

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Safety and compassion

To the Editor:

You may have read in the paper about the “transient” Willits man who was horrifically, brutally, and randomly attacked while he slept in the alley next to the movie theater two weeks ago. Through grace, and the efforts of Howard Adventist Hospital and UC Davis Medical Center, he is back home and recovering.

Through the diligent and cooperative efforts of the Willits, Spokane WA, and Ft. Bragg Police Departments, an arrest was made, and the charged assailant is being extradited back to Spokane to face two other attempted murder charges for similar hate-crime attacks.

We can all feel appreciation and deep gratitude that the three (known) victims will recover physically, and for the skilled, focused and strong response of the police and medical personnel involved. Hats off to all of those heroes who were “just doing our job.”

At the same time, it feels important to look at how this could happen: That a group of people, many born and raised in Willits, graduates of the Willits school system, people who lived in houses and apartments more years than they’ve been without stable or permanent housing, could be seen with such hatred and disdain that someone tries to kill them.

On an uncomfortably related note, how can it be that as a community, Willits does not (unless there has been a wildfire) provide a safe, sheltered place for people temporarily without housing to lie down and sleep at night?

We provide no place for people to get out of extreme heat, winter cold and rain, to have access to a toilet or drinking water, or to charge their phones (unless there has been a wildfire). There is currently no place for people without financial resources to get a shower or do a load of laundry.

There are fewer housing and behavioral health service referral supports in Willits than there were even one year ago, with county Wellness Center availability reduced in Willits from 40 hours a week to 13.5 hours per week.

It’s true there are people who are transient, coming through Willits to work in the cannabis business, and these “trimmigrants” come and go seasonally. There is, however, a much larger group of people who are long-term residents of Willits and justifiably call Willits their home. They are not transients.

Some move into and out of housing, effected by violence in the home, loss of a job, medical crisis, substance use and mental health disorders. Many pass right by you in the grocery store, at church, in the library, walking down the street. A person with a car, or some family support, a part-time job, and absence of a long-term substance use or mental health disorder can find ways to hide the lack of a real address or a roof over their heads. The folks you see and identify as homeless are but the tip of the iceberg.

What can we do? Start simply by considering the existence of economic, housing and health factors that have led to a significant increase of people, nation-wide, who do not have stable, safe, or permanent housing. Start by asking questions such as “If you don’t have a place to live, money, or a family support system, no matter what the reason, should there still be a place you are welcome to get water, go to the toilet, and charge a phone?”

I’ve been told Mendocino County is applying for state Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program grant money that could be available in the fall, marked specifically to address and reduce homelessness. How

that money is spent will be proposed by county Health and Human Services and ultimately approved by the board of supervisors. Past state grant money that could be linked to warming center / shelter beds has been allocated to Ft. Bragg and to Ukiah; we are hopeful that our supervisors and other elected officials will be advocating for the north county.

Every Saturday, for the past 20 years, volunteers from various Willits churches and other businesses or groups take turns making and distributing a bagged lunch, along with some friendly words and smiles, in City Park between 1 and 2 pm. Through years of having the good fortune to volunteer with this “Brown Bag Lunch” group, I’ve met many people who are living without shelter, in need, and at risk. They’re just folks; no one plans for themselves or a loved one to be living with so little.

Most do not stay in that position, but need some support when they’re down. One of the steady Brown Bag volunteers, a bright and capable person who contributes to her community in many ways, said to me “I brought my kids here on Saturdays, for years. It feels good to be on this side of the table.”

It’s humbling to consider how much most of us have.

Helen Falandes, Willits

Farmers need land

To the Editor:

In all the years that we ran Bountiful Gardens in this county I talked with countless young’ns who were in the same dilemma: “I don’t mind working for nothing to learn how to farm properly, but I need land to farm.”

There have always been two choices: Buy a large lot, or a house with a large yard, which is not enough; or mortgage your future to buy 20+ acres of rural land, 18 acres of which you probably don’t need. Finding country land in Mendocino County is difficult and relatively expensive.

In the past mini-farms were perceived to be too small to be commercially (or even sustainably) successful, yet in the last 10 years there have been books written and articles describing commercially successful examples of small 1 to 2 acre farms.

Most farmers in Mendocino County have adopted Ecology Action’s biointensive method, or some variation thereof. A biointensive farmer on their own would be hard-pressed to cultivate more than an acre biointensively. What all our aspiring farmers need are small farms that are neither too big or too small, that are like Goldilocks’ ideal, “just the right size” for them to have success.

Our zoning laws (justifiably) prevent dividing rural land into small parcels; how do we deal with that? Ten years ago Bob Whitney spearheaded an initiative to acquire 20 acres of land, make it an agricultural preserve, and then subdivide those acres into more useable sizes, leasing sub-plots of this land for commercial mini-farms. Bob’s untimely demise (RIP) ended that initiative back then, but we need it even more now. For practical reasons this land would have to be within biking distance of a town, preferably Willits.

