

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 11: Reuben Sandwich, Chips

Friday, May 12: Hot Dogs, Chili, Cole Slaw

Monday, May 15: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll

Tuesday, May 16: Pepperoni Pizza, Green Salad

Wednesday, May 17: Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Pickle

Thursday, May 18: Chicken Tacos w/ Rice & Beans

Friday, May 19: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Green Salad, Garlic Bread

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

Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am; 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.

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

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

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

Public forum on East Commercial Street Corridor, May 18

Submitted by the City of Willits

The City of Willits is in the discovery phase of a two-part process for community outreach and program development along the East Commercial Street Corridor. This ¾ mile stretch of East Commercial Street has been a significant artery for civic, economic, and residential life in Willits for over 100 years.

Looking towards the future, the City of Willits seeks to create a plan for the East Commercial Street Corridor that recognizes the importance of parks, pedestrianism, public sites, and businesses, aiming to increase tourism, promote safety, and create a link with Main Street.

A public input session will be held on Thursday, May 18 between 6 and 8 pm at the Willis Community Center at 111 East Commercial Street.

Following a brief introduction, attendees will be able to browse multiple working stations that address existing conditions along the East Commercial Street Corridor and possible improvements to its amenities. This public input session will help the City of Willits to develop subsequent projects and developments along the corridor.

Free Long COVID Management Workshop

Claudia Wenning, PhD, CFMP of Quantum Level Health has announced a Long COVID Management Workshop for 2023. Participants will meet up once a month, on Thursdays, 5.30 to 7 pm, at Quantum Level Health Studio, at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street.

This is a free community service. If interested please email: claudia@claudiawenning.com

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

May 2023 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

Ground was broken on the Highway 162 multipurpose trail in Covelo. It has been a needed dream for many years. The trail will provide a safe walking/biking pathway to town.

FEMA added Mendocino County to its list of counties with declared major emergencies for the February and March snowstorms. Mendocino County was approved for the Individual Assistance program which allows residents with damage to homes from the snows, fallen trees, etc. to receive financial assistance for their recovery. FEMA will be back in Mendocino County helping with the application process as soon as a location has been identified for a disaster recovery center. In the meantime, impacted residents can register online at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov> or by calling 800-621-3362

It looks like a majority of the board will join me to rescind the Public Records Request ordinance. Charging people to get public records went against the spirit of open, transparent government. The county was being threatened with multiple lawsuits. Last month, I wrote in my report that I was awaiting another supervisor to join me in my calls to rescind the ordinance.

A 171-unit housing development was approved for the south side of Ukiah. 39 of the units will be for senior housing, and 13 will be moderate income. It is outside of city limits. With housing in short supply throughout Mendocino County, this is a welcome step forward. After approval by the board, the project manager called me to say that the developer is interested in working in Willits. I directed him to City of Willits Planning. In my conversations with the City of Willits, this would be welcomed.

The cannabis department continues to streamline the process. I chair the General Government Committee, and we met twice in April to eliminate duplicative processes, especially if the state has a similar process, to get the administration of the permitting process fully functioning, and to clean up the department's budget mess. Two major grants had to be revised, but competent staff are working on these issues. With the county and state working together to get people to their state annual licensure, there is a feeling of optimism that these efforts will work.

The Sherwood Firewise Council had a 5th Anniversary party. As usual, it was informative and community building, and great to be back in person. Kudos to all the volunteers who are working to make our communities safer. The SFC has received more than a million dollars in grants to create emergency access routes and defensible space and educate the community. Together we are working on several significant grant applications.

My monthly table talk is on Thursday, May 11 at 10 am at Brickhouse Coffee in Willits. Please reach out to me at haschak@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.



Above, from left: Thomas Clegg of Labyrinth, a company that inspects homes for vulnerabilities, answers an attendee's questions at the Sherwood Firewise fifth anniversary event. Just a few of the pieces of literature and informative pamphlets available at the event. An attendee examines one of the Brooktrails Community Firewise planning maps. Third District Supervisor John Haschak speaks on the coordinated efforts of the county and Sherwood Firewise. Below, left: The CAL FIRE crew from Howard Forest station on the Ridge attends the anniversary party. Below, right: A young girl tries her hand at throwing embers at the vulnerable areas of this sample house.

Photos by Mathew Caine



'Building as a Community'

Sherwood Firewise celebrates accomplishments and shares future plans at fifth anniversary party

The fifth anniversary get-together of the Sherwood Firewise Communities, last Saturday at the Brooktrails Community Center, was both a celebration of past and ongoing accomplishments and an ambitious look to the future of this residential mountain community against the ravages of wildfires.

Mathew Caine, Features Writer, mathew@willitsweekly.com For the last five years, Sherwood Firewise, under the direction and instigation of the indefatigable Keith Rutledge and an energetic team of concerned volunteers, has created a path of safety and awareness for those who choose to live in this beautiful natural area, despite the constant threat of the reality of conflagrations that can take everything from them in an instant.

Despite the inherent power and destructiveness of fire, there are measures which can be taken in order to mitigate the loss of life and property. Sherwood Firewise, along with the efforts and cooperation of CAL FIRE, Brooktrails Fire Department, Mendocino Firesafe Council, the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, FEMA, the County of Mendocino, and others, has instigated methods and plans, which if carried out diligently, can create a safer environment for humans and their property, even during the summer months when the grasses and other fuels become dry and dangerous.

The well-attended get-together in Brooktrails, in addition to its celebratory tone, served as a learning moment, with talks from CAL FIRE, Rutledge, Supervisor John Haschak, Thomas Clegg of Labyrinth, Emily Tecchio of the Mendocino Firesafe Council, and various volunteers, outlining past efforts and future projects.

"Right after the Redwood Complex Fire, we were told that we didn't have the evacuation routes out of Brooktrails that were on the official evacuation maps for routes out," said Rutledge. "They said 'sorry, that's unavailable anymore.' So, that's what kicked off this group. We had our first meeting in 2018. CAL FIRE and Brooktrails and others were there. The sheriff and (Office of Emergency Services) were there and we talked about how to get these emergency-access routes reopened, because we were told it would never happen. We were determined to figure

out a way to make it happen."

Rutledge told of the organization's past accomplishments and their effectiveness: "It's the serendipity of the work we did on the emergency-access route. We got in early and decided to do it, got funding from the Community Foundation. We put together a plan. Then the governor came out and said if we had any shovel-ready projects, he'll get CAL FIRE working on them.

"We had our shovel-ready project," said Rutledge, "so CAL FIRE came and cleared the Firco Route, which is the main route between Main Street, all the way up by the airport. Not long after that, the Oak Fire happened and that is the only time this entire subdivision has had to be evacuated. It turned out perfect because everyone could use Sherwood Road going down the hill and all the fire vehicles came up the emergency-access route. We didn't have to have two-way traffic.

"The sheriff and the fire chief said that was the smoothest evacuation. It was because we had practiced. The community was aware. We had our emergency-access routes in place. Everything worked. And it's still there for the next time. Now, we have the Willits Creek Route opened up and we just got clearance on the Ridge Route which is at the top of the hill in case the fire is at the bottom and everybody needs to go up the hill," said Rutledge.

