip Some Soup," but that hasn't happened in three years due to COVID, and it just hasn't felt safe yet to jam that many people into our Civic Center. So they are running out of money to feed the hungry in Willits.

The Cosmic Family Band will be giving an uplifting family-friendly concert on April 21 (Sunday, 3 to 5 pm, by donation). You may have heard some of the band play at our Farmers Market. Last week at the pub they were joined by Kyle Madrigal, Tootreese Jeske, and Dan Miller – that was the ultimate in dance-ability! I expect many of our local musical phenoms to join in what should be a memorable concert to save Willits Daily Bread. If the weather is good we can open the patio doors.

The performance will be in the straw-bale sanctuary of St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial streets, from 3 to 5 pm. Willits Daily Bread hopes for your generous donation at the concert. There is an almost magical resonance with the straw bale walls that is only going to add to what should be a memorable and remarkable concert.

It's tough enough to be homeless, without having to also go hungry.

Bill Bruneau, Willits

Do you have something to say? Write a letter to the editor!

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor.

Please email us:

willitsweekly@gmail.com

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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OES launches Genasys Protect on MendoReady.org

Submitted by Mendocino County Executive Office

March 18 - Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services has launched a new evacuation mapping software on MendoReady.org as of March 18. Genasys Protect is an evacuation management tool that helps first responders plan, communicate, and execute evacuations more effectively.

The Genasys Protect map allows the public to view all emergency advisories, warnings, and orders in the county. It also allows the public to view incident-specific evacuation points, evacuation centers, shelters, road closures, sandbag stations, and other resources.

The naming convention for the zones will now include the prefix MEN. The rest of the name designation and the preestablished zone boundaries have not changed. Zones inside the City of Willits have the prefix WIL. Visit MendoReady.org to find the zones for your home, work, children's school, family members' zones, etc.

For all questions, please contact OES@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-234-6398.

Here are three of the frequently asked questions about Genasys Protect and other evacuation information. To see the whole FAQs list, visit www.mendoready.org, scroll down, and click the FAQ button to download an English or Spanish version.

What is MendoReady.org?

MendoReady.org is Mendocino County's one-stop source for disaster preparedness and emergency information. Whether you're just starting to understand your hazards and getting prepared, or you're an experienced emergency volunteer with a plan and a two-week disaster kit.

What is Genasys Protect?

Genasys Protect is a web-based platform for community members. Residents can look up their address using the search bar to find evacuation information for their area.

When I enter my address into the Genasys Protect site, why don't I see the best route to evacuate? How will I know where I should go?

Evacuation routes are always incident-specific because the best route to take is always relative to the location and type of threat. When an emergency evacuation occurs, make sure to check your county's alerts and open Genasys Protect to review the status of your zone. When it's time to evacuate, pay close attention to your surroundings, and look out for law enforcement directing traffic. To prepare further, you should become familiar with your zone, both on the platform and out in the real world. We recommend taking a screenshot of your zone and its surrounding area, printing it out, and drawing out multiple potential exits that you can reference in the case of a disaster.

Tsunami warning test set for March 27

Posted by National Weather Service, Eureka

Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties will be participating in a Tsunami Warning Communications Test on Wednesday, March 27, between 11 am and 12 noon, to ensure the Tsunami Warning System works properly during a real tsunami emergency.

Testing will include interruptions of TV (not all cable and satellite TV stations will be able to participate), and Radio Stations, reverse calling notifications, and activation of NOAA Weather Radios and Outdoor Sirens.

If you are watching television between 11 am and 12 noon on Wednesday morning, expect to see a crawler at the bottom of the screen indicating that a tsunami warning has been issued and hear a voice indicating that it is only a test. If you don't hear the TV audio, please remember that this is only a test.

If you are listening to the radio, you will hear alerting tones followed by a voice announcing that the test is occurring.

If you have a NOAA weather radio with the Public Alert feature, the radio will automatically turn on and you will hear the same message as broadcast on radios. In some areas, you may also hear the sounding of a tsunami siren, an airplane testing its public address system (possibly as late as 1 pm), or receive other communication tests in some local jurisdictions.

The Wireless Emergency Alert system will NOT be activated for this test.

Please help us by providing any feedback for this test by emailing ryan.ayward@noaa.gov

When you hear or see the warning test on March 27:

- You do NOT need to take any action
- Do NOT call 911 or local authorities
- Do NOT evacuate your home or business.

THIS IS ONLY A TEST!

The test is conducted by the National Weather Service, the California Office of Emergency Services, the Offices of Emergency Services for Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties, and Tribal governments. For more information, contact: National Weather Service (707) 443-6484.

CAL FIRE announces \$10 million in grants to protect working forests

Submitted by CAL FIRE Sacramento

March 18 – the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is announcing up to \$10 million in funding for Forest Legacy Grants to conserve and protect environmentally important privately owned forestland. This funding supports California's goals of conserving working forests to help protect natural landscapes threatened with conversion to other uses, promote sustainable and resilient forest practices, and encourage long-term stewardship in line with the goals of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force; visit <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/>

Under this competitive grant program, CAL FIRE purchases or accepts donations of conservation easements or fee titles of productive forest lands from willing sellers, to encourage long-term conservation throughout the state.

The solicitation for these grants is two-part: first, a pre-application must be submitted, which will be ranked and scored; second, successful pre-applicants will be invited to complete a full application that will be considered for funding. The pre-application period is open from March 18, 2024, to April 16, 2024. Invitations to



complete a full application will be made by May 7, 2024, with the full application period open until June 7, 2024. A field visit by CAL FIRE staff to the potential project properties is required.

Additional application information including grant guidelines, eligibility requirements, and deadlines can be found on the Forest Legacy Program website here: www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/forest-legacy

All grant work must be completed by June 30, 2028.

Funding to conserve working forests is provided through the California Budget Act 2023. Administered by CAL FIRE's Forest Legacy Program, this critical funding works to ensure that forests are safeguarded for future generations while also aiding the state in meeting critical climate and carbon goals. Protection of California's forests through these grants ensures they continue to provide such benefits as wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, watershed protection and open space, and supporting sustainable wood product economies.

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, March 21: BLT, Macaroni Salad, Pickle

Friday, March 22: Hot Dog w/Chili, Macaroni Salad

Monday, March 25: Shredded Chicken Burrito Wet w/ Green Sauce

Tuesday, March 26: Monterey Roast Beef Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

Wednesday, March 27: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Corn Bread, Veggies

Thursday, March 28: Beef Stroganoff, Veggies, Roll

Friday, March 29: Turkey, Cranberry, Stuffing, 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, 8 to 11 am.

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

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

Block Party

Fun activities, deals on food, raffles and more offered by vendors and businesses on south side of town

In the southwest corner of the Evergreen Village Shopping Center, on a beautiful, warm Friday evening, The Mane House, Super Taco, and Flourish and Flow Yoga, threw a block party for adults and kids, the purpose of which was to introduce the businesses and other local vendors to the public, show what they do, and create a fun event. In addition to the aforementioned businesses, a new coffee trailer, the Willits Chamber of Commerce, and invited craft vendors were available to the public.

Susan Mahoney and Lisa Kvasnicka, coordinator and president, respectively, of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, offered information and festive St. Patrick's Day goodies for the kids. "This was a joint effort by some of the local businesses to have a block party," said Mahoney. "There should be a lot of kids here from all of the nearby families. There will be specials on food at Super Taco and a coffee truck. It's low-key but it's nice to see something going on in the area."

"The Willits Chamber is going through some transitions on how to best fulfill our purpose, which is to make Willits a better place," continued Mahoney. "What assets we have and how can we use them."

