

# Willits Weekly

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 499

Thursday, May 4, 2023

## BOS poised to drop public records research fees

Forrest Glycer  
Reporter  
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A controversial county ordinance charging fees on public records requests appears to be headed towards being rescinded, with three of five supervisors already expressing support for the idea, and threat of litigation over the matter being recently issued from a group that includes the First Amendment Coalition, American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, the Mendocino Voice, Northern California Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists,

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

## Board asks executive office to work on finances

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Contention over finance issues arose again at the April 25 county board of supervisors meeting between Auditor/Controller - Treasurer/Tax Collector Chamise Cubbison and certain supervisors, though some progress was made about providing financial reports that the board has been asking for.

As requested by the board on the consent calendar, Cubbison agreed to provide county balance summaries for the last three fiscal years dating

Read more of **Finances**  
Over on Page 2

## Charges dropped against Willits man

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All charges were dropped against Owen Kenny, 35, of Willits, during an April 25, 2023 hearing in the Mendocino County Superior Court, Superior Court Judge Victoria Shanahan presiding.

According to court records, as per a motion by Deputy District Attorney Heidi Larson, the case was ordered dismissed, on grounds of insufficient evidence, and defendant Owen Kenney was ordered released.

The arrest of Owen Kenny was the subject of a press release from the Willits Police Department published in the April 20, 2023 edition of Willits Weekly.



Above, from left: Jennifer Poole, left, and Maureen Jennison, right: Two newspaper women who jumped into entrepreneurship with hopes and dreams in 2013 to start up Willits Weekly. The one-year anniversary Willits Weekly photo also included Julia Gromek, Mike A'Dair, Zack Cinek, and Roxie the dog. Adjudication day for Willits Weekly, November 18, 2016 at the Mendocino County courthouse.



Above: The 2023 Willits Weekly 10-year anniversary crew smile together at the Little Lake Grange: Back row, from left: Barbara O'Reardon, Dan Essman, Mathew Caine, Jennifer Poole, Margi Gomez Guhde, and Patsy Jordan. Front row, from left: April Tweddell, Magnolia and Maureen Jennison, Jackie Cobbs, and Forrest Glycer. Not pictured: Danya Davis.

## Happy 10th Anniversary to Us

This May 4, 2023 edition of Willits Weekly you're reading is our 10th anniversary edition - #499! - the first of our 11th year of publication. The first edition of your locally owned and independent weekly community newspaper was printed May 2, 2013.

Willits Weekly's whole existence is a bit cheeky - founded at a time of cutbacks and shutdowns of local newspapers that has done nothing but get worse in the 10 years since we started. It was also a bit adventurous to adopt the urban "free weekly" newspaper distribution model, where paid ads from local businesses and other advertisers provide the primary

revenue to produce the newspaper and pay the bills.

Yes, Willits is officially a city, and not even the smallest city in Mendocino County. But most city weeklies operate in big cities, where potential advertising and readership numbers are much, much bigger.

But Willits is a special city, if small, and locals have been supportive of Willits Weekly since the beginning, including our much-appreciated local advertisers. Costs continue to rise, and local businesses continue to have their own challenges.

If you agree having a local paper is good for Willits, please consider

supporting Willits Weekly with advertising, classified advertising, a home or mail subscription - or what we call a "street subscription" - pay an annual fee, but continue to pick up the paper yourself at your convenience on the streets.

Thank you to all the wonderful reporters, feature writers, photographers, columnists, delivery people, printers, editors, ad sales staffers, and production workers for all your contributions over the years. Let's raise a glass or coffee mug to another 10 years!

- Jennifer Poole and Maureen Jennison

Photos by Matthew Jennison, Holly Sears, Mathew Caine, Steve Eberhard, Ree Slocum, Chris Pugh, and some wonderful accosted restaurant wait staff.



Above, from left: The 2020 WW crew, from left: Zack Cinek, April Tweddell, Ree Slocum, Jennifer Poole, Danya Davis, Joanne Moore, Patsy Jordan, Maureen Jennison, Mathew Caine, Forrest Glycer, and Roxie, in front. Willits Weekly wins the 2016 Media of the Year award at the Redwood Empire Fair: from left: Jennifer Poole, Maureen Jennison, April Tweddell, Mike A'Dair, Jenny Senter, Mathew Caine, Rachel Belvin, and Patsy Jordan. The 2015 WW crew included, back row from left: Rachel Belvin, Jennifer Poole and Maureen Jennison, and front row: Mike A'Dair, Trigger the dog, Zack Cinek, and Roxie the dog. Below, left: Willits Weekly's Danya Davis and Maureen Jennison at the 2017 Willits Weekly cookie party. Below, right: The 2014 anniversary brunch at Adam's Restaurant included, from left: Mike A'Dair, Liam Uicearbhaill, Patsy Jordan, Maureen Jennison, Jennifer Poole, and Zack Cinek. At bottom, left: The Meet the Merchant pages of 2018 and 2019 also included Jackie Cobbs, Holly Madrigal, Joanne Moore, and Dan McKee. The 2015 anniversary dinner at La Siciliana included, from left: Maureen Jennison, Zack Cinek, Liam Uicearbhaill, Mike A'Dair, Patsy Jordan, Jenny Senter, Jennifer Poole, and Rachel Belvin. Thank you to all the many voices, columnists, contributors and supporters we've had over the years!



## City to provide trailer bathrooms for WFD

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City of Willits will be providing air-conditioned bathroom units on trailers for the Willits Frontier Days events this summer, an update from the Porta Potties first proposed as a temporary solution to the rodeo grounds' bathroom damage not being permanently fixed in time.

In his update during the April 25 council meeting, City Manager Brian Bender reported "our perspective of

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

## Brooktrails board concerned with county budget unknowns

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At 7 pm, Tuesday, April 25, Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board President Rick Williams called the meeting to order and asked if any directors had anything of note to report.

Director Ralph Santos responded, saying: "We had a meeting of the Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts last Wednesday, April 19. As is concerning everyone else right now, the main concern is the

Read the rest of **Unknowns**  
Over on Page 9

## Fire chief update to city council

By Little Lake Fire Chief William Carter

Editor's Note: This update is the monthly report provided to the Willits City Council at their April 26 meeting by Little Lake Fire Protection District Fire Chief William Carter.

### Calls to Service

We had 66 calls during the month of March; 8 fires, 20 rescue/emergency medical calls, 25 traffic collisions, 7 hazardous conditions (no fire), and 6 false alarms.

### Around the Firehouse

Our main station is currently having a new solar system installed. This project is scheduled to be completed around May 15. The building contractor

Read the rest of **LLFD**  
Over on Page 4

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Happy May to everyone!

To the Editor:

Your Willits Chamber of Commerce would like everyone to know that this week is National Small Business Week. Shopping local is one of the best ways to improve our local economy, and in celebration of our small businesses, I thought I'd make some suggestions of things each of us can do.

1. Visit, shop and dine at your favorite businesses.
2. Write a review and post to Yelp or Google for a deserving

business.

3. Enjoy a beverage at your special spot.
4. Tag your favorite business on social media.
5. Post a selfie while at your favorite business.
6. Thank a small business owner for all they do to in our community to make Willits a better place to live, work and play!

Thank you!

Susan Mahoney,  
coordinator, Willits  
Chamber of Commerce

## 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. Price is \$7.

**Thursday May 4:** Lasagna w/Spinach & Meat Sauce, Veggie, Roll  
**Friday, May 5:** Sirloin Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll  
**Monday, May 8:** Beer Battered Fish, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll  
**Tuesday, May 9:** Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll  
**Wednesday, May 10:** Carnitas Burrito, wet w/Green Sauce  
**Thursday, May 11:** Reuben Sandwich, Chips  
**Friday, May 12:** Hot Dogs, Chili, Cole Slaw

Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am; May pancake breakfast is set for Sunday, May 14. Menu choices: 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$10; \$9 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides \$2. 3 slices bacon, 2 sausage links. Breakfast includes Peet's Coffee and orange juice or milk.

To learn more: 459-6826.

## More of Finances | From page 1

back to July of 2019 prior to the next BOS meeting on May 9, although she was unsure if she could provide exactly what the board seemed to be seeking in such a short time frame.

Cubbison also gave an assessment to the board about the much-requested "carry forward" surplus money from fiscal year 2020/21, which her report showed amounted to around \$3.9 million.

However, Cubbison also criticized the board for what she saw as "attacks on myself and other people" during recent public meetings and a "hostile" attitude towards her, at one point claiming that the "agenda for some board members is to get me to quit or find a way to get rid of me so you can appoint somebody."

Cubbison said she thought "it would be much more productive if those conversations took place directly with me in order to kind of determine what the information is that's being requested as opposed to being thrown out in a public meeting and then trying to hold me to task for not understanding or providing the information."

"Those don't play out well when somebody's looking for a job to work in Mendocino County," she said. "They don't see that as some place they want to come and work. They see this as a place where you are constantly attacking, undermining and demeaning as opposed to supporting."

The 2021/22 carry-forward total is something that the board has been asking for since September of last year according to Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams, who had some somewhat harsh critiques of Cubbison and the lack of timely financial reporting from her offices at some recent meetings.

Some previous estimates Cubbison had given on the carry-forward total ranged from \$2.2 million to \$5.7 million.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak suggested that the county executive office work more closely with Cubbison and her departments to help get a clearer picture of the county's finances.

"It just seems like we've been spinning our wheels for a long time," said Haschak. "And as adults we need to just sit down and try to work it out. And so I think that the executive office and the auditor should be directed to work it out and come back with the numbers so that we're not guessing."

At one point there was a long back and forth between Cubbison and board members about her potentially accepting outside help from Regional Government Services, a joint powers agreement agency of which the county is a member.

According to Deputy CEO Sarah Pierce, the county is currently under contract with RGS "to offer support on reporting needs," and First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty asked Cubbison if she was aware of that.

"No I'm not," she responded. "They may be working with the executive office on those reporting needs, but the last I was aware the executive office had contracted with ClientFirst. And maybe they decided to work with RGS, but that is not anything I've been made aware of nor are those services offered to me in any way."

Williams seemed somewhat taken aback by that response, saying: "I think it's been half a year that that service has been available and not utilized, and I'm not clear why. RGS is a JPA, we're a member, there is continuity. We can continue

Read the rest of **Finances** |  
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# DripWorks

## Happy employees and happy customers make this irrigation business a success

"DripWorks isn't just a work team," explained Maria Camargo, marketing manager of the Willits gardening and irrigation company. "It's like a work family. We all are here because of each other. We're here because we really appreciate each other. We like coming to work. Most of the

people who work for us have been here five-plus years. Once you settle in here, you definitely feel at home. We have a lot of moms and single parents. The company tries to accommodate our work life with our personal life."