The organization, in conjunction with Mendocino Firesafe Council has also offered easy-to-read reflective address signs to make it easier for first responders to find people and pets during less-than-optimal visual conditions. They have also created and tied into various communications systems to help disseminate easy-to-understand reports of conditions and instructions.

They have organized neighborhood groups for mutual aid and protection, instigated "Chipper Days" where residents could get their detritus reduced through use of the county's machinery. They have arranged for roadside fuel reduction to allow for higher safety during evacuations and have



At top: Thomas Clegg of Labyrinth brought this example of a Ulan Vent which traps burning embers to keep them from entering a home. Above: The fifth anniversary party is well-attended by Brooktrails residents who want to learn how they can make their homes safer. Below: This cake, created by Craft House Baking, commemorated the Sherwood Firewise five-year anniversary.



Savings Bank hosts shred events, collects for food banks

Submitted by SBMC

Savings Bank of Mendocino County and Integrity Shred have teamed up to help prevent identity theft by offering free community shred events in May.

The Willits event is set for Thursday, May 25, from 9 to 11 am, in the parking lot behind Savings Bank on Humboldt Street.

Bring up to three (3) – 35 pound boxes of documents for safe, secure, on-site shredding.

Additionally, to help shred hunger, non-perishable food will be accepted at

each event for local food banks.

The Ukiah event is set for the week before, on Friday, May 19, from 9 to 11 am, at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds parking lot, 1055 North State Street.

Hours and number of customers accommodated may be limited to truck capacity.

Identity theft is a serious crime that can wreak havoc with your finances, credit history, reputation, and can take time, money, and patience to resolve. Shredding confidential financial documents and paperwork is one way to deter criminals from stealing

personal information.

Savings Bank also encourages customers to protect their identity by switching from paper account statements to eStatements. With eStatements, customers reduce the risk of confidential account information getting into the wrong hands through tampering of mail or paper records that are stored at home.

Savings Bank representatives will be available at the shred events to supply information about preventing identity theft and what to do if your identity is stolen.

'Heavy Lifting' comes to Willits poetry series

Submitted by Mike A'Dair, for WCT's Starlight Lounge

"Heavy Lifting," a multi-media presentation featuring poetry, art and film, comes to the Willits Community Theatre's Starlight Lounge poetry series on Saturday, May 13 at 7 pm.

"Heavy Lifting" is the brainchild of Mendocino Village book designer and publisher Felicia Rice and Ukiah poet Theresa Whitehill. It is being presented in response to the devastating fires that have

ravaged Mendocino County and other parts of California in recent years, and especially to the Santa Cruz County fire which destroyed Rice's letterpress print shop and her life's work in 2020.

After the fire, Rice moved back to her childhood home of Mendocino, and rebuilt her life and print shop. Whitehill offered poetry to Rice, and the two women conceived of an art/poetry/film project which would explore contemporary themes such as climate change, social injustice, despair and hope. Their vision resulted in a book, "Heavy Lifting," which was published last year. The "Heavy Lifting" event in Willits is part of a book tour.

According to Rice, "Heavy Lifting tackles our individual and public crises of our time in book form,

performance, and dialogue, providing a way to share our experiences from the past several years and an opportunity to think collaboratively about our shared future."

At the event, Rice will share stories about the fire and about how she rebuilt after it. Due to a death in her family, Whitehill will not be present. Instead, a veritable Parnassus of local poets, including Michael Riedell, Jabez William Churchill, Susan Baird Kannan, and Georgina Marie Guardado, will read many of the poems that are published in the book.

During the evening, Rice will invite audience members to share stories or poems which reflect their experience of these times. Other than these stories and poems, there will be no open reading period at this poetry event.

Entry to the "Heavy Lifting" book celebration is by donation and no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

More of Wildfires | From page 1

owned by the federal government, which has provided \$500 million going into this year's fire season. Twelve new airplanes and seven new helicopters will be coming online soon, and 125,000 acres of prescribed burns have taken place in the past year.

McGuire offered his email address, senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov to find support for issues around wildfire prevention and preparedness.

Marin Fire Chief Weber referred to the three concentric circles of fire prevention, including fire-adapted community resources, landscape fuel reduction, and prescribed burns and long-term forest recovery. He emphasized, "We need to learn to live with fire," and recommended the www.ReadyforWildfire.org website for its thorough look at what all Californians can do to protect property and save lives.

CAL FIRE's Chief Hess emphasized that firefighting readiness has been bolstered by new staffing, more and better fire modeling and detection, and a commitment to more and earlier evacuations. He referred to the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, which offers an integrated approach to boost forest health and encourage communities to withstand and adapt to wildfire and the changing climate.

Hess pointed out that Northern California has endured 12 atmospheric rivers this year alone, which has lifted much of California out of drought conditions, but is also causing

a record-high grass crop referred to as "herbaceous fuel loading" – giving wildfires increased energy. The record rainfalls also caused storm damage to forests, adding to the number of dying and dead trees, and accelerating snow melt in areas where trees were destroyed in past fires.

Senator McGuire commented on the importance of continuing to fill staff shortages, and engaging the California Conservation Corps and the California National Guard to create more and better fuel breaks and remove dead and dying trees in fire-prone areas.

Weber noted that the coming fire seasons are on track to be hotter, longer, and more extreme than ever before. Current fire seasons are 70 days longer than in the past, and extreme wind events create drier environments that have led to the new norm of year-round firefighting.

Weber spoke eloquently about what individuals can do to protect themselves and their neighbors, starting with the creation of defensible space at least 5 feet around every house. He urged everyone to register with early notification systems and have a go-bag on the ready, recommending www.ready.gov for its detailed information.

Finally he emphasized the critical importance of neighbors knowing neighbors, identifying and helping seniors and

Read the rest of Wildfires | Over on page 9

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to 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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P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047 willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633

Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047

Jackie Cobbs, features editor

Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer / mathew@willitsweekly.com

Forrest Glycer, reporter / features writer / forrest@willitsweekly.com

Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter / willitsweekly@gmail.com

Danya Davis, Police Log / danya@willitsweekly.com

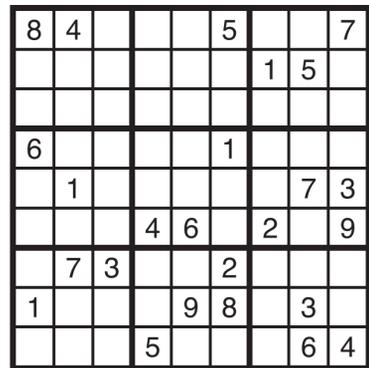
Margi Gomez Guide, features writer / reporter / margi@willitsweekly.com