The Mane House salon owner Amber Otis and manager Winter Wilson were the instigators of the event, even inviting vendors to set up inside their space. "Things are going great here," said Otis. "Since we opened last July, the business is doing well here. We love that there is plenty of parking here and we love our neighbors, Super Taco and the yoga studio. They are both participating in this event which is really fun."

"We're trying to get a little better known on this side of town," Otis said. "A lot of events happen on the north side. We want to show people that we are here, too. That is what this is about, trying to get all small businesses involved and trying to encourage people to shop local."

"We're doing a raffle," said Otis. "We're raffling off a \$400 basket of hair products, a brow lamination, Winter and Crystal are doing a kids basket. Winter, my salon manager, is the one who really put this on. She is really big into the community and giving back. That's our goal at The Mane House. We love doing things for the community any chance we get. It's the perfect day to have an outdoor event."

In addition to the vendors, Flourish and Flow created a Kids Corner, where the young ones (and some adults) could play games, try their skills on several hula hoops, try some acrobatic yoga with instructor Crystal Facer, throw bean bags, and generally keep busy while their parents explored the crafts and food opportunities.

One of the new vendors was a very popular pink trailer, in which a business called Mitote Café dispensed coffee and other related goods. "Translates in English to 'The Gossip Café,'" explained Adrian, the owner. "When you have coffee, you gossip, of course. I thought there are a lot of Latinos in the area. Why not give them a different experience with coffee that we are not traditionally used to? I did a Starbucks kind of thing but with Latino twist to it, with Latino flavors."

Super Taco offered some nice discounts on birria, chile verde, and birria enchiladas. Several of the vendors are familiar to those who enjoy craft fairs in the area. Kelly Viss, with Barefoot Forest Homestead, showed her tinctures, salves, elixirs, bath soaps, feather earrings, and a new product, fermented citrus, which is "really great for flavoring dishes," said Viss. "I like to drizzle some on stir fry or put this with butter on some shrimp."

The Creative Corner, created by Brandi Maxwell, was showing "lots of beaded things, pens, letter openers, bottle openers, earrings, makeup brushes, wine stops, and more." Katie Brenneman of Katie Bee's Creations has started a business based on her new freeze-drying machine. "We do freeze-dried organic fruits and candies and treats. We have quite a few options in the Katie Bee's Creations world," explained Brenneman.

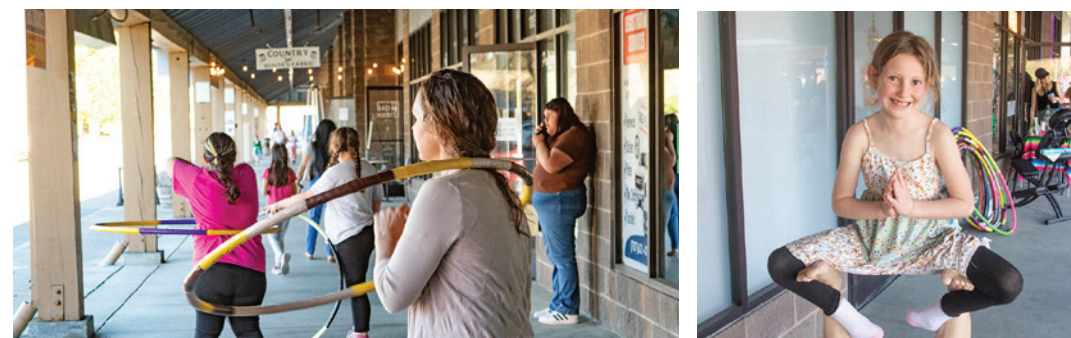
Inside the large main room of The Mane House, several vendors showed their crafts. Britanni Epperson of Breakthrough Fitness was educating attendees on her services: "It's an online personal-training business. I run it through an application and customize workouts for one-on-one clients to fit their health and fitness needs."

Jessica Koehler was creating "Permanent Jewelry," which she explained as "clasp-less jewelry that is custom fit and then welded on at the jump ring so you can't take it off. There's no clasp. You keep it on for life or until you cut it off. You can wear them for years."

Hopefully, there will be more such events on the Willits south side, an area that doesn't get as much recognition as it should, with many vital businesses and vendors who are eager to integrate into the city's consciousness.



Above, left: Katie Brenneman of Katie Bee's Creations has recently started a business with fun freeze-dried fruits and candies. Above, right: Erin Corley, owner of Flourish and Flow Yoga, and instructors Tasha Craig and Morgan Shook answer questions inside. Below, left: Britanni Epperson of Breakthrough Fitness sells fitness-themed gear and informs people about her personalized online workout program. Below, right: Susan Mahoney and Lisa Kvasnicka dispense information and goodies for the kids at the Willits Chamber of Commerce table.



Above: Capri Daniel takes advantage of the Kids Corner, with the assistance of Crystal Facer, doing acrobatic yoga.

At left, top: There is no shortage of hula hoops at the Kids Corner. At left, bottom: The Mitote Coffee van is a hit at the event.

Below, left: Lucia and Antonio Calderon and Margarita Gonzales of Super Taco offer discounts on birria and other meals. Below, right: Amanda Scopen came to do chair massage and work the Kids Corner.

At bottom, left: The Mane House salon owner Amber Otis and manager Winter Wilson, who were instrumental in putting the block party together, pose for a photo. At bottom, right: Annie Everts teaches yoga and has a business called Second Nature, a consignment clothing company.



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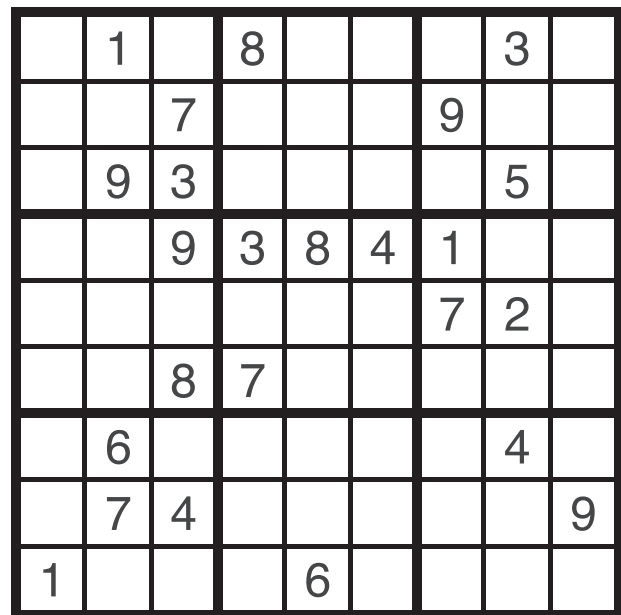
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The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Bicoastal Media is a vote-based contest for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are finalized and make up the official Best of Lake and Mendocino voting ballot. The audience can then vote on one choice in each category. Voters are allowed to nominate without limits and since 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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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