Indeed, the company is seemingly filled with employees who enjoy going to work each day for a company that puts their well-being in the forefront of many of their policies and procedures that still remain in place, even after a recent change in ownership.

"The former owner, Leon Springer, finally retired after 31 years in September of 2022," continued Camargo. "He was the last one of our three original founders. Jerry Jordan retired previously. Leon still comes in sometimes to see how things are going. He still writes blogs for us. He was such a hard and good worker. After building the company for 31 years, it's hard to let go."

The new owners are out of the Bay Area and are allowing the company to be run locally, although they show up regularly to learn what they can about the business.

The company continues to grow, due to new, innovative products, superior customer service, quick turnaround times, and a reputation built over many years of diligent operation. One of the new concepts that has been taking off of late are the pre-filled kits that contain almost all the fittings, parts, and instructions necessary for various phases and sizes of gardening.

"We have close to 40 kits now that DripWorks designs specifically for our customers," explained Camargo. "In the past, we weren't branding our kits, so this year we designed our new kit boxes. We offer various kit options. They're for beginners or people who just don't want to have to think about what to order. It all comes in a kit. We have a sample layout. We have a parts list. We have a picture of the product and an idea of what you're getting in the kit."

"These have been taking off," Camargo said. "We also sell on a lot of marketplaces like Amazon, Walmart, Sears, eBay. The kits have just taken off for us. We're selling double the amount from previous years because of the packaging and we're doing a lot more with our online presence."

Additionally, the company has been creating more emphasis on the commercial landscaper.

"We have a few outside salespeople. One is located in Texas and the other in Southern California. They are out there reaching out to local landscapers. We're redoing our commercial website to be more user-friendly for landscapers. They basically stick with the brands that they like, so we're making it easier for them to search for brands online," said Camargo, explaining some of the new directions and products.

"We brought in new Wi-Fi timers, which allows you to control your timers remotely from anywhere in the world. We're also doing bird suet and bird suet feeders with a monthly subscription program. We believe in the whole package deal of gardening. You need pollinators. You need to make sure that you're attracting the right birds to your garden to help you pollinate throughout the year. We've expanded our blogs online to help gardeners understand or learn and keep up with all the new techniques."

More innovations include "a new design service available for a fee, from our Product Specialist Heather Dabney, who recently moved to and works out of Montana," said Camargo. "This service has been really successful. People can go on our website: [www.dripworks.com](http://www.dripworks.com) and submit their application for a design. The fee depends on the size of your garden. There's a five-to-seven-day turnaround time. Heather will design the drip system for your garden. She's been doing small gardens and large farms," said Camargo.

DripWorks is hiring. There are full-time seasonal positions in the warehouse which usually end around the first of August. The call center, the basic part of their excellent customer service, has some positions open. There is also a human resources job opening. For those who might want seasonal employment, call 800-522-3747. Their website, as well as their Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages, and YouTube channel are chock-full of information and instructions.

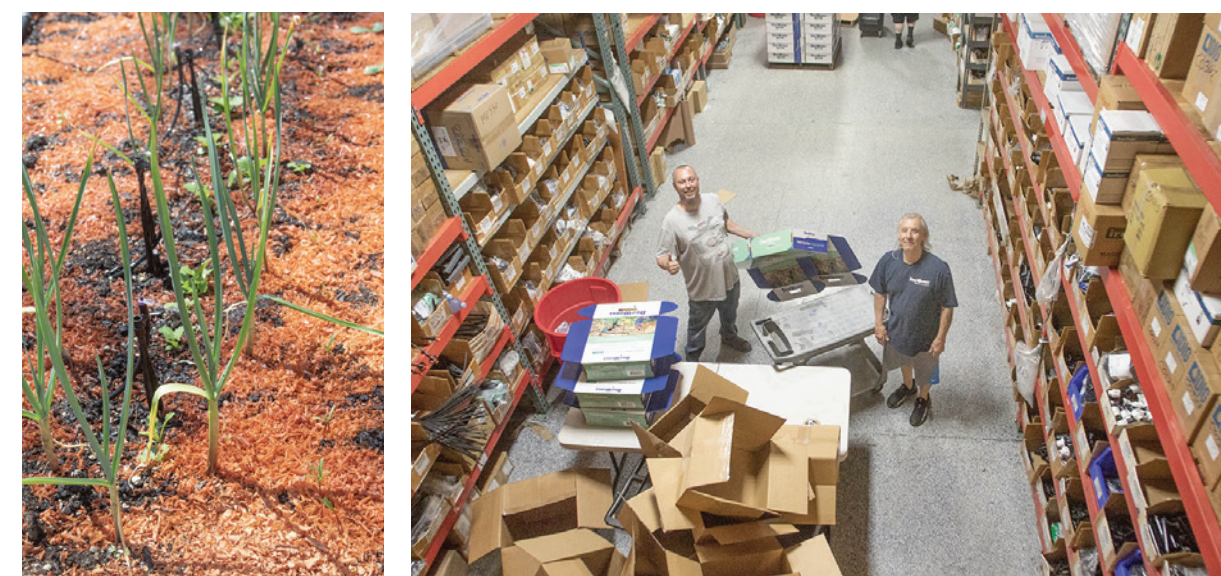
Properly informing and educating prospective and regular customers, along with its emphasis on employee satisfaction, is a good part of what has helped this company to continue its growth and ability to survive COVID, economic downturns, and any other challenges that have left many other companies by the wayside. DripWorks is one of the gems of the Willits economic community.



Above, left: Jessica Wilburn, the DripWorks business manager, works happily at her desk. Above, right: Rodrigo Mandujano, call center lead CSR, takes a phone call. Below: A good portion of the DripWorks crew take a few minutes off to pose for a group photo. At bottom, left: The latest techniques are employed in the demonstration garden. At bottom, right: Warehouse workers prepare boxes for shipping.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Below: Tom Daughton, warehouse manager, and Ben, warehouse lead, take a break from preparing packages to smile for a photo. At bottom, left: The DripWorks demonstration garden allows the company to demonstrate the latest techniques and equipment. At bottom, right: DripWorks' latest hot seller - 40 different types of pre-packaged kits.

## Don't Be Bored, Come Praise the Lord

Church of the Nazarene  
Sunday Worship  
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
20690 South Main Street  
Willits, CA  
(Across from Brown's Corner.)



## BUD GARMAN

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1501 BAECHEL ROAD • WILLITS

## Mendocino County Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People, May 5, 2023

Submitted by the Mendocino County Executive Office

In recognition of the Mendocino County "Racial Equity and Justice Committee," our Mendocino County Tribal Partners, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, and all the organizations in Mendocino County that work to bring awareness to the lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People whose cases of sexual assault and violence are documented and undocumented in public records, Mendocino County proclaims May 5th, 2023, as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People Day.

When Supervisor Maureen Mulheren was approached by local tribal leaders she saw the proclamation in front of the board as an important opportunity to connect the county organization with our community to raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People.

In solidarity with the victims and their families of these tragedies, Supervisor Mulheren encourages Mendocino County employees and the community to wear red on May 5, 2023, to raise awareness, and post to social media using the hashtags #MMIWP #NotInvisible #MendocinoCounty.

## Historical Society needs board members

Submitted by Malvin Talso, Historical Society

The Historical Society of Mendocino County is seeking applicants for its board of directors. At present we have three openings.

The society's mission is the preservation of the history of Mendocino County at its modern Toney Archival Building at 100 South Dora Street in Ukiah. It also is tasked with ensuring that documents are available for research and study to present and future generations.

In addition, the board oversees the Held-Poage Memorial Home as it is in the process of being restored to its 1920s glory.

Interested? Contact us at: 707-462-6969 or info@mendocinocountyhistory.org, or visit our website [www.mendocinocountyhistory.org](http://www.mendocinocountyhistory.org).

## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

## Willits Weekly

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# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

## 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!

Level: Beginner

## LOCAL NEWS WORD SEARCH

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

AUDIENCE	COLUMNIST	LOCAL
BEAT	COMMUNITY	NEIGHBORHOOD
BROADSHEET	CUTLINE	NEWSPAPER
BULLETIN	DECK	OBITUARIES
BYLINE	DISTRIBUTION	OPINION
CIRCULATION	EDITION	POLICE BLOTTER
CLIP ART	EDITOR	SPOTLIGHT
COLUMN	HEADLINE	TABLOID

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14					15		
16												18	
19				20								21	
				22								24	
25	26	27		28						29			30
31				32		33		34					35
36				37		38				39			40
				41				42			43		44
				45				46		47		48	
49	50			51				52			53		54
54		55						56				57	58
60								61				62	
63								64				65	
66								67				68	

### CLUES ACROSS

- Dull and flat
- Baking measurement (abbr.)
- Education-based groups
- Not behind
- Runners run them
- Japanese ankle sock
- Grave
- Japanese industrial city
- People of southern Ghana
- Particular designs
- Device fitted to something
- Infections
- Pirates' preferred alcohol
- Expression of sympathy
- Rock guitarist's tool
- Neither
- Ancient city of Egypt
- You \_\_\_ what you sow
- Ruined
- Narrations
- Body art (slang)
- Fencing sword
- Apartment buildings
- Type of missile
- Fathers
- Extremely high frequency
- Type of school
- Incorrect letters
- Two-year-old sheep
- Nasty manner

### CLUES DOWN

- Actor Damon
- A call used to greet someone
- Part-time employee
- Emaciation
- 'Westworld' actor Harris
- Gains possession of
- Relaxing spaces
- 23rd star in a constellation
- Northern grouse
- Monetary unit of Bangladesh
- Manila hemp
- Unites muscle to bone
- Makes deep cuts in
- 18-year period between eclipses

- One who accepts a bet
- Indian prince
- Asian country
- Rhythmic patterns in Indian music
- 'Uncle Buck' actress Hoffmann
- Detailed criteria
- Son of Shem
- Talked wildly
- Discount
- Not good
- Growing out
- Member of a people inhabiting southern Benin
- Synthetic rubbers
- Unwelcome rodent
- Expression of creative skill
- Some is red
- Seems less in impressive
- Harry Kane's team
- Gland secretion
- Action of feeling sorrow
- Disallow
- Deceptive movement
- More dried-up
- Crimson
- Actress Ryan
- Adherents of a main branch of Islam
- Accomplished American president
- Side of a landform facing an advancing glacier
- Sheep breed
- Appetizer
- Broadway actress Daisy
- Influential film critic
- NY Giants ownership family
- Type of script
- Assist
- London park
- Bar bill
- In reply indicator

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

April 2 to April 8

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **56 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

### Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

- April 2**  
12:44 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 700 block of South Main Street.
- 1:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued a citation.
- 4:48 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 24000 block of Sherwood Road and issued a warning.