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



Level: Intermediate



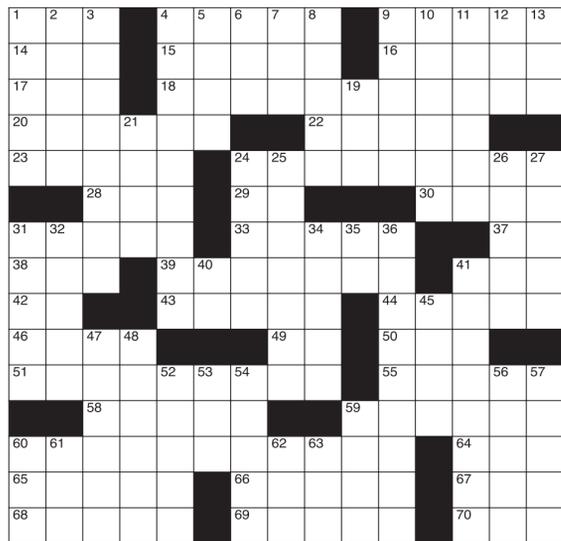
HOW TO SUDOKU

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

POPCORN WORD SEARCH



- | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| BAG | FLUFFY | POPPER |
| BALL | KERNELS | POT |
| BUTTERY | KETTLE | SALT |
| CARAMEL | MICROWAVE | SNACKS |
| COB | MOVIE | SPICES |
| CONCESSION | OIL | STEAM |
| EXPLODE | PAN | STORAGE |
| FAIR | POPCORN | STINGS |



CLUES ACROSS

- Midway between south and southeast
- Fathers
- Wine grape
- Al Bundy's wife
- Organic compound
- Venezuelan state
- Interest term
- Experts
- Central cores of stems
- Smooth and glossy
- One-time S. Korean city
- One from Damascus
- Short message at the end of an email
- It cools your home
- Oh, God!
- Intestinal pouches
- Men
- Popular English soccer team (abbr.)
- Former CIA
- Arrange in steps
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- The Great Lake State
- Dog ___: to mark a page
- Stop moving
- Ancient Dead Sea region
- Of I

- Clerical vestment
- Songs sung to a lover
- Charges
- Popular design program manufacturer
- Where to park a boat
- One who values reason
- Slang for cigarette
- Sailboats
- Actress Zellweger
- Screen material
- Country music legend Haggard
- Puts together in time
- When you hope to arrive

CLUES DOWN

- An involuntary and abnormal muscular contraction
- Philly's rail service
- Leaves a place
- No longer be a part in
- Guitar players use them
- Cease to exist
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Shaking of the earth
- Strong winds
- For each one
- A bog
- The creation of beautiful or significant things

- Affirmative
- Pie ___ mode
- Nonclerical
- Inspirational football player Hamlin
- Learning environment
- Khoikhoi peoples
- Bring out or develop
- Shows up
- Theatrical device
- Loads
- Popular Hollywood alien
- Distinguishes
- College dorm worker
- Secondary or explanatory title
- Resembling wings
- One who delivers a speech
- In the middle
- Loop with a running knot
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Beloveds
- Ordain
- Breed of small cattle
- Very small period of time (abbr.)
- Revolutions per minute
- For ___
- Longtime ESPN anchor Bob
- A place to stay

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

April 9 to April 16

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **90 incidents** in this 8-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

April 9

11:35 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of Raymond Lane.

3:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Mill Creek Court.

5:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of East Oak Street and Railroad Avenue.

April 10

9:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

April 11

9:15 am: Officers responded to a report of unwanted subjects in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

9:20 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.

11:53 am: Officers responded to a report on an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of South Main Street.

April 12

11:14 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

5:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

April 13

1:33 am: SOUTHARD, Rhett Aaron (28) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

The rest of Murders

Andrade Ayala's 17-year-old son, said killing occurring at the same grow site on Sherwood Road.

Again, the jury found true a second special allegation that the defendant separately, personally and intentionally discharged a firearm causing the demise of Ayala Rodriguez.

In a third count, defendant Gamble was found guilty by jury verdict of animal abuse, a felony charge relating to a number of roosters found by law enforcement in a burn pile, along with the headless bodies of the two human victims.

The victims were found in April 2021, and Gamble was charged with murder that same month.

The severed heads of the human victims were never located by law enforcement.

Finally, the jury found true a special circumstance alleging that defendant Gamble committed at least two murders, with at least one of the two being murder of the first degree.

As the death penalty had been taken off the table by the prosecution early in the case, the true finding on the special circum-

12:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1100 block of Locust Street.

1:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

April 14

11:32 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:58 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

6:37 pm: CHAVAN, Desiree Lynn (38) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Pearl Street following a report of an unwanted subject. She was arrested pursuant to 240 PC (Assault), 242 PC (Battery), 273 (G) PC (Lewdness or Intoxication in the Presence of a Child), and on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

8:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Central Street and Alameda Avenue and issued a warning.

April 15

12:04 am: ESTES, Ashleigh Anne (38) of Seattle, Washington was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 11550 HS (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance) and 11364 HS (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia).

10:27 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of McKinley Street and West Valley Street and issued a citation.

8:45 pm: REICHENBACH, Zachary Samuel (31) of Dos Rios was contacted near the intersection of South Main Street and Wood Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol.

9:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:32 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 25000 block of

Read the rest of Police

Over on page 11



Photo by Mathew Caine

Capability Brown

Stone mason Louis Rohlicek creates elegant yet earthy landscaping and fireplaces

"Capability Brown was an 18th-century landscaper in England," related stone mason Louis Rohlicek, explaining the origins of the name of his company. "He's a household name over there. When I was setting up my business, we were on a trip to England to see Sally's relatives. Someone suggested I name the business after this landscaper.

"He was an interesting guy," said Rohlicek. "He transformed landscaping. Before Brown, landscaping was kind of the Versailles look. Everything was geometrically perfectly symmetrical. This wasn't good enough for Capability (real name, Lancelot) Brown.

"He began what came to be known as the 'Natural Landscape,'" Rohlicek told. "He would make lakes by hand, without the modern tools. He would plant small forests of trees and small gardens and hahas [a natural barrier for livestock, created by an abrupt rise, about eight feet, which looked like the grounds continued on rather than having a fence]. I would love to build a haha but nobody has hired me to do it, yet. Some people hated him because he was arrogant about the formality of the 'true landscaping' of the time."

Listening to longtime Willits resident Rohlicek, one comes away with a heightened knowledge of the art (with an emphasis on the word "art") of stonework, especially in this area. With years of experience and projects from Laytonville to Redwood Valley, Rohlicek's influence on the craft of landscaping becomes obvious, despite the fact that most of his work is in backyards and inside homes.

He has an encyclopedic depth of knowledge, gleaned through years of study, his association with the Stone Foundation (an unending source of knowledge and ideas), and his experiential familiarity of much time plying his trade. He is full of stories, quips, history and lore on the subject of masonry.

In addition to his day gig as a landscaper (with a masonry specialty), he teaches political science online at Mendocino College, making use of his degree from the University of Chicago. He can also be seen occasionally on the stage at the Willits Community Theatre (most recently in Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys").

How did this one-time political science major end up in Willits, creating fireplaces, patios, retaining walls, walkways, stairways, and hot tubs?