Level: Advanced



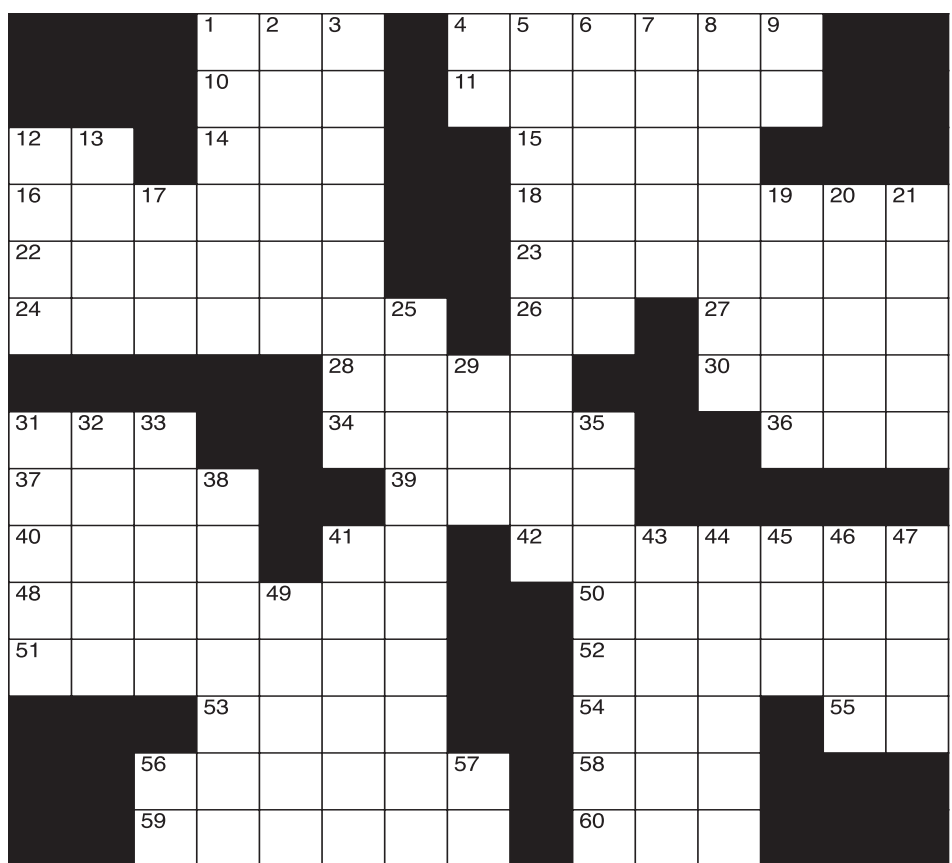
HOW TO SUDOKU

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!

FUN NIGHT OUT WORD SEARCH



APPETIZERS	DINING	FRIENDS	PLAY
BABYSITTER	DOWNTOWN	GAME	POPCORN
BILL	DRINKS	GROUP	RESTAURANT
CHEERING	ENJOYMENT	HOSTESS	SPORTS
CITY	ENTERTAINMENT	LAUGHING	STADIUM
CLUB	EVENING	MEAL	TAXI
DANCING	FAMILY	MUSIC	THEATER
DATE	FESTIVE	MUSICAL	TICKETS
DESSERT	FORMAL	PARTY	TOURIST



CLUES ACROSS

- Small Eurasian deer
- Irish county
- A major division of geological time
- Broadway actor Lane
- Canadian province (abbr.)
- Human gene
- Two
- A famous one is blue
- Utter repeatedly
- Ring-shaped objects
- Spoils
- Occurs
- Commercial
- Near
- Products you may need
- Pledge thrown down as a challenge
- TV network
- Silk or cotton garments
- Soviet Socialist Republics
- Retired American football coach Dean
- Hot dish

CLUES DOWN

- Make up for
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Salary
- Influential world body
- Engravers
- Declared as fact
- One who steals
- Jewelry
- Hospital employee (abbr.)
- Nonsense (slang)

- Town in Galilee
- Value
- A fake name
- Sheep in their second year
- Town in Surrey, England
- Appropriate for a particular time of year
- Creative works
- Recesses
- W. Pacific island group
- Tolkien character
- Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
- Pioneer
- Scribe
- Painted a bright color
- Lowest members of British nobility
- Actress Thurman
- Type of sugar
- Crest of a hill
- N. American people of British Columbia
- Device
- The Mount Rushmore State

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

February 19 to March 3

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 93 incidents in this 14-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

February 19

No incidents to report.

February 20

5:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Oak Street and issued a warning.

February 21

3:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

February 22

8:51 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Hazel Street and issued a warning.

11:33 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

2:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

6:38 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of Madden Lane and issued a citation.

9:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

February 23

6:31 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

10:29 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

2:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

2:51 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Center Valley Road and Bray Road and issued a warning.

2:57 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

February 24

12:41 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of South Humboldt Street.

February 25

6:16 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of North Main Street.

10:24 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

10:31 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:02 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:27 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

February 26

No incidents to report.

February 27

1:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

3:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

7:51 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 21000 block of Poplar Avenue.

The rest of Shamrock

This project adds to significant work underway throughout the state and brings California one step closer towards meeting state fuels reduction goals directed by the California Fire Plan and the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan – learn more here: <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/california-wildfire-and-forest-resilience-action-plan.pdf>

To track the progress being made, both in your community and throughout California, visit the CAL FIRE fuels reduction dashboard at www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/fuels-reduction.

This project burn will be conducted under strictly controlled weather and fuel conditions. Smoke and aircraft may be visible in the area.

8:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue and issued a citation.

February 28

6:11 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

2:02 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and East San Francisco Avenue and issued a citation.

4:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

6:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:20 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Kawi Place and issued a citation.

February 29

8:50 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1000 block of Center Valley Road.

5:21 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Hazel Street and issued a warning.

6:07 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:41 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Commercial Street and South Main Street and issued a citation.

March 1

8:35 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Holly Street.

2:44 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

4:19 pm: CROW, Melissa Frances (36) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street following a report of an unwanted subject. Crow was arrested pursuant to 422 PC (Criminal Threats), 602.1 PC (Obstructing a Public Business Establishment), 415 (2) PC (Disturbing the Peace, Unreasonable Noise) and 415 (3) PC (Disturbing the Peace, Offensive Language in Public).

4:56 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 200 block of North Main Street.

11:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 700 block of South Main Street.

March 2

10:13 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:15 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

March 3

11:57 am: THORNTON, Troy William (27) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 529 (A) PC (False Impersonation), 148.9 (A) PC (Giving False Identification to an Officer), 11350 (A) HS (Possession of a Controlled Substance), and 11364 (A) HS (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia).

12:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of South Main Street.

2:51 pm: JORDAN, Dustin Lee (45) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Alder Court following a disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery) and 236 PC (False Imprisonment).

Fellowship and Fundraising

American Legion serves St. Patrick's Day staples to raise money for scholarships and to honor Duane Brown

"Today, we're doing the Saint Patrick's Day fundraiser – the Duane Brown Memorial Saint Patrick's Day fundraiser. The proceeds go to the scholarships we give to the Willits High School seniors. We do two \$500 scholarships. We sponsor a trip, under the American Legion, for the boys and girls State Civics Program," said Kennedy Cooper, the newest and youngest member of Post 174.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

He is a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, has served in Korea, and Maryland. Soon, Cooper will be officially retired and plans to spend much of his time "volunteering all through the county. I just picked up Meals-On-Wheels volunteer time, driving for the Senior Center. I'm going to volunteer here at the American Legion and also the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Ukiah, and other veteran-related things," he said.

Cooper is typical of the members of this band of brothers from all the services, who have come together to reminisce, volunteer, raise money, and generally spend their retirement helping the citizens of Willits.

These veterans created a healthy, hearty repast of comfort food based on traditional Irish Saint Patrick's Day fare. Of course, there was corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread, and cake in large enough portions that no one had to leave hungry. As soon as the starting time came around, a crowd of citizens came through the door to begin their feast and to spend some time with friends over the shared food experience. The dining room in the basement of the post on Main Street, next to the Willits High School, filled with the sounds of people laughing, conversing, and enjoying the meal.