**April 3**  
4:35 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

7:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Creekside Court and issued a citation.

8:26 pm: HARBOUR, Clint (59) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation and failure to appear.

8:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane and issued a citation.

**April 4**  
12:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

7:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 900 block of Highway 20 and issued a citation.

8:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:17 pm: RADFORD Jr., Johnnie Harvey (49) of Oakland was contacted in the 100 block of Kawi Place. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole.

**April 5**  
11:05 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Pine Street.

4:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Muir Mill Road and South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Highway 20 and issued a citation.

7:17 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

**April 6**  
3:43 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Holly Street and Poplar Avenue and issued a citation.

6:08 pm: YOUNG, Jonathan Austin (43) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), on felony charges of violation of probation, and on misdemeanor charges of shoplifting and failure to appear.

**April 7**  
8:34 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

8:02 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and School Street and issued a warning.

8:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

**April 8**  
12:26 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:49 pm: SANDAGE, Vicki Lynn (67) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear.

11:37 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 20000 block of North Highway 101 and issued a warning.

The rest of **LLFD** From page 1

stopped in and completed some of needed repairs.

Our Explorer Youth Program had its first training, and we are excited to see how this program develops.

**Training**  
Wildland fire training continues, with the last training consisting of static water supplies, portable water pumps, and mobile fire attack. Crews will be training on fire line construction, chainsaws, fire shelter deployment, and progressive hose lays at the next scheduled training.

Some members will be attending two out-of-town trainings: Laytonville Fire is hosting an S-130 (Firefighter Training Class), and Fort Bragg Fire is hosting a Low Angle Ropes Rescue Class.

**Equipment**  
Our new utility vehicle has arrived, and we are actively outfitting it for service.

Our new Type 3 and Type 6 engines are nearing completion. Staff will be heading out soon for final inspection and, if all goes well, we expect to take delivery of both units by the end of May.

## FEMA approves individual assistance for February, March storms

As of May 2, 2023, the County of Mendocino has been added to the major disaster declaration, and approved for Individual Assistance to support recovery efforts related to damages from the February-March storms. The disaster number is FEMA-4699-DR.

County staff is working closely with Federal Emergency Management Agency and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to set up Disaster Recovery Centers for residents affected by the February-March storms to sign up for disaster assistance.

As more recovery resources become available, we will publish the updates on the county's social media: Mendocino County Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/mendocinocounty/](http://www.facebook.com/mendocinocounty/)) and Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/countymendocino>).



.....  
**Looking for something to celebrate?**  
Learn more about these, or see a list of other days at <https://www.listofnationaldays.com/>

- May 4:** National Candied Orange Peel Day, National Orange Juice Day, National Renewal Day, National Star Wars Day, National Weather Observer's Day, Petite And Proud Day, Firefighters Day, Password Day, Bird Day
- May 5:** National Astronaut Day, National Cartoonists Day, Cinco De Mayo, National Hoagie Day, National Totally Chipotle Day
- May 6:** National Beverage Day, National Crepe Suzette Day, National Nurses Day, Free Comic Book Day, No Homework Day, Infidelity Hurts Awareness Day, International No Diet Day
- May 7:** National Barrier Awareness Day, National Packaging Design Day, National Paste-Up Day, National Roast Leg Of Lamb Day, National Homebrew Day
- May 8:** National Coconut Cream Pie Day, National Have A Coke Day, National Student Nurses Day, No Socks Day, Iris Day, Free Trade Day
- May 9:** National Butterscotch Brownie Day, National Lost Sock Memorial Day, National Moscato Day, National Public Gardens Day
- May 10:** National Lipid Day, National Shrimp Day, National Clean Up Your Room Day, Stay Up All Night Day, Donate A Days Wages To Charity Day, Windmill Day, Mother Ocean Day, Third Shift Workers Day, World Lupus Day, Receptionists Day

# Self-Care

## Natural product vendors and holistic healers promote healthy lifestyles at Spring Market for Health and Wellness

With 40 knowledgeable vendors, an attendee of the Spring Market for Health and Wellness could spend a good part of the day speaking with experts, gaining insight, and just enjoying the atmosphere of healthy perspectives on health and wellness through the use of herbal remedies, holistic principles, and natural preventative products. The market, organized by Claudia Wenning of Quantum Level Health, filled the Little Lake Grange auditorium and parking lot with informative alternatives to conventional medicine.

**Mathew Caine**  
Features Writer  
[mthaw@willitsweekly.com](mailto:mthaw@willitsweekly.com)

"Now that we can actually gather again, I wanted to have a place where all people who have something to offer in regard to health and wellness can meet people who want to learn about health and wellness," said Wenning. "We have a bunch of practitioners, vendors with health-related items. It's important. It's all local. It's a community service and it's all free."

"This is the first market this year," said Wenning. "There will be another event coming this year which is a symposium, but for now, this is a way to spread the word and support each other to live healthier lives. It is one of my intentions to nurture people to come together in a respectful way, to reach out and support each other."

Some of the presenters were members of the Mendocino Herb Guild, which has been dedicated for several years to bringing knowledge of herbal medicinal health to the county. With much effort, the guild is close to implementation of their newly created Mobile Apothecary, a compact trailer which will be able to journey to various locations in the county to dispense herbal remedies, advice and education.

"Starting on May 24th," said Sarah Adams of the Herb Guild, "we're going to be in downtown Willits with our mobile apothecary which we've just gotten fixed up. The idea is for us to move around, be at the Senior Center down the road or the public library, different places where we can offer free herbal wellness services, consultations, herbal remedies. It will be available to the public on Wednesdays, 3 to 6 pm, when we open."

Iris Nally and Donna d'Terra of the Herb Guild and d'Terra's herbal mountain retreat, Motherland, brought several herb starts and information about upcoming programs, including a talk on June 3 from Fanta Molyneaux of Oregon, "Botany and Bees," about inviting pollinators to one's garden. Go to [www.motherlandherbs.org](http://www.motherlandherbs.org) for information. An herbal class taught by d'Terra will be at the Ukiah Library on May 6.

Casey O'Neill of Happy Day Farms in Bell Springs brought several vegetable starts and salad mixes. Michael Adams and Kami Lenn from Little Lake Valley offered some of their goods.

"We have plant starts, tomato sauce, salt blend, and my theory on how to save the world. I got it down to nine bullet points for short attention spans," said Adams.

Andy Hilkey of Andy's Apiary had a couple sizes of his locally sourced honey for purchase. "My bees don't leave the valley," boasted Hilkey, "don't go over and do almond orchards or any crops in the Central Valley. My bees make honey out of wildflowers, blackberries, and some pollen and nectar from trees. They're making honey from what we find in our natural environment here. One of the really good things about Willits is that we don't have industrial farming, so we're not dealing with pesticides. We're a GMO-free county."

There were natural-health and personal-growth consultants in attendance, like Anna Macken, who practices Chinese medicine, essentially astrology and medical qigong, as well as Sonja Marie Bursal of Joyfully Embodied Self.

"I do holistic health coaching," explained Bursal, "teaching different ayurvedic self-care principles, also doing nutrition and digestion consulting. Ayurvedic means the science of life in Sanskrit."

Kristina Mize, with Positive Life Journey explained her practice: "I am a Reiki practitioner and spiritual coach. I take energy work and blend it with therapeutic modalities and help people achieve the changes in their lives that they're looking for."

Liz Smethurst of Naked Beauty Skin Care brought her products that are "handmade in love and small batches. Sugar scrubs, bath salts, lip balm, face oil, face cream, CBD salves, massage oil, hair serum (prevents hair fallout with rosemary, hibiscus)."

A regular at the Willits Farmers Market, Charissa Franklin of Mermazing Scents, brought her array of pleasant-smelling and creatively shaped soaps. "I have cold-processed soap. The soap is basically made from oil that you've put together with water and lye. The mix goes through a process called saponification which is what makes it get hard. Everything that I produce has hempseed oil in it, so I call it 'hempified.'"

Janae Stephens and Laura Haendle displayed ways to eat properly, including Juice +, a nutrient-rich product which they sell. Aliyah offered free red worms for gardeners to utilize in aerating their soil. Taylor created a tea ceremony space and informed people about his tea room which will be opening soon between Re-Evolution and Moon Lady. Yvonne Mayshark, formerly of Trillium Herbs, has a new business name, Bhoomi Herbs but with the same quality herbal products.

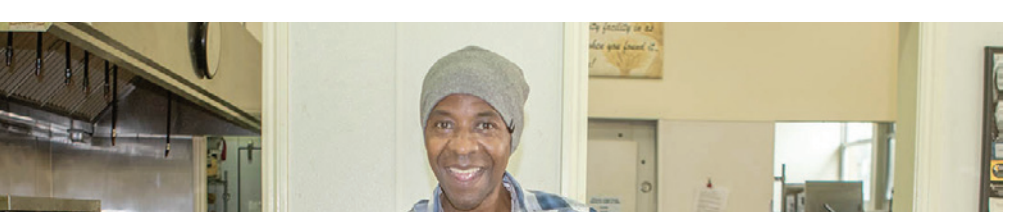
Sacha Troina gifted attendees with a free 10-minute reflexology session. Rudy brought information about his efforts to eliminate cigarette litter on tribal lands.

The well-attended market was too full of interesting herbal vendors to be able to mention them all. Suffice it to say, this was a market offering a vast array of information and products to help the attendees begin or continue their paths to a healthier life through alternative medical methods and practices.



At top, left: Charissa Franklin of Mermazing Scents offers cold-processed soaps in many scents. At top, right: Poly Lynn displays her Twinkle Mountain Gems and crystals. Above: Forty vendors, both inside the Grange and on the south parking lot, are set up for the Spring Market for Health and Wellness.

Below, left: Sonja Marie Bursal would like to help people become healthy through holistic health coaching with her Joyfully Embodied Self. Below, right: Suraya of the Mendocino Herb Guild stands in front of the new Mobile Apothecary. At bottom: Paul Johnson created a Food Club where a person could pay one fee and eat everything coming out of the kitchen.



Above, left: Kami Lenn and Michael Adams brought plant starts and sauces from the Little Lake Valley.



Above, right: Yvonne Mayshark of Bhoomi Herbs allows an attendee to sample her wares.



At left: Sacha Troina, who can be seen weekly at the Willits Farmers Market, offers free reflexology sessions.