"After I ended my studies at the University of Chicago, in political science, I needed a big break. I needed to get away from libraries and institutions. I wanted to work outside and use my hands. So, I just started learning gardening. Every once in a while, people would ask me to do things with stone, pathways and walkways, etc. It always turned out really well. This was about 55 years ago.

"When our son, River, was about 2 years old," said Rohlicek, "Sally and I got the back-to-the-land bug. It was a disaster economically. I ended up teaching landscaping at Laytonville High School. We rented the old Pinches ranch house in Spy Rock. I thought we were going to get killed for sure because every pickup truck we passed had a gun in the back. But we loved the area and knew we would never get an opportunity to live in a place so beautiful. We moved out of there just as cannabis began to take over the economy.

"I wanted to be hired as groundskeeper at the Laytonville High School but they said I had to teach a class in 'Ornamental Horticulture.' All the freshmen and sophomore bad boys that no one wanted in their activity classes were put into my Ornamental Horticulture class. We got to know each other and actually built some things. We built a greenhouse. I got to know the town this way. I still run into some of my students, who are now in their 50s.

"Then, we moved from Laytonville to Willits," Rohlicek continued, "and I started working with Gary Owen and Yurgos Sevilas. We formed a landscape business together for about 10 years. Then I went out on my own because I realized that I wanted very much to focus on stonework which started really taking off."

As heavy lifting is no longer in Rohlicek's skillset, he has found two willing assistants. "I'm very lucky right now. I have two wonderful assistants, James and Mark Vander Horck. James worked with me a long time ago and he developed masonry skills. Mark is learning the most right now. He wants to learn masonry. He's young. He's strong. It's a pleasure to teach both of them."

Although Rohlicek is an experienced landscaper, he prefers, these days, to concentrate on the stonework which he finds to be his most satisfying creative outlet. To contact Capability Brown, call 459-2237 or email rohlicek@pacific.net.

At left: Capability Brown owner and stone mason Louis Rohlicek is always ready to impart some knowledge or a story.

At right: Rohlicek created this flagstone patio very much appreciated by this cat.

Below, left: The Capability Brown crew poses in front of a stone arch that they built: Mark and James Vander Horck stand on either side of Louis Rohlicek. Below, right: This stone outdoor fireplace is a fine example of Rohlicek's functional art.

At bottom, left: A pizza lover's paradise is both beautiful and functional. At bottom, right: Stones are an attractive base for this greenhouse at the home of Jon Spitz of Laytonville.



Below: This garden staircase takes one to a lovely meditation shelter. At bottom, left: A flagstone walkway is a beautiful way to enter a home. At bottom, right: An example of a Rumford fireplace which radiates heat more efficiently than regular square fireplaces.



Photos by Louis Rohlicek



COVID-19 vaccines are here for children 6 months and older.

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Serving the community since 1926

<https://willits.org/>

299 East Commercial Street
Willits, California 95490

Please feel free to visit our office for brochures, maps and additional information about the area

(707) 459-7910

What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, May 11

"Talk with Supervisor John Haschak": A series of open discussions with Third District Supervisor John Haschak on the second Thursday of the month, at 10 am, at Brickhouse Coffee. "Bring your ideas and solutions to making Mendocino County a better place for all" – Supervisor Haschak. Thursday, May 11 at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.

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. 50 South Main Street.

Friday, May 12

May WCA Art Talk: Willits Center for the Arts Art 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

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

Willits Photography Club May Meeting: "Join us for friendship, inspiration, sharing and fun. Beginners to professionals are welcome to join." Every second Saturday at 10 am, Saturday, May 13 this month, at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street (come to the back door).

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."

Family Day at the Rec Grove: Nuestra Alianza de Willits invites you to celebrate Family Day, on Saturday, May 13, noon to 4 pm, at the Rec Grove, South Lenore Avenue and East Commercial Street. Celebrating Children and Mothers, and offering a variety of activities, including the participation of Little Lake Fire Department and Willits Police Department, and other organizations. Free entrance to the Museum. Mexican Treats, Organized Games, Raffles, Face Painting and Karaoke. Bring chairs and blankets if desired.

"Heavy Lifting" Poetry Reading: Book designer and publisher Felicia Rice of Mendocino and a host of local poets will combine to introduce the newly published book, "Heavy Lifting." Saturday, May 13 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. The poets, including Michael Riedel, Susan Baird Kannan, Jabez William Churchill, and Georgina Marie Guardado, will read poems by "Heavy Lifting" co-author Theresa Whitehill. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. Donations accepted.

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 piano music and jazz standards performed by the Velvet Vipers, "San Francisco's swinging tribute to New Orleans Jazz of the '20s, '30s and beyond." With Sarah Ryan of The Real Sarahs, and Jim Dooley, well-known local trumpet player from Funkacillin and Pura Vida. Prelude by Frankie J. Saturday, May 13, 6 to 11 pm at the Grange, 291 School Street. Tickets are \$100, limited to 80 tickets, available at Flying Dog Pizza. The dinner menu by Black Dog Catering is inspired by classic steakhouse menus, and features beef from John Ford Ranch. Mendo Ferments, Mindful Meals, and Grant's Goodies are also event sponsors and will be collaborating to prepare and serve the dinner. Silent Auction. No Host Bar. "Martinis, Manhattans and Champagne." Cosmic Pickle Productions presents.

MUESTRA ALIANZA DE WILLITS
LOS INVITA PARA

El Día de la Familia

Presentado a los Niños y las Mamas
Día: Sábado, 13 de Mayo 2023
Lugar: Rec Grove (Parque viejo)
Hora: 12:4 pm

¡Ofrecemos diferentes actividades con la participación de los miembros de los Departamentos de Policía y Fuego, Grupos de Música y Otros Organizaciones y Tendememos, Artistas Mexicanos, Juegos Organizados, Raffles, Prizes, pinatas de cartas y karaoke!

Sunday, May 14 Happy Mother's Day!

Senior Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am; May pancake breakfast is set for Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, with a free mimosa (champagne and orange juice) in honor of the day. 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

Tuesday, May 16

"Road & River" at WHS: a Choral Concert presented by Willits Community Choir of Mendocino College, at the Allen J. Garcia Auditorium at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Tuesday, May 16 at 7 pm. Directed by Janice Hawthorne Timm. Free admission.

Wednesday, May 17

Mobile Herbal Wellness Clinic Opening: The Mendocino Community Wellness Collective and the Mendocino County Herb Guild announce the opening of the Mobile Herbal Wellness Clinic, which will offer free and donation-based herbal consultations, herbal education and a wide range of herbal remedies and products. Staffed with a rotation of community herbalists, nurses, and other health care practitioners. Wednesday, May 17, 24 and 31 from 3 to 6 pm in the parking lot of

St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Commercial and Main Street. Interested in hosting the clinic? Email mendocwc@gmail.com

'Blue Zones Project Story': Avenues to Wellness presents: "Blue Zones Project Story," May 17, 6 to 7 pm at Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "Blue Zones Project" is a community-led 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. Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit www.avenuestowellness.org to view Video Archives of previous talks. Please note this talk will meet at a new location.