The event is dedicated to Duane Brown of Brown's Corner fame who loved to support the post with generous donations. "Duane Brown was a World War II submariner who was very good about making donations to this post on Saint Patrick's Day and at other times," explained longtime American Legion member and Navy veteran Roger Ham.

"At his funeral, it was decided a few years ago that we would call this the Duane Brown Memorial Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. His wife, Sharon, was a very good benefactor to this organization as well," said Ham. "We need to remember those who have gone before us and what better way to do it when you see his name on the flyer, in the newspaper or other place, that's what it's all about."

The American Legion Post 174 enjoys helping the younger citizens who are serious about their futures. "We have a young lady whose name is Sofia Perez. She is our delegate to the Girl's State Program at Sac State. That happens to be in June. It's a fantastic program. That young lady will learn more about civics in a week than most of us learned however many years when they were in school. I wish that I had had that opportunity when I was her age. That's one thing we are doing. We have scholarships coming up in May. We will have, at least, two \$500 scholarships. I wish we could do more, but you do what you can do."

The Legion also participates in the Flags Across America each year as well as the annual Poppy Day. "We have Poppies coming up, the universal flower of remembrance. I shouldn't have to tell anyone what that poppy represents. We'll be doing those for two weeks in May. We end the poppy donation drive on Armed Forces Day which is on the 20th of May. The American Legion is pretty specific about how those funds can be spent, so it is for the benefit of veterans and veteran's families. You'll see me in front of Safeway, I'll be parked out there.

"During World War I there was a poet named John McCrae. He wrote a poem about Flanders Field. 'In Flanders Field the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row that mark our place: and in the sky. The larks, still bravely singing, fly. Scarce heard amid the guns below.' In that battlefield poppies actually sprung up the next year.

"That inspired, not only the poem, but gave inspiration to the veterans to recognize, not only that, but that's where we fought the battle, in France," Ham said. "And so those poppies, whether you are in the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars, it's to remember those who have fallen in battle. Memorial Day is not like Veterans Day, which is about all kinds of living people, like me," continued Ham.

Currently, the American Legion Post 174 is raffling off a beer wagon to raise money for their scholarships, and other altruistic endeavors. The prize is an all-terrain Red Ryder wagon with sideboards, filled with craft beer.

Third District County Supervisor John Haschak gave his opinion on what the post was doing for the people of Willits: "This is a real community service for getting people to come together for a dinner like this. It supports the veterans and what they do to support other veterans. It's all very tied together in creating community."

American Legion Post 174, in addition to serving up the corned beef and cabbage, also served up a heaping helping of community, fun, fellowship, and a dollop of selfless volunteerism.



Above: A ceremonial table is set up to remember those who were POWs and MIAs. A left: Carol and Frank Deuel will be celebrating their 65th anniversary in February of a week.



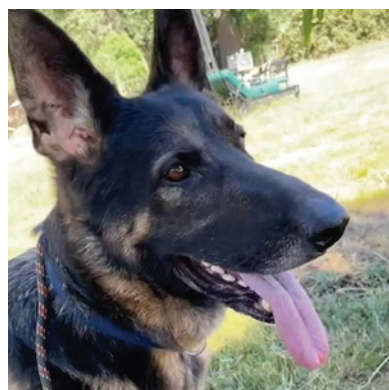
Above, left: Kennedy Cooper and John Frankum serve elements of the dinner to Susan Mahoney. Tradition dictates that the American Legionnaires serve corned beef and cabbage for St. Patrick's dinner. At left: Diners had a choice of chocolate or vanilla cake to complete their meals. Below: The crew of volunteers takes a break from serving dinner to gather for a photo: Carol and Frank Deuel, George Froschl, Curtis Desheld, Carolyn Ponikvar, John Frankum, Roger Ham, and Kennedy and Ashley Cooper.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Below, left: A hearty plate of staples and comfort food is offered up by the American Legion Post 174. Below, right: The dinner is a great place for friends to catch up and have a delicious meal.





Clever Bruno

Bruno is a young sweetheart that enjoys being active. This intelligent guy seeks affection and loves to lean in for pets. He needs a large space in a home with no cats.

Bruno can be a bit shy at first but quickly warms up.

To learn more about Bruno, 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

Randall Cantua, LUTCF
Agent
Cantua Insurance Agency
16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490
786 Redwood Drive
Garberville, CA 95542
Tel 707.459.3276
Tel 707.923.2179
Fax 707.923.9550
rcantua@farmersagent.com
067822

complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 459-4900.



Mellow John Wayne

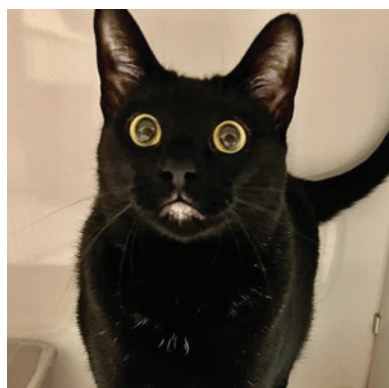
John Wayne is back with us, and that's OK. Sometimes that perfect long-term relationship is hard to find! Good news – JW is ready to start dating again. This guy's old school though – no swiping left for him, he likes to get to know his dates to be sure they have lots in common before committing. JW's values include time with his people, a solid routine, mellow vibes, quiet time, loves and pets and short walks. This handsome senior is well mannered, house-trained, sleeps in a crate and likes car rides. JW is low energy but enjoys getting out to smell the smells on short walks. Help us find JW a place to enjoy his golden years!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no

appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendocinohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Calm Hocus

Hocus is a sweet gal and enjoys spending one-on-one time with people. She doesn't seem to like the company of other high-energy cats, but could possibly go home with another mellow feline.



The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from noon to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 3 pm (closed for lunch from 1 to 1:30 pm) on Saturdays. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinanimalshelter.com. Call 707-467-6453 for more information.

Congrats

Kathleen Boomer-Grupp

Congratulations to Kathleen A. Boomer-Grupp of Willits who has been recognized for her distinguished tenure in health care and clinical laboratory science, with induction into the Marquis "Who's Who" Biographical Registry.

Boomer-Grupp has led a distinguished career in the health care field for over 50 years. As a clinical laboratory scientist assistant, and a licensed phlebotomist, she has been affiliated with Adventist Health Howard Memorial since 1971. In addition to her main priorities as a CLS assistant, Boomer-Grupp is a purchasing coordinator and QC inventory coordinator.



Having worked in the same laboratory her entire career, Boomer-Grupp notably spent the first 30 years of her training and career working under mentor Dr. Joseph A. Stetz, Jr. Initially hired to work at the hospital at 16, her roles and responsibilities have included phlebotomist, histologist, media preparation expert, specimen processor, pathologist assistant for bone marrow sampling, and autopsy assistant. She has also garnered extensive expertise in specimen processing, quality control, and product maintenance, among other areas of the field.

Among her most notable accomplishments in her field, Boomer-Grupp was instrumental in implementing a CLS assistant program at her hospital and its sister location. The decision came after the laboratories were experiencing staffing issues.

Well-qualified in her field, Boomer-Grupp holds credentials as a licensed phlebotomist. In light of her accomplishments, she received a Bank of America Award in Mathematics and Science and Bausch and Lomb Science Award from Willits High School. Boomer-Grupp also won a Howard Hero Award and a Presidential Medal from Adventist Health Howard Memorial.

To learn more about Marquis "Who's Who" editions, first published in 1899, visit www.marquiswhoswho.com.

Senior Center THRIFT STORE
Open Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
& Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

We have See's Easter candy on sale now.