Photos by Mathew Caine

**Sherwood Firewise Communities' 5th Anniversary**  
FireWise USA™ National Fire Prevention Day

**Saturday, May 6 from 1 - 5 pm**

**See you Saturday!**  
**Brooktrails Community Center**

We'll review the accomplishments of the last five years  
Discuss what to do in the next five years  
Enjoy finger food, bbq, cake and ice cream  
Door prizes, 50/50, raffle tickets for July 4th drawing  
Hear from Tamara Alaniz (BTCSD), Supervisor Haschak and invited speakers

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# What's Happening Around Town

## Thursday, May 4

**Twining Time at Brickhouse:** John Wagenet and Anita Wagenet Blu of Twining Time at Brickhouse Coffee, the first Thursday of every month. "Two-part polished vocal harmonies, acoustic guitar and keyboard." May 4 this month, from 12 to 2 pm. 3 South Main Street at Commercial. Info: <https://twiningtime.weebly.com>

**Willits Farmers Market:** The weekly Farmers Market is set to move outdoors this week, May 4, from 3 to 5:30 pm at the old Rexall parking lot off Main Street, downtown. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

## Friday, May 5

**'Cold Canyon Fire Journals'** Reading: Robin Carlson, author and illustrator of "Cold Canyon Fire Journals: Green Shoots and Silver Linings in the Ashes," speaks in Willits, Friday, May 5, from 7 to 9 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Carlson has meticulously chronicled the response of the plants, trees, wildlife, birds, and insects of her beloved Cold Canyon, in Napa County, following two wildfires - one in 2015 and another in 2020." Co-sponsored by the Willits Environmental Center, Sherwood Firewise, and Willits Economic Localization. \$10 suggested donation. On Saturday, May 6, Carlson will lead a nature walk through a local post-fire landscape. To sign up, call Ellen Drell at 707-459-2643.

**Cinco de Mayo Soiree:** at the Waldorf School of Mendocino County campus in Calpella, Friday, May 5, 4 to 7 pm. Food, drink, silent auction, class projects, live music by the Farmers Market Band, and Fun! 21+ event. Tickets \$10 on sale now at [www.mendocinowaldorf.org](http://www.mendocinowaldorf.org)

**Cinco de Mayo Party at Shanachie:** Celebrate with headliners Boonfire, "blurs the lines between reggae, rock and everything in between," working on a second album at The Deep End in Navarro. Also Matt Axton Band, "an earthy mix of folk, roots, country, blues, and rock. Also Aaron Ford, "a favorite from the Mendocino Coast." Friday, May 5 at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. 8 pm.

## Saturday, May 6

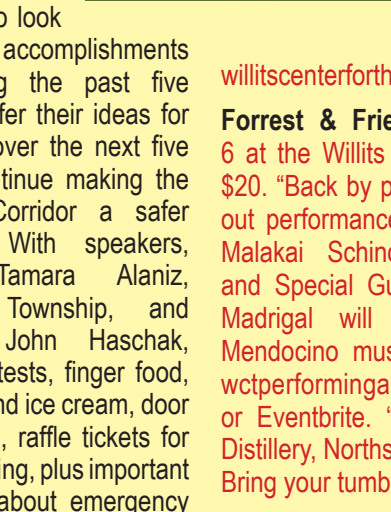
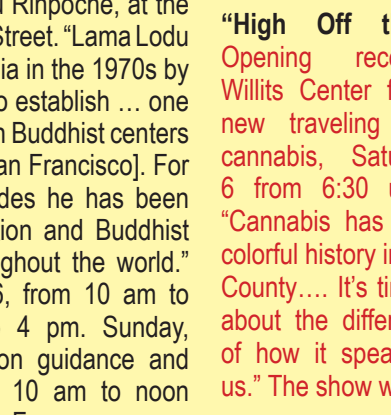
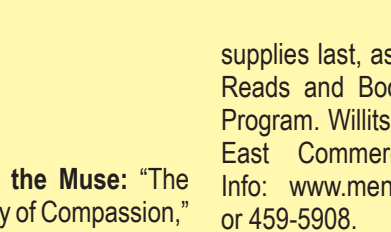
**Talks by Tibetan Master at the Muse:** "The Bodhisattva Path and the Way of Compassion," by Tibetan Master Lama Lodu Rinpoche, at the Muse, 30 East San Francisco Street. "Lama Lodu Rinpoche was sent to California in the 1970s by his teachers ... to establish ... one of the first Tibetan Buddhist centers in the West [in San Francisco]. For nearly five decades he has been teaching meditation and Buddhist philosophy throughout the world." Saturday, May 6, from 10 am to noon, and 2 to 4 pm. Sunday, May 7, meditation guidance and instruction, from 10 am to noon and 2 to 4 pm. Free and open to the public, donations accepted but not necessary. Info: [www.kdk.org](http://www.kdk.org)

**Sherwood Firewise 5th anniversary** celebration: Sherwood Firewise Communities is having its 5th anniversary meeting and celebration on Saturday, May 6, from 1 to 5 pm at the Brooktrails Community Center. Participants will have the opportunity to look back on the accomplishments made during the past five years and offer their ideas for what to do over the next five years to continue making the Sherwood Corridor a safer community. With speakers, including Tamara Alaniz, Brooktrails Township, and Supervisor John Haschak, exhibits, contests, finger food, BBQ, cake and ice cream, door prizes, 50/50, raffle tickets for July 4th drawing, plus important discussions about emergency

preparedness. Info: [info@sherwoodfirewise.org](mailto:info@sherwoodfirewise.org)

**Pizza at Willits Library:** Part of the "Book to Action" Events series in May. Saturday, May 6, from 2 to 3 pm. "How Long Does It Take to Grow a Pizza?": A special talk with Caroline Rehberger from Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza. Scrumptious samples will be available. Free cookbooks available at all events while supplies last, as part of our Mendocino County Reads and Book to Action Program. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: [www.mendolibrary.org](http://www.mendolibrary.org) or 459-5908.

**"High Off the Land":** Opening reception for Willits Center for the Arts' new traveling exhibit on cannabis, Saturday, May 6 from 6:30 until 9 pm. "Cannabis has a long and colorful history in Mendocino County.... It's time to speak about the different aspects of how it speaks to all of us." The show will move to the Ukiah Art Center for June, and show at the Gualala Art Center in July. David Burton of the Grace Hudson Museum and Alyssum Wier of the Arts Council of Mendocino decided on pieces for the show, which was produced by Gary Martin of Willits, Laura Fogg from Ukiah, and Kendra Stillman of Gualala. Gallery hours are Friday-Sunday, 11 am until 5 pm. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: visit [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org) or call 707-459-1726.



**Forrest & Friends at WCT:** Saturday, May 6 at the Willits Community Theatre, 7:30 pm, \$20. "Back by popular demand after their sold-out performance in September, Forrest Glycer, Malakai Schindel, Sarah Rose McMahon, and Special Guests Lhasa Summers & Kyle Madrigal will delight with quintessentially Mendocino musical genius." Tickets at [www.wctperformingartscenter.org/buy-tickets-online](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org/buy-tickets-online) or Eventbrite. "We proudly serve Mendocino Distillery, Northspur Brewery, Bonterra Winery - Bring your tumbler!"



**Blue Zones Project Story** Wed, May 17, 6:00-7:00 PM IN PERSON EVENT!

Blue Zones Project (BZP) is a community lead well-being initiative that encourages small changes that lead to healthier choices. Our team will share the Blue Zones Story, the life habits of the world's healthiest, longest-lived people, as well as explain the importance of our environment in how it impacts our health. Join us to learn how you can get involved!

Our Blue Zones Project Mendocino Team consists of local resident professionals who are passionate about making our community a happier, healthier place to live, work, learn and play.

Location: **WILLITS Community Center** 1111 E Commercial St. FREE to the public. Donations appreciated! Wheelchair accessible.

## Monday, May 8

**Bryan Bielanski at Shanachie:** "Imagine Nirvana and the Beatles had a child together who became an acoustic rock singer/songwriter ... touring the US and the world for the last 10 years ... full of fun energy and catchy songs." Monday, May 8 at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. 7 pm.

## Tuesday, May 9

**Willits Garden Club:** the second Tuesday meeting is May 9 this month, 11:30 am at the Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse (Ridgewood Ranch RV Park). Garden-related speakers and programs. Planned program: Carol Cox and Earline Dykes with a presentation about the Grateful Gleaners. Potluck lunch. Everyone welcome. More information at [www.willitsgardenclub.org](http://www.willitsgardenclub.org) and "Willits Garden Club" on Facebook.

## Wednesday, May 10

**Paranormal Discussions:** Willits Library presents "Paranormal Investigations; Team Mendocino" sharing their accounts of investigations into potential hauntings in the area. Part of a second Wednesday of the month discussion series on various paranormal and alternative topics, including ghosts, cryptozoology, UFOs, crop circles, auras, gem stones, and more. Wednesday, May 10, from 5:30 to 6:45 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: [www.mendolibrary.org](http://www.mendolibrary.org) or 459-5908.

## Thursday, May 11

**Willits Farmers Market:** The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

**Hilary & Christiane at Shanachie:** Folk-based country and blues and unique vocals and harmony by Sonoma County based multi-instrumental duo Hilary & Christiane. **Shanachie Pub on Thursday, May 11 at 8 pm. 50B South Main Street.**

## Friday, May 12

**May WCA Art Talk:** Willits Center for the Art's talk this month is on "Early Jewish, Christian and Pagan Art: An Introduction to the Middle Ages." Friday, May 12 at 6:30 pm at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org)

**Blue Luke at Shanachie:** "Blue Luke" Andrews is a prodigy guitarist, born and raised in Dos Rios, Mendocino County: "Imagine a band that takes the soul of the blues, the groove of the funk, the grit of rock & roll and the rich harmonies of jazz to create exactly what you've always wanted to hear." Friday, May 12 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

## Saturday, May 13

**May Vendors Faire:** Mendo Crafts monthly sidewalk and parking lot vendors sale at 11 North Marin Street, Saturday, May 13, 11 am to 5 pm. "One of a kind gifts for loved ones."

**Helene Eve at Shanachie:** Singer / Songwriter / Guitarist Helene Eve plays "Bluesy, jazzy, funky, contemporary pop, country, folk and many originals - a variety of styles - all in one night." Saturday, May 13 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

**'Dream a Little Dream':** Black-Tie Dinner and Dancing benefit for the Little Lake Grange. Featuring Jazz performed by the Velvet Vipers, with Sarah Ryan: "San Francisco's swinging tribute to New Orleans Jazz of the '20s, '30s and beyond." Saturday, May 13, 6 to 11 pm at the Grange, 291 School Street. Prelude by Frankie J. Tickets are \$100, limited to 80 tickets, available at Flying Dog Pizza, and includes family style dinner by Black Dog Catering at 6:30 pm, as well as music and dancing. Silent Auction. No host bar: "Martinis, Manhattans and Champagne." Cosmic Pickle Productions presents.