Thursday, May 18

Pop Up Food Distribution: Mendocino Food and Nutrition presents a Willits event, Thursday, May 18, from 2 to 3 pm at 1250 Blosser Lane. www.fortbraggfoodbank.org

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.

Willits Chamber of Commerce Mixer: sponsored by the Willits Lions Club at the Scout Hut in the Recreation Grove Park on Thursday, May 18, 5 to 7 pm. Members and prospective members of Chamber and Lions welcome.

Friday, May 19

Los Troubadoux at Shanachie Pub: "Los Troubadoux is a group of the world. With accordion, percussion, bass, and guitar together, it plays original songs in French, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Creole and English, in the styles of Samba, Forro, Kompa, Carimbo, Son-cubano." Friday, May 19, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, May 20

WECS Benefit Golf Tournament: Golf players are invited to sign up for a tournament hosted by Brooktrails Golf Course on Saturday, May 20, starting at 9 am. Proceeds from the event will go toward the Willits Elementary Charter School staff emergency fund. Entry fee: \$40, includes a drink token and lunch. Raffle with prized donated by Willits businesses. Sign up by calling the Brooktrails Golf Course at 707-367-5465 or emailing jaclyn.christian30@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 21

Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale: Annual sale features Vegetables, Flowers, Fruits, California Natives, Medicinal & Culinary Herbs, and more. Sunday, May 21, 10 am to 3 pm. 130 Tuttle Lane, east of Main Street, a block north of the Post Office – look for the signs. Contributors include Donna D'Terra, Golden Rule Gardens, Mendocino County Herb Build, Morgan Rex, Richard TooTreese Jeske, and Quail Seeds.

"What's Being Afraid Got to Do with It?": A Night of Curative Theater by performance artist Carla Starla at the Grange, part of an every-third-Sunday series. Comedy, Healing, Music, Dance. Sunday, May 21, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Show from 5 to 7 pm; 18+, all ages after 5:30 pm. \$10 at the door. Food provided by Splash Valley Farms.

Carla Starla presents A ONE WOMAN SHOW
"WHAT'S BEING AFRAID GOT TO DO WITH IT?"
A NIGHT OF CURATIVE THEATER
SUNDAY MAY 21ST
LITTLE LAKE GRANGE 291 SCHOOL ST / WILLITS SHOW 5:00-7:00 PM. ALL AGES AFTER 5:30 PM AT DOOR. FOOD PROVIDED BY SPLASH VALLEY FARMS.

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

Ongoing Events

"High Off the Land": Willits Center for the Arts' new traveling exhibit, artists' interpretations of living with cannabis the last 50 years, on display at WCA through May 28. The show will move to the Ukiah Art Center for June, and show at the Gualala Art Center in July. WCA gallery hours are Friday-Sunday, 11 am until 5 pm. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: www.willitscenterforthearts.org or call 707-459-1726.

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 Willits 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.

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 SAI insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Mike Tobin Sensei at 354-0565. Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street.

CHP hosts 'Coffee with a Cop' in Covelo, May 12

Submitted by CHP, Garberville

On Friday, May 12, officers from the California Highway Patrol Garberville office and community members will come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, have coffee, and build relationships.

All community members are invited to attend "Coffee with a Cop," Friday, May 12 starting at 9 am, at the Walnut Grove Café, at the Round Valley Library, 23925 Howard Street, in Covelo. Please contact Officer Cleverger with questions: 707 932-6100.

"Coffee with a Cop" provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in Humboldt's neighborhoods (and in northern Mendocino County).

The majority of contacts law enforcement has with the public happen during emergencies or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship-building with the community, and some community members may feel officers are unapproachable on the street. "Coffee with a Cop" breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

"We hope community members will welcome the opportunity to ask questions, bring concerns forward, or simply get to know our officers," said Lieutenant Tami McCannless. "These interactions are the foundation of community partnerships."

"Coffee with a Cop" is a national initiative supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the country as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve.

The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

MENDOCINO FOOD AND NUTRITION

www.fortbraggfoodbank.org

POP UP FOOD - WILLITS!

MAY 18, 2-3 p.m.
1250 Blosser Ln, Willits Ca, 95490

The Willits Photography Club

Invites you to join us for
Friendship, inspiration, sharing, and fun.
Beginners to Professionals are welcome to join.

We meet the second Saturday of each month.
Our next meeting will be this coming Saturday, May 20th, 2023 at
The Willits Center for the Arts
71 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490

MENDO CRAFTS PRESENTS

VENDORS FAIRE

May 13, 2023
11am - 5pm
11 N Marin St, Willits, CA 95490
Sidewalk and parking lot

One of a kind gifts for loved ones

FREE ADMISSION

Inland Mendocino Democratic Club

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: inlandmendocinos.org

GOLF TOURNAMENT

MAY 20 9 AM
BROOKTRAILS GOLF COURSE

Includes drink token and lunch

FREE ADMISSION

50

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

A benefit for Willits Elementary Charter School

Mobile Herbal Wellness Clinic opening soon

Submitted by the Mendocino Community Wellness Collective

The Mendocino Community Wellness Collective and the Mendocino County Herb Guild are pleased to announce the opening of our Mobile Herbal Wellness Clinic.

The clinic will be offering free and donation-based herbal consultations, herbal education, and a wide range of herbal remedies and products. The mobile clinic will be staffed with a rotation of community herbalists, nurses, and other health-care practitioners.

This month the mobile clinic will be hosted in the parking lot of St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church at the corner of Commercial and Main Street in Willits for the next three Wednesdays: May 17, May 24, and May 31, from 3 to 6 pm.

We are eager to move the Mobile Wellness Clinic to a wide range of locations in our county, such as public libraries, schools, youth centers, senior centers, public gatherings and events. Please contact us at mendocwc@gmail.com if you are interested in hosting the Mobile Herbal Wellness Clinic.

American Legion Poppy Day Drive in May

Willits American Legion Post 174 will be hosting a Poppy Day Donation Drive in May, distributing poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families with medical and financial needs.

The American Legion family will be in front of Willits Safeway on May 12, 13, 17, 19, and 20, from 10 am to 5 pm, and in front of Willits Mendo Mill May 12, 13, 19, and 20, from 10 am to 3 pm. Keep up with the local post by visiting "American Legion Post 174 Willits CA" on Facebook.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.
Info: 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, 50 South Main Street

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

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!"

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

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Guardians of the Galaxy 3'

The Story: It's Good Guys versus Bad Guys once more in the Marvel Universe. Superhero Rocket, the genius raccoon (Bradley Cooper) who insists he isn't a raccoon, is wounded in a chaotic fight with Adam Warlock. Rocket is dying.

Dan Essman Columnist
Quill aka Star Man (Chris Pratt) reassembles the scattered Guardians of the Galaxy, and they all charge off to the realm of the unpredictable High Evolutionary, a raving, megalomaniacal geneticist with an unpleasant penchant for slaughtering his own genetically modified animals. It is he who has the key to saving Rocket's life.

The newly re-gathered Guardians are very nearly killed numerous times by the High Evolutionary's genetically weird creatures (who are ugly and mean and, considering their creator, don't know no better).