Lots of clothing and furniture available.

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MORE CONVENIENCE

Sisters Alaska and River smile with the Easter Bunny and some snuggly real bunnies, too, during the 2023 event.

Photo by Maureen Jennison

Come have your photo taken with the Easter Bunny and his Live, Furry Friends this Sunday

Come on down on Sunday, March 24 from 12 to 4 pm to J.D. Redhouse in Willits and have your photo taken with the Easter Bunny, and snuggle with his Live, Furry Friends, too! Digital images are available for \$5 each and will be available to download from the online gallery site: <https://photographress.zenfolio.com/easterbunnyphotos>. There's no appointments, just stop by and get in line! More info: 707-972-7047 or email maureengetsma@gmail.com

Willits Elementary Charter School

Willits Elementary Charter School is accepting applications for the lottery to join our school in 2024-25. We will hold the public lottery on Friday, May 3. Applications for entering Kindergarten and grades 1-5 are available on our website and in the school office. All applications due by April 30. Questions: 707-459-1400

Willits Elementary Charter School está aceptando solicitudes para la lotería para unirse a nuestra escuela en 2024-25. Realizaremos la lotería pública el viernes 3 de mayo. Las solicitudes para ingresar al Kinder y a los grados 1-5 están disponibles en nuestro sitio web y en la oficina de la escuela. Todas las solicitudes deben presentarse antes del 30 de abril. Si tiene preguntas, llame al: 707-459-1400



LEGAL NOTICES

WW476 Fictitious Business Name Statement

2024-F0086
The following person or persons are doing business as Backroad Security, 7659 Hwy 29, Kelseyville, CA 95451. Mailing address: PO Box 1516, Lakeport CA 95453. Registered owners: Richard Lynn Russell, 7659 Hwy 29, Kelseyville, CA 95451; John Keith Schiessl, 26750 N Hwy 101, Willits CA 95490; and Patrick Bruce Lawson, 167 Wall Street, Fort Bragg CA 95437. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 2, 2024. /s/ John K. Schiessl
Publication dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

WW476 Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name

2020-F0501
The person or persons listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name: Backroad Security, 7659 Hwy 29, Kelseyville, CA 95451; Lake County. The FBN was filed in Mendocino County on October 5, 2020. File Number 2020-F0501. Registered owners: Richard Lynn Russell, 7659 Hwy 29, Kelseyville, CA 95451; Randall Leslie Vann, 88910 Mina Road, Covelo CA 95428; and John Keith Schiessl, 26750 N Hwy 101, Willits CA 95490. This business was conducted by a General Partnership. FBN Statement of Abandonment was filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 28, 2024. /s/ John K. Schiessl
Publication dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW475 Fictitious Business Name Statement

2024-F0108
The following corporation is doing business as EURoad Travel Guides, 1816 Buckeye Road, Willits, CA 95490. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2127, Willits CA 95490. Registered owner: Digital Aeon Inc., P.O. Box 651, Nyack, NY 10960. This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on December 2016. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 14, 2024. /s/ Victoria Bertotti
Publication dates: February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 2024

WW474 Order to Show Cause – Change of Name

I, Kylan DuFriend L. Simpson, residing at 59 Alameda Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, am proposing to change my name to Pinky Xohara Simpson. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the hearing is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. My court hearing date will be 4/5/24 at The Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95428. Hon. Ann C. Mooram Judge, Superior Court of Mendocino County. My case number is 24CV00179. Publication dates: March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2024

OBITUARY |

Patsy Phillips

Patsy Nell Phillips (Hendry), age of 73, of Willits, California sadly left us on March 15, 2024, due to heart complications. She is survived by Pete MacKay, her four daughters, Tammy (Dennis), Sharon (Fello), Suzanne, Laurie (Mark); six grandchildren: Thomas (Ashley), Robert (Megan), Andrew (Natalie), Sarah (Halcum), Carley (Richard), and Jeanell. As well as 12 great-grandchildren Zaeanna, Thomas III, Zarianna, Zayleeanna, Adian, Liam, Lily Dawn, Halcum III, Lilah, Oliver, Kaycee, and Miles (Tom) and (Adam).

A memorial service will be held at 1 pm on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at the Hall (next to Church of Latter-day Saints) at 265 Margie Drive, in Willits.

Please contact Tammy at 707-354-0169 for more information to send flowers or donations.

Bringing library materials to homebound people in Mendocino County

Submitted by Mendocino County Library

The Mendocino County Library is pleased to announce Library by Mail. This free service sends library materials, including books (regular and large print), audiobooks, music CDs, and DVDs, to homebound residents of Mendocino County. This service is available to any Mendocino County resident with a valid library card who is temporarily or permanently unable to visit our physical library locations or Bookmobile due to lack of transportation or an illness or disability that makes them homebound.

"Part of Mendocino County Library's Mission is to provide equitable access to materials," explained Acting County Librarian Mellissa Hannum. "Being able to connect our homebound patrons to library books, DVDs, and more not only helps the library to fulfill its mission, it also allows us to serve and enrich our community."

This is a no-cost program that allows patrons to borrow up to five items at once with a borrowing period of 35

Marc Komer

Legal Document Assistant

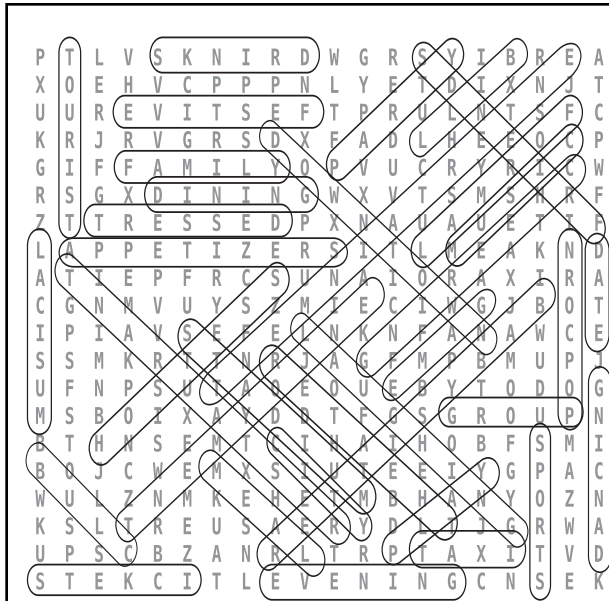
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245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.



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CLASSIFIEDS

30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks

Brookside Registration Open

Brookside Elementary TK / Kindergarten registration is now open. To register go to www.willitsunified.com. Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2024; TK: age 5 between Sept. 2, 2024 and June 2, 2025.

Inscripción abierta en Brookside

La inscripción para TK / Kindergarten de Brookside Elementary ya está abierta. Para registrarse, vaya a www.willitsunified.com.

Firewood Sale

Seasoned Firewood. You pick up in Willits. Fir: \$200 cord. Hardwood (Oak, Madrone, Bay): \$275 a cord. Call for Delivered Prices. 707-972-7213

For Rent

2 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Brand New. Only 1 apartment 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.

Willits Weekly

Place your ad: willitsweekly@gmail.com

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)

Mechanics / Bodywork Specials

2014 BMW R1200GS motorcycle. Tundra, F-150, F-250 diesel, Prius, Highlander, RX300, Honda Fit. Call for details & prices. Like New 2020 Honda CRF250 Rally, 400 miles, \$6000. 2009 Suzuki DR650, \$4000. Hobie Mirage Drive Kayak - Like new, \$1700. Speakers - Bose 901, \$200. Paradigm Studio 60 - \$400. WANTED: Large plastic pots. 707-972-7213

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.oaknvine.net/tp>

'What is the Mystery Behind Karma & Reincarnation?'