## Sunday, May 14

**Happy Mother's Day**

**Senior Center Pancake Breakfast:** Every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am; May pancake breakfast is set for Sunday, May 14. Menu choices: 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$10; \$9 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides \$2: 3 slices bacon, 2 sausage links. Breakfast includes Peet's Coffee and orange juice or milk.

## Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

**Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: [www.mendolibrary.org](http://www.mendolibrary.org)**

**Story Time:** Tuesday through Friday each week, 10:30 to 11 am. "Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in the children's area of the library."

**Penny University Coffee Klatch:** Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. "We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a cup of joe."

**Open Source Design, Artistic Expression, and Engineering Club:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 to 4:30 pm. "Open to everyone with an interest in open source and everyone who wants to develop their creative and engineering skills."

**LEGO Club:** Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

**Writer's Block Group:** Wednesdays, from 11 am to noon. "Open to young-adult and adult writers to share their ideas and writings in an environment of supportive and creative suggestions and feedback." Hosted by Librarian Benjamin MacBean. Willits Library meeting room.

**Games at the Library:** First and third Fridays of the month (and fifth Friday, March 31, this month), 4 to 5:30 pm. "Calling all board, card and tabletop role-playing game players! All ages and player levels welcome. Bring your own games to add to the fun!"

**Spinning & Knitting:** Every Saturday at the library from 1 to 4:30 pm. "All skill levels welcome! Spinning circle 1 to 2 pm, Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm."



## Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

**Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street**

**Open Mic Night:** Every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20-minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises."

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

**Tyler Grass & The Sherwood Mountain Boys:** Held third and fifth Thursday evening in May at 7 pm. "Come check out some of our favorite locals playing bluegrass & more!"

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

## Ongoing Events

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

**Living Jukebox at Brickhouse:** Join Richard "2Trees" Jeske and Don Willis for some songs you might know, from rock to country to R&B. Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 12 to 2 pm at Brickhouse Coffee, corner of Main Street and Commercial.

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

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

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

**"Garraoke" at Diggers Bar:** Karaoke night the second and fourth Friday of every month, with host and DJ Garrett Moore. "From 8 pm to midnight, then get down until closing!" Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

**Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 pm:** The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: [bbruneau@bbruneau.com](mailto:bbruneau@bbruneau.com)

**Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym:** Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers a free karate program for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 pm. Beginner to intermediate group, youth 7 years old and above. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Mike Tobin Sensei at 354-0565. Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street.

## Sherwood Firewise 5th anniversary meeting, May 6

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council's Interactive Home Hardening Display, pictured here, will be at Sherwood Firewise Communities' 5th Anniversary meeting on May 6 at the Brooktrails Community Center, from 1 to 5 pm.

This interactive display will give kids and adults alike the chance to throw embers (bean bags) at the home to see where they would stick and potentially ignite. This is a unique opportunity to have fun while learning how to identify potential trouble spots so that you can better harden your home against fires.

The 5th Anniversary meeting also features speakers, exhibits, contests, finger food, BBQ, cake and ice cream. Info: [info@sherwoodfirewise.org](mailto:info@sherwoodfirewise.org)



Cosmic Pickle Productions Presents

# Dream

a Little Dream

Benefit for the Little Lake Grange

Black-Tie Dinner and Dancing

Jazz performed by:

**The Velvet**  
With Sarah Ryan Vipers  
Prelude • Frankie J

Saturday, May 13th 2023 6:00-11:00  
209 School Street • Willits  
Tickets: \$500 (dinner, music and dancing) | Limited to 80 People.  
Silent Auction | No Host Bar  
Martinis, Manhattans and Champagne  
Family Style Dinner Service at 6:30 pm | Black Dog Catering

## Spring Craft Fair at Testa Vineyards

Testa Vineyards is set to host its Spring Craft Fair on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7 from 11 am to 5 pm at their new location in Redwood Valley, the Testa Coffee & Wine Shop, 9001 North State Street, which also features an outdoor wine garden.

With more than 40 local vendors sharing their hand-crafted items, local food trucks, and of course coffee and wine from Testa. Come enjoy some wine, while shopping for the special mom in your life! The Spring Craft Fair is also a fundraiser for the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, with animals available for adoption on Saturday from 11 am to 1 pm.

There is no ticket for this event. Pay for wine, coffee, food, and gifts as you please. Please visit [TestaRanch.com](http://TestaRanch.com) for the full vendor list. Info: [info@testaranch.com](mailto:info@testaranch.com).

Discover the Blue Zones and Their Power? Health Habits

Understand the Life Radius and the Power of People, Places and Policy

What does community action look like, to become a Certified Blue Zones Project Community?

Location: **WILLITS Community Center** 1111 E Commercial St. FREE to the public. Donations appreciated! Wheelchair accessible.

**Blue Zones Project Story** Wed, May 17, 6:00-7:00 PM IN PERSON EVENT!

Blue Zones Project (BZP) is a community lead well-being initiative that encourages small changes that lead to healthier choices. Our team will share the Blue Zones Story, the life habits of the world's healthiest, longest-lived people, as well as explain the importance of our environment in how it impacts our health. Join us to learn how you can get involved!

Our Blue Zones Project Mendocino Team consists of local resident professionals who are passionate about making our community a happier, healthier place to live, work, learn and play.

Location: **WILLITS Community Center** 1111 E Commercial St. FREE to the public. Donations appreciated! Wheelchair accessible.

Call 456-9676 for more information. Email: [apic@howardfoundation.org](mailto:apic@howardfoundation.org). Visit: [avenuestowellness.org](http://avenuestowellness.org). (May 2023)

**ROAD & RIVER**  
A Choral Concert

presented by **WILLITS COMMUNITY CHOIR** of Mendocino College

directed by Janice Hawthorne Timm

**Tuesday** May 16, 2023  
7 pm

Allen J. Garcia auditorium at Willits High School

**FREE**

## 'Blue Zones Project Story'

Avenues to Wellness presents: "Blue Zones Project Story," May 17, 6 to 7 pm at Willits Community Center.

Blue Zones Project is a community lead well-being initiative that encourages small changes that lead to healthier choices.

Our team will share the Blue Zones Story, the life habits of the world's healthiest, longest-lived people, as well as explain the importance of our environment in how it impacts our health. Join us to learn how to get involved!

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. Please note this talk will meet at a new location.

**SPRING CRAFT FAIR**

May 6+7, 11am-5pm

9001 N. STATE ST. | REDWOOD VALLEY

THIS EVENT IS A FUNDRAISER FOR HUMANE SOCIETY FOR INLAND MENDOCINO COUNTY

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Includes drink token and lunch

MAY 20 9 AM

BROOKTRAILS GOLF COURSE

REGISTRATION \$50

Contact the golf course to sign up (707) 367-5465

A benefit for Willits Elementary Charter School

Save the date!

**Willits Frontier Days**

**Hometown Celebration**

Friday, June 30th

5pm-9pm Downtown Willits

If you'd like to participate in this event, send us an email at [willitsfrontierdays@gmail.com](mailto:willitsfrontierdays@gmail.com)

**Inland Mendocino Democratic Club**

May 11

Monthly hybrid in-person / zoom Inland Mendocino Democratic Club meeting held May 11 at 6:30 pm at Mountain Mike's Pizza, 1090 South State Street, Ukiah. Featuring a panel on "the role of law enforcement regarding the homeless," with Willits Police Department Chief Fabian Lizarraga, Ukiah Police Department Sergeant Max Brazil, and Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall. More info and zoom info: [inlandmendodems.org](http://inlandmendodems.org)

**NOYO THEATRE** Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits  
707-459-NOYO (6696)  
[www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com)

Next Week: **BOOK CLUB 2**

**OPEN HOUSE PARTY**

MAY 7TH 11A - 4 PM

KIDS CORNER

865 S MAIN ST WILLITS, CA 95490

Bouncy houses, Activities, Snacks and beverages available  
Raffle \$5 a ticket or 5 for \$20

**GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY Vol. 3**

(PG13) 2 hrs 30 mins

—2D—  
SPECIAL PREVIEW: Thurs., May 4 at 4:45pm  
Fri.: 4:45pm  
Sat./Sun.: 1:30 & 4:45pm  
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:45pm

—3D—  
SPECIAL PREVIEW: Thurs., May 4 at 8:00pm  
Fri.-Thurs.: 8:00pm

Movie Times for May 5 thru May 11

**SUPER MARIO BROS MOVIE**

(PG) 1 hr 32 mins

Fri.: 3:45, 6:00 & 8:15pm  
Sat./Sun.: 1:40, 3:45, 6:00 & 8:15pm  
Mon.-Thurs.: 3:45, 6:00 & 8:15pm

Masks Optional

**GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY Vol. 3 (2D)**

(PG13) 2 hrs 30 mins

Fri.: 4:30 & 7:45pm  
Sat./Sun.: 1:15, 4:30 & 7:45pm  
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:30 & 7:45pm

OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners

Tightwad Tuesday Title for May 9 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!

At right: Richard Willoughby, left, smiles with Arnie Mello, at the wheel of the new UTV, alongside Tom Herman and Tony Madrigal, at right.

## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

**Agape Bible Church**  
290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Where love is first and the Bible is central.  
Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. - Worship  
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
www.agapebilechurch.com

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-5456

Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Burton Jernigan  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

**Church of Christ**  
"What must we do to be saved?"

Acts 2:37  
1095 S. Main St., Willits  
(next to Super 8)  
(707) 459-5023  
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service-6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study-7:30 p.m.

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

**Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom**  
•Sound of Soul events  
•Membership Discourses  
•Spiritual Discussions  
•ECK Light & Sound Services  
More information?  
Call 530-224-8703  
www.eckankar.org

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

**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**  
61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Confessions by appointment:  
459-2252  
Sunday Mass inside:  
9:00 a.m. English  
10:30 a.m. Spanish  
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Covid guidelines apply.  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

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

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

**Willits United Methodist Church**  
Labyrinth and Peace Garden  
A place to find comfort  
where all are welcome  
Pastor Rosemary Landry  
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
707-459-2855  
www.willitsumc.com  
www.willitsumc.org  
Facebook: facebook.willits.umc

If you want to be included in this column please call:  
**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
april@willitsweekly.com



## Little Lake Fire UTV now more useful thanks to Howard Foundation donation

Reaching folks in need, even in the most inaccessible areas, has gotten one transportation-mechanism easier for the Little Lake Fire Department, thanks to the recent donation of tracks and a trailer by the Howard Foundation for the department's utility terrain vehicle.