My Thoughts: This is a big story that has to cover a lot of ground. First, Rocket's mysterious origins. Then, Quill's despair at Gamora's (Zoe Saldana) death in the Infinity War. And now Kraglin (Sean Gunn), who controls a deadly steel arrow with his mind, has a talking dog who also has telekinetic powers.

Mantis (Pom Klementieff) tries and mostly fails to keep the impulsive Drax (Dave Bautista) from screwing things up for everybody, though he means well. And Baby Groot's (Vin Diesel) vocabulary is still limited to three words ("I am Groot."), no matter the situation. And though self-pitying cyborg Nebula (Karen Gillan) has become even more butch than she has always been.

Crikey! Good movie! It's non-stop action, brilliant CGI, loaded with backstory and forward story, properly snarling villains, and terrifically fun.

Parents: There's so much Marvel Universe backstory, your little ones could be confused. And it's 2.5 hours long. I'd go ages 12 and up. Though the little kids will probably pester you. In terms of moral values, the Virtue of Mercy, even for monsters, is foremost.

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



Above and below: Artworks from the new Willits Center for the Arts exhibit "High Off the Land."

'High Off the Land'

Willits Center for the Arts' new traveling exhibit, artists' interpretations of living with cannabis the last 50 years, will be on display at WCA through May 28. The show will move to the Ukiah Art Center for June, and show at the Gualala Art Center in July. WCA gallery hours are Friday-Sunday, 11 am until 5 pm. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: www.willitscenterforthearts.org or call 707-459-1726.



Happy Mother's Day!

Celebrate with those you love on Sunday, May 14!



Me my wife Tawny and our son Ryan.



Love you mom, always and forever grateful you're our mom! Love, Todd and Crystal.



Happy Mother's Day to the best mom ever! This past year has been such a whirlwind and seeing you grow and truck through everything that's been thrown at you has given us a newfound love and respect for you. You're so strong and continue everyday amazing us. — Love Jess and Tay.



This is my Granddaughter, Robyn Granados-Wright and me, Carole Hester, on the day we went searching for a wedding dress for her.



Happy Mother's Day, Mom and Sarah. We love you! Love, Meg and The Family.



Happy Mother's Day to the most loving and fun Mom, Joanne Craighead! We love you so much!



Happy Mom day to two of my favorite mommas ever! Lucky to have you both! Love, Hollie, Heather, and Crystal BFFs for life!



Eye love you, Mommy and Happy Mother's Day. Love, Magnolia.



To my wonderful wife, Glenda Brown amazing wife and grandmother to us HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.



Bowlin Gramma & Mom loving our Saturday workouts!



Macy wanted to say "thank you mom, for always being there for me... I love you so, so much." Macy Barnes and Necole Aguilar.



Happy Mother's Day! We love and cherish you so much. Love, Dad, Jessie, Lilly, Sawyer and Nancy.



Happy Mother's Day Ashley, the kids are blessed to have you as a mom.



My mom has been fighting cancer for 5 years and she's now terminal this might be her last Mother's Day.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Gentle Marmaduke

This handsome dog is a strong, active guy. During his evaluation and meet and greet, Marmaduke was curious and mellow, and he tried to give kisses to everyone! This guy is friendly, easy-going, and likes to be around people. Marmaduke appears to be a gentle giant, and has a soft mouth when taking treats. We think Marmaduke will make a great family dog. If you like the BIG sweetie-pie dogs, get to the shelter and meet Marmaduke in person!

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 Marmaduke or our other feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinoshelter.com.



Clever Keela

It's hard not to fall in love with Keela and her searching, intelligent eyes! She's such a smart girl, and is always interested in what's going on around her. She seems to instinctively understand what you want when you talk to her, and she's happy to cooperate. She knows some basic commands, is fully house trained, walks well on leash, and sits and waits patiently for her food. Did we say that she's a quick learner?

To learn more about Keela or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

Distinguished Winston

For the last five years Winston has been a loved and cherished member of a family. His owner can no longer keep him and while we understand the circumstances around his surrender, Winston does not.

Winston is very sad but still wowed us today with all he knows. He's not the bouncy boy we once knew and the sprinkle of gray on his muzzle shows his age. While he might not be a young whippersnapper any more, Winston has settled into a rather distinguished gentleman and we would love to find a foster or forever home for Winston ASAP! And lucky for you, he has been primed and prepped over the years to make a fantastic best friend!

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.mendocinohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



The rest of Museum

From page 1

week, and the board praised the museum staff, including Museum Administrator Karen Mattson and Director Deb Fader Samson who were in attendance, for what they've accomplished recently and for improving the overall outlook for the facility.

Mattson spoke at the meeting, saying: "Mainly I'd just like to express appreciation to the entire community for working on this project. We actually started working on our Strategic Plan in April of last year, and we've had tremendous support from the community."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak said he had helped work on the plan, and that "there's been a really dedicated group of people who've been working on this."

"I think it's really a great roadmap forward," said Haschak. "The education component ... is very important for the museum, and it'll teach kids and everyone in our community what the history of Mendocino County's been about. The connection with other historical societies and museums and the Roots of Motive Power have been very powerful collaborations for making it a stronger museum. And ... the financial stability of the museum, I think it's on solid ground."

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde praised Mattson specifically, saying, "Karen, you've done a fantastic job at the museum. I know you inherited a pretty dusty collection and you cleaned it up," said Gjerde, "disposed of material in the best way that a museum would [for things] that couldn't stay there."

"But now you're really focusing, it looks like to me, on the next stage of museum planning – how do we get the curated items visible to the public in a better way?"

The May 9 report from Mattson showed that the number of visitors to the museum from July of 2022 through March of 2023 was 3,808, up by nearly 1,000 visitors for the same timeframe of the prior year.

Museum income – from admission, donations, endowments and gift store purchases – for that July 2022 through March 2023 period nearly doubled compared to the previous year, up from \$10,475 to \$20,322.

In addition the museum recently received a donation from the Bittenbender Trust of \$500,000, and the interest from that could provide the museum with around \$23,000 annually.

In an April 23 letter from Museum Advisory Board Chairman Brent E. Walker to the county Board of Supervisors, he explained that the advisory board supported adding the bulk of the donation to the Community Foundation Museum Endowment, which "consistently earns 4%" annually.

Walker said that the \$23,000 per year "could go a long way towards programing, exhibits, and supplies, thereby reducing the burden placed on the general fund."

"Depositing it with the Community Foundation also means that our Mendocino County community members can benefit from it," said Walker.

According to the May 9 museum report from Mattson, the City of Willits also added an "increased donation" of \$10,000 "in support of exhibits and programs" at the museum.

As for updates on the museum's artifacts, the report states that since January of 2022, "2,520 item records were entered into our Past Perfect Museum collections database," and that "seven collections of historically significant artifacts have been donated this year."

The report also summarized the seven exhibits and six programs which have taken place over the last year or so.

Currently, the museum is showcasing "Gadgets Galore!," which runs through August 13, described on the website as a "fun hands-on exhibit" that "reveals hidden histories of everyday objects

"Various gadgets, both recognizable and strange, will be on display in Gadgets Galore, illustrating how industrialization transformed every American household in the 19th century," the description reads.