Explore as we delve into this ancient mystery of the ages. Come share or just listen. Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St., Saturday, April 6th, 10:30-11:30. Free books and healthy refreshments available. Questions? Call Joy (707) 367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of California.



Photos by Maureen Jehnison

Above, left: Mendocino Spirits' Tamar Kaye and Crispin Cain, left, stand with Emandal's Tam and Kashaya Adams, right, at the Whiskey Seminar Weekend. Above, right, top: A lovely tone rang from the Peace Bell which sits at the edge of Inspiration Point at Emandal. Above, right: The view down to Emandal's dining hall, with the Eel River behind, from Inspiration Point. At left: Julian Foley and Allegra Foley listen as Crispin Cain explains the bottle of Spirit Whiskey.

The rest of Whiskey

From page 1

green spinach ravioli that was filled with herbed cheeses, and topped with a four-mushroom cream sauce with Mulligan Gardens' lions mane and blue oyster, wild-crafted black chanterelle, and domestic baby portabella.

A salad of Green Uprising Greens with lemon balm, roasted and caramelized beets, pears, toasted walnuts, and a Meyer lemon vinaigrette was served alongside.

Next was the 10-year Rye Barrel sample which was paired with roasted spring asparagus with house-made hollandaise and farm-raised beef stroganoff and/or citrus-braised chicken with capers with white wine and basil, both of which were served with hand-cut wheat noodles.



To finish the meal off, Cain's 60th Birthday Rye Malt Whiskey was served for dessert alongside vanilla bourbon crème brûlée and/or flourless chocolate cake with whiskey-laced whipped cream.

As a final touch, Kaye stirred up Manhattans, featuring their Mendocino Spirits bourbon, for those wanting

to enjoy the libations in the form of a cocktail.

Some of the attendees headed home after the meal, and others stayed the night in one of the cozy rooms at Emandal, and were treated to a delightful St. Patrick's Day brunch the following morning. The Emandal staff served house-made corned beef hash, farm eggs with basil and aged cheddar, fresh-from-the-oven biscuits, granola, fruit, yogurt, and of course, farm jams and salsas.

Cain and Kaye are excited to come back to Emandal, and hope to make the educational whiskey seminar an annual event. The pair have been together some 30 years, but have been working together since incorporating their business in 2009, and sell their bottles online and in stores around the area.

"It was our privilege to come to Emandal and work with Tam and Kashaya," said Cain. "The food was fabulous, the whiskey was wonderful with the food, and we look forward to next year! Everything was perfect!"

"There are numerous reasons why we keep trying new things like this," said Emandal's Adams. "The intriguingly fascinating people that join us (from clowns to auctioneers, lawyers to professional singers, farmers to world-class chefs, workers to retired folks) and the steadfast folks who come to assist in preparations and clean-up leave us with the accomplished feeling of knowing we were a part of creating a sparkling and joyful event to bring unique individuals

Advertisement for 3 Sons Electric, Inc. Residential • Commercial • Industrial. Contact Mike Oglesby at 707-489-0755. Address: 2010 Industry Rd, Ukiah CA 95482. Phone: 707-462-1660.

Advertisement for Bud Garman Construction Services, Inc. Environmental Restoration - Ponds, Septic & Water Systems - Site Development, Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery. Phone: 707-459-5859. Address: 24900 N. HWY 101 IN WILLITS. Email: GARMANCONST@GMAIL.COM.



together in community."

Cain started his career in the industry more than 40 years ago, starting work at a winery in Pleasanton in the early 1980s. He moved to Mendocino County in the mid-80s where he started working at Hidden Cellars, which was also making wine for the brandy-producing Germain-Robin. He was contacted by Germain-Robin about working as an assistant to their master distiller, and he accepted the job, at the age of only 26, and has been a part of the distilling industry for some 34 years. It was while working there that he started developing the dream of creating his own distillery and making whiskey, which has now turned into a full-time business.

The public is welcome to visit the Mendocino Spirits distillery in Redwood Valley, which is open for retail hours Tuesday through Friday from 12 to 5 pm ("and I'll stay open later on Friday if I know you're coming!" Cain said). Contact Kaye at 707-485-2068, or Cain at 707-485-2491 for appointments, or come by and visit during their upcoming open house on Saturday, June 15. Along with tasting of whiskey for those 21 and over, there will also be live music, barbecue and ice cream to enjoy as a family. The event will also benefit the Redwood Valley/Calpella Fire Department.

Emandal has several weekend events coming, in addition to their family camp opportunities, including Birding Brunch on April 12-14; Dried Flower Wreaths on August 24; Chicken Pot Pie Week on October 11 - 13; Apple Cider Pressing on October 18-20; Art Stays in June, August and September; and Pizza and Wreaths on November 30.

Learn more about Mendocino Spirits at mendocinospirits.com, and learn more about Emandal and their other events at emandal.com/ or by calling (707) 459-9252.

At left, top: Two of the limited run of only 200 bottles made of Crispin Cain's 60th Birthday Rye Malt Whiskey that was aged in a Kentucky barrel were brought to the weekend event. At left, bottom: Emandal-made flourless chocolate cake was served alongside whiskey-laced whipped cream. At left, top: The sunflower-themed stained glass in the dining hall cast beautiful colors across the dining area. At left, bottom: Emandal's green spinach ravioli, filled with herbed cheeses, topped with a four mushroom cream sauce with Mulligan Gardens' lions mane and blue oyster, wild-crafted black chanterelle, and domestic baby portabella.

Advertisement for MCHC Health Centers. Features photos of Joseph Iaccino, Anne Martin-Ko, and Steven C. Wirth, all with 'Best of Lake & Mendocino 2024' awards. Address: 45 HAZEL STREET, WILLITS. Phone: (707) 456-9600. Website: mhcinc.org.



Above, left: A Sunday morning hike to the top of one of the hills above Emandal revealed the beautiful Rainbow Lake which was built with the help of the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1960-1961. Above, right: The old Emandal Songbook made an appearance after dinner on Saturday night, when event attendees came together to sing some funny camp songs including "In Grandma's Feather Bed" and more. Below: Crispin Cain spoke about each whiskey as they were poured, and paired with courses from the Emandal kitchen.



The rest of Budget

From page 1

deficit plan, and adjustments for cost overruns and funding carryforwards, has realized an additional net \$5.6 million in revenue for the 2023/24 county budget, so at this time, only \$1.7 million of onetime funding is still being utilized to balance the 2023/24 budget, not the \$7 million originally designated.

The biggest positive revenue change is \$2.3 million "swept back" into the general fund by reutilizing realignment funding for Social Services expenses (and partially, for Public Health expenses) that had previously been covered by the general fund.

Supervisor Dan Gjerde commented that he wouldn't support taking realignment funds away from Environmental Health if it meant no subsidy at all of Environmental Health fees. Supervisors John Haschak and Ted Williams agreed they would prioritize using realignment funds for subsidizing Environmental Health fees.

CEO Antle then commented: "It has been the direction of this board and prior boards to do cost recovery. It was never defined out as to whether those funds were being covered by state or federal. If this board would like further explanation, the fee hearing is coming forward the last meeting in April."

Sales tax decline

Acting Auditor Controller Treasurer Tax Collector Sara Pierce then gave a presentation on what her numbers show as a 6.9% decline in sales tax from the unincorporated areas of the county, comparing third quarter 2023 sales tax revenue to third quarter 2022 revenue.