"With this added equipment, our department now has new capabilities that will greatly enhance our ability to serve and protect our community," said Little Lake Fire Department Chief Bill Carter in a letter to the Howard Foundation.

"The UTV tracks and trailer," he continued, "will allow us to access areas that were previously difficult to reach, especially in inclement weather and difficult terrain. This will enable us to respond more efficiently to emergencies and provide better

assistance to those in need. "Furthermore, the UTV tracks and trailer will undoubtedly contribute to the safety of our community by increasing our ability to respond to emergencies quickly and effectively. The ability to navigate through rugged terrain and harsh weather conditions will make it easier for us to reach those who need help.

"Once again, we want to express our sincere gratitude to the Howard Foundation for this incredible gift," wrote Carter. "Your support has made a significant impact on our department and our ability to serve our community. We will ensure that this equipment is used with the utmost care and responsibility to maximize its potential and contribute to the safety of our community."

— Maureen Jennison



## It's time again for the Mother's Day photo call for Willits Weekly's annual collage

Mother's Day is coming up (Sunday, May 14!!), and Willits Weekly is ready to honor moms in the community with our annual photo collage feature.

This is something we do FOR FREE for the community, and everyone is encouraged to participate!

All you have to do is email a copy of a current or vintage photo of your mom to willitsweekly@gmail.com. If you only have a print photo, you can bring it to Ace Copy and Shipping, where they can scan and send it to us easily. Make sure to include a caption naming the people in the photograph, from left to right, and any message.

We need to have all images in by end of day Monday, May 8.

The photo collage will appear in the next edition of Willits Weekly, Thursday, May 11.

Questions? Call 702-774-07 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com. We will try and print as many as we can, so get yours in early and get included with this fun way to honor all our mothers.

## LEGAL NOTICES

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

WW429  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2023-F0142  
The following person or persons are doing business as Coursey Communications, 109 W. Perkins St., Ukiah CA 95482. Registered owner: Jendi Coursey, Inc., 109 W. Perkins St. Ukiah CA 95482.  
This business is conducted by a corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on February 5, 2018.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on March 14, 2023.  
/s/ Jennifer D. Coursey, President / CEO  
Publication dates: April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 2023

WW432  
**CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
PROJECT NO. 2023-03  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed bids for: The work shown on the project plans entitled: CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PROJECT PLANS For: **West Mendocino Avenue Improvement Project-Phase I - Project No. 2023-03**

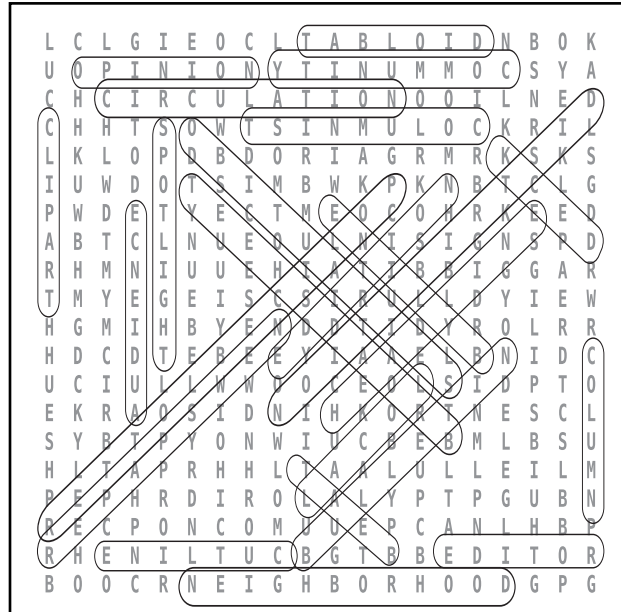
Installing 644 feet of new 18" HDPE storm drain pipe and drainage structures at West Mendocino Avenue, Spruce Street, Easy Street, and Camp Lane, replacing 500 feet of 18" HDPE storm drain pipe and drainage structures: 8 manholes, 8 inlets, 1 junction box, and 1 headwall on West Mendocino Avenue, replacing 130 square feet of sidewalk curb and gutter, filling 155 square feet of street shoulder, removing 3 culverts and a rock channel, minor grading to realign approximately 15 feet of channel embankment, and installing 110 feet of 24" wide valley gutter.

IN City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California & The work described in specifications books entitled: CITY OF WILLITS - BID BOOK & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS CITY OF WILLITS - PROPOSAL PACKET CITY OF WILLITS - AWARD PACKET For: **West Mendocino Avenue Improvement Project-Phase I - Project No. 2023-03** IN City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California will be received by a designated representative, of the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, until the hour of 2 p.m., June 1, 2023, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers, of the City of Willits, located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California.

**Key Dates:**  
•Pre-bid Meeting: Thursday, May 18, 9:00 a.m. (on site)  
•Final Questions from Bidders: May 23rd, 2023, by 5 p.m.  
•Final Addendum Issued: May 25, 2023  
•Bid Opening: June 1, 2023, 2 p.m.  
•Project Start Date: July 5, 2023  
•Project length: 40 calendar days  
THE ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS IS: \$633,643.  
Bid packets can be obtained by contacting the Public Works Department at 707-459-7143 or by emailing bsanderson@cityofwillits.org.  
CITY OF WILLITS: s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk  
Publication Dates: May 4, 11, & 18, 2023



**Marc Komer**  
Legal Document Assistant  
An Affordable Non-Attorney Service  
(707) 459-2775  
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.



**Mendocino County invites applications for:**  
**Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures** \$125,112 - \$152,068  
**Animal Protection Officer I** \$38,396 - \$44,470  
**Chief Planner** \$95,846 - \$116,500  
**Corrections Deputy** \$54,184 - \$65,873  
**Custodian** \$37,544 - \$43,472  
**Deputy District Attorney I/II/III** \$76,419 - \$122,824  
**Deputy Probation Officer I/II** \$51,937 - \$69,617  
**Deputy Public Defender I/II** \$76,419 - \$105,227  
**Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II** \$62,628 - \$87,214  
**Employment and Training Worker I/II** \$48,672 - \$65,124  
**Environmental Health Technician** \$46,072 - \$56,035  
**Juvenile Corrections Officer** \$50,710 - \$61,630  
**Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help** \$24.38 - \$28.22 hourly  
**Legal Secretary II** \$44,304 - \$53,851  
**Mental Health Clinician I/II** \$59,737 - \$84,011  
**Nutritionist** \$62,254 - \$75,670  
**Probation Assistant** \$45,260 - \$55,016  
**Planner II/III** \$74,942 - \$95,659  
**Program Administrator** \$73,320 - \$89,128  
**Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D** \$48,942 - \$92,206  
**Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C** \$70,387 - \$99,028  
**Vocational Assistant** \$37,024 - \$38,875  
For a complete list of current job openings and to apply: [www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca)  
EOE

The rest of **Unknowns** | From page 1  
county financial unknowns: the unknown budget shortfall, the disconnect between the board of supervisors and the audit controller as well as the ambulance joint powers authority proposal.

"The county council is reviewing the draft over the next 30 days," Santos continued. "Also, funding for the fire warden position is still awaiting the BOS getting business in order to move forward.

"Finally, the Fort Bragg Fire Department has recently acquired a training tower, like the one that is at the Little Lake Baechtel Road location," Santos said. "It's a little smaller, but they are pretty excited about it. The next meeting of the association is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21."

Director Ed Horrick commented: "We are very fortunate that our supervisor is John Haschak. He is very good, and we couldn't ask for a better supervisor, keeping his eye on what's going on at the county."

Jennifer O'Brien, of Neary and O'Brien, Brooktrails legal counsel, was in attendance, seated at the table with the board, and she introduced herself to the group.

Brooktrails General Manager Tamara Alaniz then mentioned that for the next meeting of the board, she will be out of town, attending the upcoming Association of California Water Agencies conference, and Brooktrails staffer Elise LaFortune will be attending; taking notes and operating the Zoom aspect of the meeting. Alaniz will

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Computer Help**  
Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring. Call Liam 459-2470 or email ucearhail@gmail.com

**Have You Had A Spiritual Experience?**  
Join us for a lively discussion on spiritual experiences with a starter topic on Conquering Fear. Come share or just listen! Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, Saturday, May 13, 10 to 11 a.m. Questions? Call April at 707-972-2475. Presented by Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom.

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

**Help Wanted**  
Senior Center is hiring an office assistant, must be proficient in Microsoft Office/Publisher (40 hours weekly). Email resume with 3 references to wsdirector@willitscenter.com or stop by the senior center to pick up a job description and drop off your resume.

**Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks!**

attend the meeting remotely via Zoom. Alaniz' report regarding the Brooktrails water supply was very encouraging, indicating that Lake Emily and Lake Ada Rose are overflowing with maximum water storage which provides up to 444 days of average usage.

The board then voted unanimously to approve the consent calendar accounts payable in the amount of \$25,046.42.

Agenda item "Discussion of Brooktrails Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment District Ballot Measure and Community Investment in the Fire Department" will remain on the agenda as Brooktrails property owners will soon be receiving ballots via mail.

The ballot measure item will remain on upcoming meeting agendas to allow any individuals who have questions about the measure the opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns.

June 27 is the date for the public hearing, when all ballots will need to be returned and will be counted. The ballots will be mailed to property owners on May 1. Ballots may be mailed or may be delivered in person to be tabulated at the public hearing meeting on June 27. All ballots will be opened at the meeting that evening.

Alaniz noted that after the ballots go out in the mail, there are three upcoming Tuesday meeting dates when questions may be posed regarding the ballot measure. Those meeting dates are: May 9, May 16 (a virtual meeting accessed through the regular Zoom number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/794192028>), and May 23. Meetings begin at 7 pm.

Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer stepped up to the podium and said, "I would like to thank each and every one of you who attended the recent open house on the upcoming fire assessment. As Director Santos pointed out in his narrative this evening, you can see why there is a need and we need to follow through with this and get it through.

"The uncertainty at the county is beyond belief," said Noyer, "and I don't see it getting better any time soon, which will leave us holding the bag. For those who weren't able to attend the open house, I'm available to answer any questions. Just get ahold of me and let me know of your concerns."