Mattson's report also commended the group "Friends of the Museum," saying that they had recently "created a promotional brochure" and "initiated a membership drive."

The long-term Strategic Plan from the museum staff and others is a detailed 20-page report that describes the county museum's history, vision, mission, aspirational values, and numerous goals moving forward.

"The process began with an analysis of the museum's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis)," the report states. "The group benefited from themed presentations targeting key

museum functions delivered by guest community leaders. Grace Hudson Director David Burton provided a presentation on the financial management of museums, West Company CEO Maryanne Petrillo provided a workshop on marketing strategies, and Greg Melton of Melton Design Group provided a presentation on the value of community placemaking."

The list of strengths for the museum in the report includes "professional staff, amazing collection, great recent press, central location, sustainability, and supportive community."

The weaknesses listed are "lack of community knowledge of potential impact, lack of public trust in government staff, low staffing level, and operating from a place of 'need.'"

The "threats" for the museum are described as "low expectations of the community, past bad press, and budget crunch."

The Strategic Plan lists dozens of specific goals in five different categories to improve the museum.

The goals are wide-ranging, and some examples include: "digitize photography collections," "establish an internship program," "continue to improve disaster preparedness efforts," "plan permanent exhibits 2-3 years in advance," "partner with local historical institutions county-wide," "expand hands-on learning exhibits," "implement a variety of adult-oriented [educational] programs," "continue to develop a strong foundation for K-5 education program," "improve visibility and expand use of the museum campus," and "improve marketing strategies to increase awareness of the museum as a pillar institution of the county."

In the survey filled out by more than 330 community members, some of the most popular suggestions for exhibits were ones focused on Native American history, arts and crafts, and "shipwrecks/seafaring" themes.

Some of the events with the most interest were those featuring "living history," author talks, guest speakers, and guest performances.

A "Community Brainstorm" section also had dozens of suggestions, such as "develop podcasts and virtual reality programs"; "outdoor/folk art"; "art nights, music, evening programs"; "guest-curated Pomo exhibit, including art throughout time"; and "develop a North Western Pacific exhibit and connect it to the Great Redwood Trail."

More information about the museum, including links to fill out a Strategic Plan survey and an event calendar, can be found at www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum.

Board rescinds fees for records

Also at Tuesday's BOS meeting, as expected, the board repealed the controversial county public records request fee ordinance, No. 4507, which had charged costs of \$20 to \$150 per hour of staff time used to those in the public requesting the records.

The supervisors unanimously approved repealing the ordinance, despite having unanimously approved putting the fees in place less than a year ago in July of 2022.

The county had recently come under threats of litigation due to the fee ordinance from several organizations, and Haschak had been pushing to repeal it for about six months.

Despite their agreement in repealing the ordinance, some heated debate still took place during the discussion between Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams, one of the co-sponsors of the repeal item, and Mendocino Voice publisher Kate Maxwell, one of the leading opponents of the ordinance since its approval last year.

Maxwell questioned why the fee ordinance was ever adopted in the first place, and said, "From my perspective this board has actually been one of the least transparent boards, and this ordinance is a good example of that."

Williams retorted that public records requests were costing the county much-needed money, and questioned whether certain requests from Maxwell were appropriate given high amounts of staff time needed.

"This county has declining revenue in real terms," said Williams. "Every year going forward, there's less to work with.... What you're requesting has a large expense associated."

Maxwell shot back, saying that the board and the county have an "obligation to make this information available to the public and that is state law."

"And so that burden needs to be on our elected officials so that people can actually engage and know what you all are doing and what's going on," she said.

The rest of Declare

From page 1

Fort Bragg mayor Bernie Norvell announced that he will be running in the Fourth District, which stretches from Caspar to the Humboldt County border.

These four are the only candidates who have officially filed "Notices of Intent" with the county to run for supervisor at this point, according to Amanda Wolter, assistant clerk-recorder and assistant registrar of voters.

However there is still plenty of time for others to throw their hat in the ring for the March 5, 2024 primary, as candidate filing won't officially begin for the county until September 14 of this year.

McCourt, who is serving his first term having been elected in 2020, issued a statement about why he would not be seeking another term.

"I did not reach this decision easily, but after 35 years in public service (33 as a UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor and 2.5 as a supervisor), I will be ready to call it a day when my term is up in 2024," he said. "There are still many adventures and plans I have for my life, and when this term is over, it will be time to pursue them. Among these include spending time with my grandkids, having the perfect garden that I never have time to care for, and visiting family and friends across California, the US and the world."

"I will always be grateful for the broad coalition of supporters who helped my campaign and voted for me," he added. "We all see the importance of caring for the place where we live, because it is such a unique and beautiful corner of the earth. I am so honored for the trust you have given me as your supervisor."

Trevor Mockel is the latest to announce his plans to run for supervisor in the First District, with a press release that includes a public statement and endorsements from all five of the county supervisors currently serving.

"Securing the future of the First District will be a three-part challenge that requires a delicate balance between water, fire, and agriculture," said Mockel. "Water is a precious resource in this district, and ensuring its sustainable use and conservation is critical for the future. At the same time, the threat of wildfires is an ever-present danger that must be addressed through proactive fire management strategies. Finally, agriculture plays a vital role in the district's economy and must be managed carefully to ensure its long-term viability."

"Balancing these three priorities will require careful planning, collaboration, and innovation to ensure that the needs of all stakeholders are met while preserving the district's natural resources for future generations," he added.

Mockel said that his experience includes "staffing and legislative work for two California state senators in their Capitol offices," "serving as a field representative for the California State Senate overseeing Mendocino, Lake, Trinity, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties," and "working for First Five of Mendocino County, Mendocino County Public Health, and the City of Ukiah City Manager's Office."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak said in a statement that he "enthusiastically" supports Mockel for supervisor.

"Trevor is a can-do person with deep roots in the community," said Haschak. "He listens to and cares about people. I have worked with Trevor on many issues and have found Trevor to be hard-working, persistent, and capable."

Adam Gaska announced his plans to run in late March with a public statement seen on multiple media outlets.

"I am a lifelong resident of Mendocino County," said Gaska. "For 41 of my 44 years I have called Redwood Valley home. I am a husband, father, a small business owner, and a farmer.... Food, farming and how those support personal, environmental, and economic health are passions of mine."

Gaska said his experience includes volunteering for the American Cancer

The rest of Police

From page 4

Poppy Drive.

11:50 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Madden Lane and Pearl Street.

April 16

12:27 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1600 block of Elm Lane.

3:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:54 pm: YADON, Joseph Odean (55) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the

Society by "going to classrooms teaching the 5-a-Day program which encourages children to eat 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables to prevent cancer"; running his Mendocino Organics farming business; and serving on the Redwood Valley County Water District board, the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council.

"While I believe Mendocino County is still a great place to work and live, I think we can do better," he said. "Our community suffers from a lack of affordable housing, water insecurity, a large unhoused population, stagnant wages, and understaffing at the county government level which affects our ability to be served by our local government."