Pierce attributed some of the overall tax revenue decline to lower gas prices in third-quarter 2023 compared to third-quarter 2022, but also noted that garden and agricultural supplies also saw a decrease. "There were minimal gains in other categories including grocery stores, casual dining, and building materials, but the largest gain was in the contractor category, as demand increased in 2023 when compared to the same time in 2022," she said. Pierce confirmed that sales taxes coming from grocery stores were not from food; retail food is not taxed in California.

Election update

Third District Supervisor John Haschak told his colleagues he'd been to talk to Registrar of Voters Katrina Bartolomie that morning, "to let her know that I had some questions about the election, you know, because there is certainly concern out there in the public about you know both the printing problems and then also the redistricting issues so um she said that she would not be here because she's working on getting the election results um working on them you know it's a continuing process and that the time she spends here is it is time that the whole process has to stop, so I just wanted to let people know that we do have I mean the public certainly has questions the board probably has quite a few questions about what has gone on with the elections, and I look forward to having that discussion with Ms. Bartolomie in the future."

Board Chair Maureen Mulheren then mentioned the voter registrar had provided a written report for the board, which CEO Antle then read.

"I'm sorry I'm not able to be in the boardroom this morning," Bartolomie's statement read. "I'm working on getting our updates out on time. When ballots are presented we work in teams - if I leave, that means what my team is working on stops. Our staff is opening and getting ballots ready to count, and my assistant registrar of voters and myself are working on the canvass, proving the numbers we released on Election Night. We are verifying the roster from the polling locations and scanning ballots as we receive them from processing. We are concentrating on the supervisorial districts on the ballot: first, second, and fourth districts.

"We are also working on provisional conditional voter registration ballots that were received at the polls on Election Day. The voter registration cards that were included with those ballots must be processed before we can start working on the actual provisional conditional voter registration ballots."

Bartolomie's statement then talked about the update to the California Secretary of State's office due that afternoon, March 12, on the status of processed and unprocessed ballots. As Willits Weekly reported last week, according to that March 12 update, Mendocino County had at that time processed 12,208 ballots from the March 5 primary election, with an estimated 10,090 ballots left to process.

"Ballots that were postmarked by Election Day and received in our office by today will still be processed and counted," Bartolomie's report continued. "Tomorrow we will begin to verify each of the misprinted ballots that were returned, making sure that the voter returned their replacement ballot. If they didn't return a replacement ballot, we will remake the misprinted ballot to their proposed precinct and party to ensure their votes are counted.

"On March 14, we will be doing our 1% manual tally on randomly drawn precincts verifying our count that was released Election Night. We will update our election results to the Secretary of State and to our website weekly until we certify the election. We have 30 days, until April 4, to certify.

"We are keeping track of our hours and our extra work we are having to do because of the misprinted ballots, and we'll be in discussions with the printer about this as soon as we have certified the election.

"We will work with the future vendors to make sure a mistake like this does not happen again. This has been an unfortunate mistake that has cost our county a lot of extra time and work," the elections update concluded.

The next Mendocino County elections update is expected by March 21 at 4 pm. You can see a summary of unprocessed ballots from each county at https://pp.electionresults.sos.ca.gov/unprocessed-ballots-status

The rest of L.L.F.D.

From page 1

[breathing apparatuses]," said Schnitzius. "The turnouts are about \$5,500 a piece, a price from head to toe, and could even be higher today." She continued, "The association's goal with the poker tournament is to add to that so most, if not all, of our volunteers will have compliant turnouts."

Tickets for the poker tournament are on sale now and can be purchased at the Little Lake Firehouse on Commercial Street. Signups begin at 4 pm the day of the tournament and gameplay starts at 5 pm.

Check before signing a lease

If you're thinking about or are in the process of opening a new business within the City of Willits, fire board member Tony Madrigal and Fire Marshal Eric Alvarez would like to stress the importance of first checking with both Little Lake Fire and the City of Willits before signing a lease. There's a helpful list hosted on the city's website that outlines all the steps to take when thinking of applying for a business license.

An important piece of information on that list that is sometimes overlooked by new business owners in their anticipation to get started, reads "Not all buildings are constructed to commercial occupancy standards. Check with the Building Inspector in the Community Development Department, upstairs in City Hall, to make sure the building you are intending to use meets the necessary building codes for the use you are intending."

"Involve the city and Little Lake Fire before you sign a lease," said Alvarez. "It's unfortunate some people do sign [a lease], and we go in there and there's a lot wrong. They allotted [only] so much money to make their business happen.... It can be disheartening to see that happen"

It's important to know exactly where your prospective building stands in terms of zoning and building codes to make sure, should the building end up being unsuitable, you're not under the obligation of paying a lease.

New duty rig

Also discussed during the March 12 board meeting: Little Lake Fire is on the hunt for a new duty rig. "We have needed [a duty rig] for some time, but have been trying to band-aid what we have due to funds," said administrative assistant, Schnitzius. A duty rig is driven by the duty officer and is often the first vehicle to respond to an emergency call. The duty officer is on call for seven days at a time; a responsibility that rotates between only three officers who also work their regular shift at the fire department, Monday through Friday.

Deputy Chief John Thomen explained to the board some of the challenges in acquiring a suitable rig, color being one of the first. The duty rig needs to be completely red. A paint job for a vehicle like this was estimated to be around \$20,000, which would not be financially realistic for Little Lake. Because duty rigs are such an important part of a fire department's fleet, and because these vehicles need to be in pristine working order, once a duty rig hits a limit of around 100,000 miles, it's retired to a secondary position as a utility vehicle.

Schnitzius explained further, saying: "Our duty rigs are running hard as we cover almost 300 square miles. They're worn out when they get to about 100,000 miles. Deputy Chief John Thomen is our maintenance guru as well, and we rarely send our trucks out for service. Due to John and the staff's meticulous care and maintenance of the trucks, we have had great luck with the extended life of our vehicles. However, they do not make them like they used to. Parts are more challenging to find and so is fixing them."

Schnitzius has been looking for grant money to help with the cost of funding the new rig and is still waiting to hear if that will be a possibility. She said Little Lake Fire is currently looking at a Ford 350 for \$61,000. It would be very basic in terms of equipment, which would be added later, hopefully with the help of a grant.

The next fire board meeting is set for Tuesday, April 9 at 5 pm, at the Little Lake Firehouse, 74 East Commercial Street.

The rest of Narcan

From page 1

administered multiple doses of Narcan. The adult male responded to the administered Narcan, and medical personnel arrived shortly thereafter and began providing additional medical treatment. The adult male was later determined to be a 34-year-old resident of Redwood Valley.

In April 2019 the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office began to issue NARCAN® (Naloxone HCl) nasal spray dosage units to its employees as part of their assigned personal protective equipment.

MCSO's goal is in protecting the public and officers from opioid overdoses. Access to naloxone is now considered vital in the U.S., according to the Center for Disease Control.

At that time, in 2019, the California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard reported Mendocino County ranking, per capita, third in all opioid overdose deaths. (https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/ODdash/?tab=Home). (Refer to dashboard for current updated opioid overdose information.)

Narcan nasal spray units are widely known to reverse opioid overdose situations in adults and children. Each nasal spray device contains a four milligram dose, according to the manufacturer.

Naloxone hydrochloride, more commonly known by the brand name NARCAN®, blocks the life-threatening effects of opioid overdose (both medications and narcotics) including extreme drowsiness, slowed breathing, or loss of consciousness.

The antidote can reverse the effects of an overdose for up to an hour, but anyone who administers the overdose reversal medication in a non-medical setting is advised to seek emergency medical help right away. The spray units can also be

used by Public Safety professionals who are unknowingly or accidentally exposed to potentially fatal amounts of fentanyl from skin absorption or inhalation.