In response to Noyer's statement, board President Williams commented: "It's not just Mendocino County that has a crash and burn going on right now in terms of budget. I don't know if there's any county in the state that hasn't been hammered by the fall in retail sales taxes. It's dramatic. What are we down, \$22 billion statewide? The number, whatever it is, is enormous just here in Mendocino County."

The last item on the agenda for the evening was consideration of Resolution 2023-05, nominating Alaniz to the Association of California Water Agencies Region 1 Board. The board voted unanimously to support the nomination of Alaniz.



Above: Sunflowers are always welcome, and first plantings can go in now, before our last frost date.

At right, from top: Quinoa and amaranth are similar gluten-free grains from South America (Quinoa, on the left, should be planted now. Amaranth, on the right, needs to wait until after frost).

Sugar Magnolia, the first purple sugar snap pea, was bred in Oregon by Alan Kapular, who named it after the iconic Grateful Dead song.

Nasturtiums are a classic for cool soil and shade, and they are a good choice for under trees, in containers on a shady porch, or as an understory in the corn patch.



At left: Beets and chard are more tolerant of dry conditions than most vegetables, especially when grown with morning sun and afternoon shade.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

# May: Roots – the hidden force

Now that the days have warmed, the soil is drying out fast. The oaks, which know more about our climate than any calendar, are leafing out. That means all the hardy vegetables have their best conditions for growth right now. Lettuce, broccoli, peas, greens, and all the root crops thrive during spring weather.

This is also the best time to plant quinoa, and sunflowers, which are frost-hardy as little seedlings. Last year, I sowed sunflowers between kale transplants with great success. The kale sheltered the young sunflower seedlings from cold winds (and kept potential pests from noticing them). Later, the sunflowers sheltered the kale from summer sun.

No common vegetable is more tuned to our climate than the carrot family. In their ancient home in the mountains of central Asia, melting snow would provide plenty of moisture in spring, when the seeds were sprouting. Then as the season advanced, and the soil dried up, these long-rooted crops had an advantage in finding water.

This makes them a good choice in water-conscious gardens today – especially if they're planted where there's some afternoon shade during the hot months. I find carrots and parsnips (as well as their cousins parsley and cilantro) do well on the east side of deciduous trees – fruit trees or even walnuts, as the carrot family is not susceptible to walnut (juglone) poisoning.

Here's a tip for starting carrots that we use at Quail Seeds: They'll sprout twice as fast if you soak and rinse them before planting. Carrot seeds have natural compounds on the surface that must be washed off before the seeds can sprout. In nature, these germination inhibitors make sure the seeds don't sprout in heavy dew or random showers, when there isn't enough water to get established. It ensures that they wait until that melting snow or heavy rain washes the seeds and soaks the soil.

If you just plant carrots in ordinary moist soil, it will take quite a while for the germination-inhibiting compounds to break down and allow the seeds to sprout. Two weeks is not uncommon, and you'll see lots of hacks for keeping the soil moist through that whole period.

melting snow of their homeland. Soak the seeds in plain water for four to six hours (or overnight in the refrigerator.) Turn them into a fine strainer and rinse under the tap. Then plant into moist soil. You'll still need to keep the soil moist until sprouting, but it won't take nearly as long as usual.

A light sprinkle of compost or crumbled leaves over the seeded rows helps prevent surface drying while the seeds germinate. Some people cover the rows with a sheet or burlap (or even a board), checking daily for sprouts and uncovering as soon as they appear. If I've pulled aside straw mulch to make the planting furrow, I like to leave the mulch heaped up on either side of the row to shelter the surface from wind.

Other deep-rooted crops that like a wet start but become drought-tolerant as they mature are beets and chard. They too benefit from a short soaking before sowing, and welcome a bit of afternoon shade in the hot weather. However, they are not immune to juglone poisoning like the carrot family is, so keep them away from walnut trees. I find that beets do well under tomatoes, and chard is a good companion for pole beans or sunflowers.

These crops have another advantage for busy gardeners. Many, if not most, summer crops have a narrow harvest window – we all know how far out of hand an overripe zucchini can get! Corn, green beans, tomatoes, and many other crops must be used or preserved right away.

Roots are different. They hold well underground, slowly getting bigger. They take some of the pressure off. They are there when you need them, so there's always something to pick. Just remember to keep replanting to have replacements for what you pull. The combination of soaking / rinsing, moist soil, and protection from sun / wind make it possible to sow carrots all summer, and harvest almost year-round.

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in both Alaska and California, as well as teaching, homesteading, and working with several national seed organizations. She started Quail Seeds in 2018 as a locally focused seed company. Her website quailseeds.com offers over 400 varieties of seed adapted to the Northern California climate, as well as extensive how-to information.

Instead, you can mimic the



Above, left: Carrots sprout fastest when they are soaked first to remove germination inhibitors, which the plant makes naturally – these Kuroda carrots with stout roots are good for clay soil. Above, right: Carrots weren't always orange. The original Afghan carrots were purple and yellow, with a very strong flavor. Breeding for orange color and sweet flavor happened in France in the 1700s and 1800s. Below, left: The flowers of brassicas like kale and mustard are beautiful, edible, and very important sources of nectar for pollinators right now – these Old Timey Blue Collards, which seem to be perennial in Willits, are 4 years old. Below, right: Cima di Rapa, the flowering tops of turnips or mustard plants, is a seasonal delicacy in Italy that has become a spring staple at my house.



## The rest of Finances | From page 2

using their services.... I think they're available for as long as we need them. So I guess the question I have is, is your office willing to use RGS?"

Cubbison responded that she did speak with RGS at one point last year about help with payroll, and they told her that "we would need to pay them for a full assessment before they would be willing to even give me an estimate as to what the cost would be for their services.... At that time I determined that it wasn't really going to be a productive use of my time," she said.

"So I'm willing to possibly consider it," she said later. "They may be able to provide some support, but you have to understand ... that will take additional time from me to be able to get them onboarded. So I cannot onboard them while also being able to respond to constant demands for information that this office has never provided in the past. I understand it's painful, I understand you want lots of information, and moving forward you'd really like to have this. But there are also many competing priorities."

Cubbison then spoke at length about issues and grievances she had with how certain board members had treated her at meetings.

"What I'm asking for is to not feel like every time I have a meeting I need to worry about what is going to be then turned around and used as a weapon against me in public session," she began. "That is what I'm concerned about.... There is a demand for information, and it is not in a productive and helpful and respectful manner."

"I am open to some of those situations of learning how to do things and learning how to collaborate and sharing information," she added. "But it can't be just handled in open session under a hostile demand for information. I understand you're trying to create a record because you're trying to point out how I'm somehow not succeeding in what I need to do, but I am doing the best I can, and I have worked for this county for 15 years. I do have a degree in accounting and management, despite what some people want to think."

"And I understand that there's a desire to try and push for some other version of this office," she continued. "You don't have to like me, but I have been dedicated more than anybody else would do for this job. So what you don't hear is the people who reach out to me after these board meetings and tell me they pray I don't quit, which I know is what some of you would like. But you have to realize that there are many people out there that hope I don't, because they know you're going to be far worse off because the amount of knowledge left in the county is going to be very small."

Cubbison did eventually agree to the board's request to bring forward some summaries with "account descriptors and respective balance for all county assets and liabilities" for the previous three fiscal years, but explained that there's complications involved.

"I will try to get that information for you, it is not something that is just sitting as a

## The rest of Bathrooms | From page 1

what we're doing to accommodate the event, that everyone is anticipating is gonna be a wonderful, amazing event. We are in the final stages of retaining portable wash station units on trailers."

There will be two trailers with eight restrooms in each trailer, accessible by steps on the sides, plus three ADA accessible units without stairs. "We're right at about 20 restrooms," said City Clerk Cathy Moorhead, "more than we've had there before."

"They have ventilation units, air conditioning, individual wash stations, lights, "the whole bit," Bender said. "They are the Cadillac of portable bathrooms."

"They're all self-contained," Moorhead said, "and they will come in and pump them out once a day."

Board member Saprina Rodriguez asked City Manager Bender to talk about who is paying for the costs of these temporary facilities, due to some misinformation she'd heard in the community that Frontier Days was bearing these costs, or that the taxpayers were picking up these costs.

"Right now we are covering all costs," Bender said, both the costs of providing the temporary bathrooms and also providing a temporary secure roof for the Margarita Hut.

"We are coordinating with REMIF [Redwood Empire Municipal Insurance Fund], our insurance trust coverage provider. They have confirmed that they will reimburse the city for the expenses because, once again, it's our facility, and we're potentially extending the usage of that facility to Willits Frontier Days, we're taking on the responsibility to provide and maintain the facilities they need

report you can push a button in the system," she said. "I understand that's hard for you to understand, but it is not that simple because there are many different ways that things are accounted for."

"The trial balance that goes to the outside auditors is hundreds of thousands of lines long," she added. "So I will see what basic information we can provide. And when you say you want it for all accounts, that is not information we would normally provide."

Towards the end of the discussion, Supervisor Haschak suggested that the board consider putting budget issues into a standing committee, instead of the ad-hoc committee which it currently uses, saying that approach had not been "fruitful."

"I think that we do have a problem in communication and collaboration," he said. "And so again I think that these issues around the budget are so important to the county and how we function. And we've had this ad hoc committee working for the last year and a half or whatever on these issues, and it's not providing greater transparency or collaboration or openness for how we're dealing with the budget."

However, no other supervisor stepped forward to support this proposal by Haschak. Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren and Williams both indicated they'd prefer for the entire board to discuss budget issues at regular meetings, and both also urged that the county pursue outside consultants for additional help with finances.

"This is the most important thing this board does, the budget," said Williams, who is on the budget ad hoc committee. "I don't think it should be an ad hoc or a standing committee, I think it should be public spotlight, all five of us. There's no reason for three supervisors to be left out of the conversation."

"And further clarification, Supervisor Haschak, [with] budget ad hoc, I know you probably think there's more discussions that have been had and there's more information that we're sitting on," he added. "We're reporting out fully, there's nothing. You're seeing it. But I think that it would be valuable to have it at a public meeting where the public's seeing it and all five supervisors are seeing it," he said.

"We've been struggling, we've had conversation after conversation, I'm kind of at my wits' end," he continued. "All I want to know is how much money does the county have and what are the liabilities. And if we can't answer that, I think it highlights we have a real structural problem."

Eventually a motion put forward by Supervisor Mulheren was passed unanimously to direct "the executive office to work with the auditor-treasurer / tax collector's office on the reporting out" of the 2021/22 carry-forward and three-year budget summary items, and "to seek a consultant to facilitate budget conversations and department responsibilities between the executive office, fiscal services staff and the auditor-treasurer/tax collector's office and present that back to the board at a point in time in the future."