"While these challenges are daunting, they are not insurmountable," he added. "We must constantly strive for improvement. The county government should play a key role in addressing these issues to the betterment of our community."

Carrie Shattuck has run for First District Supervisor before and indicated on her Facebook page back in February that she would be running again, saying that her message is "People not Politics and People not Party."

In a March 17 statement, Shattuck said, "I am a lifelong resident of Mendocino County. I have been the owner of a trucking company, school business manager, and caregiver, to name a few. I have attended each of the board of supervisor meetings for over a year and believe our county needs strong business leadership and direction, which I am capable, eager, and willing to give."

"There needs to be a standard of accountability and follow-through on many current issues," she continued. "My priority would be to scrutinize each line of the county budget to eliminate wasteful spending. Those dollars could be refocused into our neglected roads, placing focus on the maintenance of our thoroughfares."

"Another area of focus would be directing attention to business development in Mendocino County," she added. "We need to look to making our area attractive to potential businesses by advocating for the development of pro-business county regulations."

In his statement in March, Fourth District candidate Bernie Norvell said that he is also a lifelong resident of Mendocino County, and talked about his experience as city council member and mayor of Fort Bragg.

He said that he had worked with the police department and others to improve the homelessness situation in the area, by adding mental health and addiction services and "more effective policing."

"Through these collaborative efforts, police services being dedicated to homelessness were reduced by 44% within a year and arrests declined by 57%," said Norvell. "Not only did it allow our public safety departments to better allocate resources toward the community, but we also had numerous success stories of individuals receiving proper mental health and addiction services, being reunited with families, and rebuilding of lives."

Earlier in the statement, he said: "The county currently faces many difficult issues. A budget shortfall, increasing costs of the jail expansion, cannabis production and programs, as well as housing needs and water resiliency. It is my belief that collectively we cannot solve our problems until we recognize our inadequacies, identify plans that are not working, and start making concrete decisions that result in evident change."

Beginning September 14 of this year, supervisor candidates will have until December 8 to file with the county to run, with an additional week for those districts where the incumbent has chosen not to run.

For each district, if there is no candidate who receives more than 50% of the votes in the March 5, 2024 primary, the top two vote getters will face off in the general election in November of 2024.

influence of alcohol and driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher.

6:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:17 pm: ZALUNARDO, Chad Bertrand (48) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Sherwood Road and Birch Terrace. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher, and driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher.

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Expect the unexpected at the Grateful Gleaners plant sale, May 21

Submitted by the Grateful Gleaners

That's what you might be saying about our spring weather, but that's also what returning customers say about the upcoming Grateful Gleaners' plant sale on Sunday, May 21, the weekend after Mother's Day.

The Gleaner group has always had an incredibly varied selection of plants, ranging from vegetables and fruits to herbs and flowers and landscape plants, including those that are both annual and perennial, drought-tolerant and deer-resistant, and those that attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

There is a little of everything – thanks to donations from key Gleaners and many other gardeners in the area, who have donated favorites from their gardens for years, such as Tam Adams, Marisela de Santa Ana, Karen Gridley, Ellen Drell, Candice Clayton, Ann VanderHorck, Tom De Marchi, Ellen Bartholomew, Randy MacDonald, and others too numerous to name.

The many plants will be available for browsing in the yard behind the Gleaner garage on Tuttle Lane starting at 10 am sharp and lasting until 3 pm.

Other vendors and collaborators who will return again this year will be the Mendocino Herb Guild, with a wide array of medicinal herbs and knowledge of their uses. Richard Tootreese Jeske, who specializes in table grape varieties, will be there to sell starts and advise you on growing your own table grapes. Jamie Chevalier will have her heirloom and open-sourced seeds on sale. It is not too late to plant seeds this spring!

In addition, Golden Rule Gardens CSA will have a table for sign-ups for their CSA program which will provide you a basket of delicious fresh produce every week, without your having to pick up a shovel!

Morgan Rex, talented local metal artist, will bring some of his delightful garden art including wind chimes, mobiles and fountains. Lastly, Donna d'Terra – the wise woman who has championed the medicinal uses of herbs in our county for over 30 years – will be there to share her herbs and plant knowledge.

The Grateful Gleaners was formed out of the origins of WELL with the purpose of supporting local food security by harvesting fruit, vegetables and nuts that were already grown in the area, but were not harvested for a multitude of reasons. So rather than see food go to waste, Gleaner volunteers locate and harvest this produce and distribute it to local agencies and schools.

The group recruits new volunteers and team leaders at the plant sale and is always eager to learn about new growers with orchards or gardens that will need to be harvested in the coming months. For more information about the Gleaners, contact their voice mail 707-367-7391 or gratefulgleanersofwillits@gmail.com

The plant sale was originally designed to strengthen the group's visibility in the spring, but most of the proceeds are now used in the form of grants to support our enterprising local farmers who offer to feed the community through CSAs or farmers markets.

Come celebrate spring from 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday, May 21 at 130 Tuttle Lane, which is one block north of the post office. Look for directional signs. Please respect the starting time and bring cash – preferably in the form of small bills. Checks are accepted, but no cards.



At left, from top: Tidbits of gardening philosophy are displayed at the 2022 Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale. Donna d'Terra of Motherland Botanical Sanctuary holds up one of her herb plants. Jerry Albright came down all the way from his home near Emandal in 2022 to find some vegetable starts.

Above: Richard Jeske of East Hill Nursery offers his grape and tree collard starts at the 2022 sale. Below: Necole Aguilar fills up a carton with vegetable starts.



Grateful Gleaners Annual Plant Sale

Vegetables, Flowers, Fruits, California Natives, Medicinal & Culinary Herbs, and More!

Community Contributors Include: Donna d'Terra, Golden Rule Gardens, Mendocino County Herb Guild, Morgan Rex, Richard Tootreese Jeske, and Quail Seeds

Proceeds fund the Grateful Gleaners' mission to:

- Harvest fruit from local trees
- Distribute the bounty to community groups
- Provide grants to support farmers in the Willits foodshed



SALUTE TO SERVICE

Sherwood Valley Casino is giving back in a big way this month not only a huge campaign targeted to all our community service members.

On Mondays Sherwood Valley Casino's Salute to Service for all Veterans, Active Military, First Responders, Fire, Medical, Police, Teachers, Utility workers.

Earn 100 Todays Points to Receive \$25 Free Play and 50% off Creekside Cafe' food special coupon.

Must show participating valid ID.



We Prepared a Special Menu for our Service Members!

May's Monday Salute to Service Meals shall be:

May 1: Chili Relleno

May 8: Our famous Teriyaki Chicken Sandwiches

May 15: Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Then we close out our Salute To Service Meal Specials with a crowd favorite of:

May 22: BBQ Ribs and Mac and Cheese

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Mother's Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 14, 2023

8 A.M. TO 11 A.M.



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Pancakes

Maple Syrup at an extra charge

Biscuits & Gravy

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All proceeds benefit Willits Senior Center

Adults: \$10
Seniors \$9
Children: \$6 (under 8)