The issuance of the Narcan nasal units, thus far, have been to employees assigned to the Field Services Division, Corrections Division, and the Mendocino County Jail medical staff. Employees are required to attend user training prior to being issued the medication.

Mendocino County Sheriff Matthew C. Kendall would like to thank Mendocino County Public Health for providing the Narcan nasal units to the Sheriff's Office free of charge as part of the Free Narcan grant from the California Department of Public Health.

Since the April 2019 issuance, there have now been 19 separate situations wherein Mendocino County Sheriff's Office patrol staff have administered NARCAN and saved the lives of 19 overdosing individuals in need of the lifesaving antidote medication.

In October 2021 the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office received a grant from the California Naloxone Distribution Project through the Department of Health Care Services to help maintain an inventory of the life-saving antidote.

This grant was renewed in 2023 when the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office received additional NARCAN dosage units for the Field Services Division and Corrections Division.

Sheriff Kendall would like to thank the California Naloxone Distribution Project through the Department of Health Care Services for awarding the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office with the Naloxone grants to better help protect his employees and the public.

MCHC medical provider to lead CA Nurse-Midwives Association

Submitted by MCHC

Certified nurse-midwife Amita Graham has been elected to lead the California Nurse-Midwives Association, bringing a much-needed perspective to state advocacy around reproductive healthcare and the role midwives play.

The CNMA is the professional organization representing certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives in California. It is affiliated with the American College of Nurse-Midwives. CNMA's goals are to increase access to midwifery care, improve maternal-child healthcare outcomes with a specific focus on reducing racism-based disparities, and to advance sexual and reproductive healthcare in California. By serving as the organization's president, Graham will direct statewide advocacy and have the opportunity to influence national advocacy efforts.

In addition to supporting the goals above, Graham says she is dedicated to raising awareness about the specific needs of patients in rural areas, especially those who belong to minority demographic groups. She also hopes to reduce social and economic barriers that prevent women of color and other underrepresented groups from pursuing careers in healthcare and midwifery.

MCHC CEO Rod Grainger said he is grateful to providers like Graham who are willing to take on state and regional leadership roles.

"So often, leaders from bigger population centers simply cannot relate to the needs of rural communities. Having someone as capable, compassionate, and politically astute as Amita lead an organization as important as CNMA is great for community health centers in rural areas all over the state. Really, it's good for everyone," he said.

MCHC is a good fit for medical providers like Graham who are dedicated to equitable and high-quality healthcare. MCHC's status as a federally qualified health center requires that MCHC not only meet strict quality standards, but that it also provide culturally competent care to patients in underserved areas. Furthermore, FQHCs use a holistic approach to healthcare, offering medical, dental, and behavioral health services under one roof. And, at least half of the governing board members are also patients, which ensures that those who receive care have a voice in decisions about how the health centers are operated.

As a certified nurse-midwife in Mendocino County, Graham regularly cares for patients who face challenges based on the rural nature of our local communities, including infrastructure that does not always support easy access to care. For example, as hospital maternity wards close at what Graham calls "an alarming rate" all over the country, these closures often have an outsized impact on rural communities.

Locally, since the closing of the hospital maternity ward on the Mendocino coast, patients have had to drive inland to Ukiah for a hospital birth. This puts women at a much higher risk of delivering their baby on the side of the road. In metropolitan areas when a hospital closes, it is unlikely that the resulting drive to the next hospital requires a 60- or 70-mile trek over narrow, winding roads. Graham explains that regardless of whether a patient makes it to the hospital on time to deliver the baby safely, even the stress of having a hospital so far away can adversely affect a patient's health.

"It is well-documented," she said, "that stress can lead to pre-eclampsia and preterm labor."

As such, Graham says she will advocate for the kinds of changes that increase access to safe and affordable healthcare for all patients who need reproductive healthcare in California.

MCHC Health Centers includes Hillside Health Center and Dora Street Health Center in Ukiah, Little Lake Health Center in Willits, and Lakeview Health Center in Lakeport. It is a community-based and patient-directed organization that provides comprehensive primary healthcare services as well as supportive services such as education and translation that promote access to healthcare.

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At left: The Easter Bunny with the Skunk Train's Locomotive #65. Above: Hunting for Easter eggs during one of the Skunk Train's Easter Express trips.

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Easter Sunrise Service

Easter Sunrise Service returns to Sherwood Road overlooking Willits this year!

Community Sunrise Service at the Cross on Sherwood Road Easter morning (March 31) at 6:45 a.m.

Everyone is invited to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with singing, prayer, and a Bible message. Bring a camp chair if you'd like to sit, and dress warmly.

Following the service, a hot breakfast will be served in Bruce and Linda's Barn. In the event of rain, service will be held in Bruce and Linda's Barn.

Skunk Train's Easter Express departs from Willits, March 29-31

Submitted by Mendocino Railway

March 19 - This Easter weekend, from Friday, March 29 to Sunday, March 31, the historic Skunk Train invites families to embark on a memorable springtime adventure aboard the enchanting Easter Express. Set amidst the picturesque landscapes west of Willits, this delightful celebration promises a host of treats, surprises, and cherished moments for all ages.

Hop aboard the Skunk Train and indulge in a 2-hour excursion through Tunnel #2, taking in the breathtaking scenery while reveling in the spirit of Easter. As you journey through the stunning countryside, be on the lookout for special Easter Egg surprises hidden along the route, adding an element of excitement to the experience.

"Our goal with the Easter Express is to create a truly magical and memorable celebration for families," says Stathi Pappas, general manager at the Skunk Train. "We want to provide an opportunity for guests to not only enjoy the beauty of springtime but also create cherished memories with their loved ones."

Guests can anticipate a variety of festive activities, including a visit from the Easter Bunny himself, who will be spreading joy and cheer throughout the train. Indulge in tasty Easter treats and refreshing pink lemonade, adding to the festive ambiance of the journey.

The Easter Express departs from Willits, offering families the perfect opportunity to come together and celebrate the holiday in a unique and unforgettable way. Tickets for

this special event are priced at \$64.95 for standard fare, with infants in lap riding for free and dogs welcome for an additional fee of \$10.95.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to create cherished memories with your loved ones. Secure your tickets for the Easter Express today and embark on an unforgettable journey with the Skunk Train.

To book your tickets for the Easter Express, visit www.skunktrain.com/easter-express/.

For more information about Mendocino Railway - the Skunk Train and its unforgettable rail adventures, visit www.skunktrain.com or call (707) 964-6371.

California Western Railroad / Skunk Train, located in the redwood forests of Northern California's Mendocino County, is a heritage railroad that has been operating both freight and passenger service since 1885. Initially used to move redwood logs to the Mendocino coast sawmills from the rugged back country, the Skunk Train has become a beloved institution touted as one of the "10 Best Rail Tours in the Country" (USA Today), and a "Top 10 Family Activity in California" (National Geographic Traveler).

The Skunk Train journey covers 40 miles of scenic delights and 30 bridges, all while retaining its original charm - minus the historic pungent aroma that once preceded its arrival. Operating year-round, this multi-generational experience welcomes passengers to bring along their families and even their dogs, ensuring a memorable and inclusive adventure.

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Once you have completed the online registration, please bring the following documents to Brookside:

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- Immunization records
- Registros de inmunización (vacunas)

If you have any questions please call the Brookside office at (707) 459-5385 or visit our Website at www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside

Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame a la oficina de Brookside al (707) 459-5385 or visite nuestro sitio web www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside

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