More budget discussions are expected at both of the next two regular BOS meetings, on May 9 and May 23.

## The rest of Records | From page 1

and the Willits Environmental Center.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak has been pushing for the ordinance to be repealed for several months now, and Supervisors Ted Williams and Maureen Mulheren joined in that sentiment at the April 25 BOS meeting, with Williams saying that they'll be bringing forward a co-sponsored agenda item to do just that.

"I want the board and the public to know that Supervisor Mulheren and I will be bringing a proposed action to the board to repeal ordinance 4507, that's the public records act ordinance," Williams said during his supervisor's report. "And we've asked for the soonest time available on the schedule."

The board had discussed the matter during a closed session item earlier in the day, but didn't give any other details on that discussion.

Two days later on April 27, attorneys representing the FAC, ACLU, and the other organizations sent a letter to the board explaining why they would sue the county if it didn't rescind the ordinance.

"The California Supreme Court recently confirmed that the California Public Records Act does not authorize fees for locating, reviewing, and redacting records, because such fees create unjustified financial barriers to transparency rights guaranteed by the CPRA and California Constitution," the letter read.

"The county knows this is the law," the letter continued, "and has explicitly stated on the record that the CPRA contains no mechanism for the recovery of the cost of staff time spent searching for and providing public records." And yet, the ordinance purports to authorize charging up to \$150 per hour for responding to record requests. No law authorizes a county to impose the fees for locating, reviewing, or redacting public records specified in the ordinance.

"Accordingly," the letter continued, "if the ordinance is not repealed on May 9, we are prepared to file suit on behalf of the organizations challenging the ordinance. Time is of the essence because every day that this ordinance is still in effect, members of the public are subject to a financial barrier that deprives them of the transparency rights guaranteed by the CPRA and California Constitution."

The ordinance was enacted by the board in July of 2022, and places fees ranging from \$20 to \$150 per hour on those requesting public records for the county staff time to complete the requests.

The fees were intended to cut down on some perceived overuse of public records requests and help pay for staff time to fulfill them.

County Counsel Christian Curtis said in a June 2022 BOS meeting that the county received nearly five public records requests per day, which took up a significant amount of the county attorneys' time.

He said that it was common for business interests to request records for market research and to help create mailing lists, and also that some who were upset with the county would continually make records requests with the goal of purposely wasting its time and resources.

However, shortly after it was enacted, the ordinance began to get some heavy pushback from the FAC, Mendocino Voice publisher Kate Maxwell and others, arguing that the fees were in violation of the CPRA, and would obstruct transparency of the county and impede the ability of the media and others with legitimate interests to obtain records.

In an August 29, 2022 letter to the board, FAC cited several legal cases and precedents to back up these claims.

In a March 19 Mendocino Voice article, Maxwell noted that Mendocino County had "made the list of top villains in the Electronic Frontier Foundation's 'Follies Awards' due to their public records fee ordinance."

"Since the ordinance passed, I personally have had responses to my requests with estimated fees for amounts including \$66,660, \$28,200, and \$16,856.22," wrote Maxwell. "The first two for a single records request related to current supervisors' discussions on cannabis regulations and CAMP raids. As a small locally owned outlet, we don't have the budget for these kinds of fees."

"However," she added, "we believe

access to public records is essential to our work as local journalists who hold government officials accountable, and that more importantly, it's the right of every resident to have legally obtained information about their elected officials."

In full disclosure, this reporter signed on in support of a letter circulated by Maxwell back in August to the board of supervisors in opposition to the fee ordinance along with 26 other media members from the county and state.

Rescinding the ordinance would be a reversal for all three supervisors including Haschak, since it was passed unanimously by the board originally.

In his April 11 monthly update, Haschak explained why he initially supported the ordinance, and why he now felt it should be rescinded.

"The Public Records Act is meant to ensure openness and transparency in government," he said. "County ordinance 4507 was adopted to limit the number of unnecessary, frivolous public records requests. This is a statewide problem especially in the last few years with numerous requests focused on elections and COVID."

"The answer must be greater transparency and accessibility to records via the county's website, better organization of records, and possible modifications at the state level," he continued. "I have attended several discussions about this issue at the California State Association of Counties. With the ordinance that we have, I believe we are creating a liability for the county. That is why I have twice proposed rescinding the ordinance. I await another supervisor to join me to get this on the agenda."

Journalist Sarah Reith detailed in an April 28 MendoFever article that Jim Shields, publisher of the Mendocino County Observer, said he had talked to Haschak and warned him of potential litigation that could be headed the county's way, and told him about a California Supreme Court case which ruled against the City of Hayward charging for public records requests.

"I kept saying to the supervisors, [County Counsel's] got to be aware of this Hayward decision," said Shields, who has written multiple columns opposing the ordinance." I said, 'It's going to cost you money.'"

In a March 26 column in the Observer, Shields explained how he and others had dealt with a similar county issue in the mid-1990s, when "the Superior Courts started charging some ludicrous document copying fee like \$3 per page when other county departments and agencies were charging only a nickel or a dime."

"I was involved in that legal fight," wrote Shields. "All five supervisors concurred that the courts' copy fees were not in line with California Public Records Act."

In Reith's article, Matt LeFever, publisher of MendoFever, said that the Society of Professional Journalists, of which he is a member, "called to suss him out" as a possible complainant about ordinance 4507.

"I then, out of sort of a good faith move, approached Supervisor Williams and Supervisor Haschak, and let them know that this legal challenge was going to be coming forward," said LeFever. "And rather than cost the taxpayers more money and have to defend it in a court of law, is there a way that we can try to de-escalate this now? And it might be working."

In an interview with Reith – whose story also aired on KZYX – Haschak acknowledged that hearing about the Hayward case outcome had affected his thinking on the fee ordinance.

"There's certain cases that really show that the ordinance was on what I believe was shaky legal ground, and that we didn't want to go there," he said. "There were also some comments in the last board meeting that we were doing this because of the cost of redacting information. And there's a case of the National Lawyers Guild versus the City of Hayward, which says specifically you cannot charge for redacting information like that. So I think the board was digging a hole for itself."

Despite the recent letter and other hints of litigation, both Williams and Mulheren told Reith that the threat of being sued had nothing to do with their decision to support rescinding the ordinance, and that it was essentially about increasing transparency.

"The county receives threats of litigation every day of the year," said Williams. "We can't make decisions based on threats."

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OBITUARY |

## Betty Janich

Beloved Elizabeth "Betty" James Janich of Willits passed away April 11, 2023 at Holy Care in Ukiah.

She was born to Stanley, Sr. and Ellen James in San Jose on April 15, 1923. She attended schools there, and graduated from San Jose State in 1945, earning her music teaching credential. She and husband, David Janich, Sr., moved to Lompoc, in 1977. She moved to Willits in 2007 after suffering a debilitating stroke.

Her passions in life were family, faith, P.E.O., walking, travel, bridge, swimming and jewelry. She moved to Holy Spirit care home in 2021.

On April 8, her P.E.O. sisters threw a wonderful 100th birthday party for her. She was engaged, chatty, and loved every minute of it.

Twenty-eight of her family members

gathered on April 15 to honor, celebrate and remember Betty. All she ever wanted was family around her.

Betty was predeceased by her parents, husband, brother, sister, and her first-born son Ricky. She leaves behind Stanley Poytress (Nuni), Jon Poytress, Chris Borycki, Earl Poytress, Gary Poytress (Teri), Richard Janich, and daughter-in-law Connie Janich Hamrah. She has 10 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to P.E.O. or Willits United Methodist Church.

Betty Janich blows out the candles on her 100th birthday cake.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Betty Janich, with a birthday sash, tiara and flowers.

## Disc golfers raise \$2,000 for Brooktrails Fire



Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer smiles as he accepts a \$2,000 donation check from Joseph Haggard with the Basket Beaters Disc Golf group at the April 11 Brooktrails board meeting. Basket Beaters is an all-level disc golf club "for the Mendocino County area and beyond."

The club raised the funds through the annual "Brooktrails Finale" tournament at Brooktrails Golf Club, this year on April 1 and 2, with 86 people attending despite the rain. Basket Beaters were able to raise \$2,000 for the Brooktrails Fire Department.

The event was part of the NorCal Winter Charity Series of disc golf events, which started in 2015, and has since then collectively raised well over \$150,000 for local organizations where the events are held.

Photo courtesy Tamara Alaniz



From left, Chuck Persico, Jill Persico, Taylor Day, Liz Day, Cadence Lopez, Edie Ceccarelli, Evelyn Persico, and Casey Persico with her daughter, Charlee.

## Lunch with Edie at Loose Caboose

Surrounded by family, Edie Ceccarelli of Willits enjoys lunch at the Loose Caboose. This is the first time Edie, who celebrated her 115th birthday on February 5, has been out on the town since before COVID.

Edie ordered her favorite meal at Loose Caboose, a strawberry shake and a croissant sandwich. Willits' supercentenarian, ranked as the oldest person living in the United States, is in good health and doing well, said Jill Persico, owner of the Loose Caboose restaurant, which will be celebrating its 35th anniversary this year.

- Jennifer Poole

## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

### Adaptable Poseidon

Poseidon has tons of energy and loves to play with other dogs. But he also knows how to chill and is happy to hang out in his crate when needed.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: [www.mendohumansociety.com](http://www.mendohumansociety.com), our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



### Serene Bella



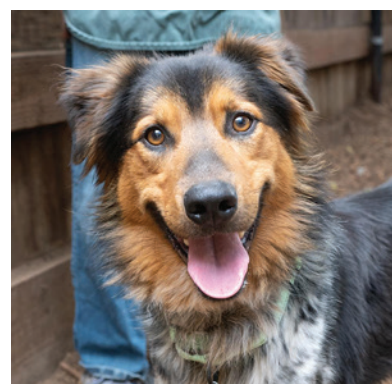
Bella here is such a sweet and affectionate gal, and she loves attention. At the prime age of 13, Bella has seen it all and is ready to settle into her golden years. She loves nothing more than some ear scratches and gentle pets and is always looking forward to the next nap, unbothered by any of the chaos going on around her.

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 Bella or our other feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com).

### Good-looking Cheeto

Cheeto is a handsome boy that does great with other dogs and is leash trained. He would do best in a non-urban area with a predictable environment / space. Cheeto needs to be with a very dog-savvy person and would need to be in a home with no kids or small animals.

To learn more about Cheeto 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 due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.



# SALUTE TO SERVICE

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**May 8: Our famous Teriyaki Chicken Sandwiches**

**May 15: Pulled Pork Sandwiches**

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