The other hurdle is distribution; The farmer just wants to farm, does not want to have to go out and find customers and then get produce to them regularly. In the past this doomed many a small farmer, but we are so fortunate to have Food Hub, a dedicated non-profit that will take and deliver your produce (of most any sort) to most commercial outlets in our county. For a modest fee they will connect you online with all the commercial accounts to get orders, help you to plan and schedule everything, and then pick up and deliver the goodies. Even better, Food Hub needs the extra business to stay in business.

Recent letters have deplored how dependent we are on outside food, even our “fresh food” is mostly not local. Keith Rosen called for “food insurance” – this is the best possible food insurance – many active mini-farms churning out the organic produce.

Every 2 acre GrowBiointensive farm can produce astonishingly large harvests while improving the soil sustainably. There is not enough good agricultural soil in this county to attract many large commercial farms, so mini-farms will have to do.

That 20 acres of hay field could divide down into 10 plots, 2 acres each, for 10 aspiring commercial mini-farmers to seriously try their hand at commercial farming. There is a great likelihood that grant money could cover the infrastructure costs, and this lucky

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, July 20: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, July 21: Steak, Roasted Potatoes, Veggie, Roll

Monday, July 24: Chicken Salad Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

Tuesday, July 25: Pepperoni Pizza Pasta Bake, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, July 26: Carnitas Burrito, wet w/Green Sauce

Thursday, July 27: Sausage, Peppers & Onions over Rice

Friday, July 28: Turkey, Stuffing w/Gravy, Cranberry, Veggie, Roll

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

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

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

Last minute deadline for Creekside residents

Former Creekside residents that need additional financial assistance, that have not already received their Critical Needs Grant Funding, please contact United Disaster Relief of Northern California at your earliest convenience.

Call 707-489-3970 or email uniteddisasterrelief@gmail.com. All applications must be finalized by July 21, 2023.

CAL FIRE to trial AI with wildfire cameras

Sacramento - The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection announced a groundbreaking partnership with University of California San Diego’s ALERT California program last week.

With the shared goal of improving firefighting capabilities and response times, CAL FIRE and ALERT California will embark on an innovative Artificial Intelligence implementation trial in collaboration with the San Bernardino Unit, Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit, Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit, Nevada Yuba Placer Unit, Shasta-Trinity Unit, and San Luis Obispo Unit.

At the heart of ALERT California’s cutting-edge technology are its 1,032 high-definition, pan-tilt-zoom cameras strategically deployed throughout California. These cameras, including the 199 sponsored by CAL FIRE, create a 24-hour surveillance network equipped with near-infrared night vision, enabling efficient monitoring of active wildfires and other disasters.

With remarkable capabilities, ALERT California cameras can perform 360-degree sweeps approximately every two minutes, providing clear visuals of up to 60 miles on a clear day and an impressive 120 miles on a clear night. Visit the ALERT California website and explore their “camera quilt” to access live camera feeds and detailed network information: alertcalifornia.org

One of the key innovations being introduced through this partnership is an advanced AI tool developed by ALERT California. This groundbreaking tool is designed to identify abnormalities within the camera feeds, promptly notifying Emergency Command Centers and first responders of any significant changes that may require further investigation. Limited to authorized and trained Emergency Command Center and first responder users, this AI tool utilizes state-of-the-art anomaly detection tech-

Read the rest of **Letters** | Over on page 11

Read the rest of **CAL FIRE** | Over on page 9

A Playground for Pups

Humans and canines love to socialize at the Frank Grasse Dog Park on East Commercial

Frans Kafka once said, “All knowledge is contained in the dog.” Watching Diogee, Bella, Trixie, Ryujin, Finneas, Bear, Earl, and all the other canine visitors to the Frank Grasse Dog Park next to the skate park on East Commercial, it’s obvious that Kafka knew dogs as the sentient and playful beings that they are.

They form social strata, find ways to communicate with each other, greet their longtime friends with a wag of the tail or a quick sniff, create games and contests, run together, and enjoy the company of other furry creatures. They can be a hairy microcosm of human society, albeit with less responsibility and a lowered set of life concerns.

In bringing the dogs to the park to drain off some of their energy and make cohabiting a bit more mellow, the humans also have a place to meet with other dog owners, talk all things dog, compare notes, play “Guess the Breed,” share stories about where their friends came from (most from the Humane Society), and enjoy the company of other humans with a shared love of canines, a commonality that brings them together, many daily.

The Frank Grasse Dog Park was instigated by Ian and Erin Fitzpatrick, Louis and Sally Rohlicek, Chris and Greta Kanne, and Jeanne King, about 11 years ago.

“It started when we had our dog, Abby, who just passed away about a month ago,” recounted Fitzpatrick. “My wife was playing with her down by the ball fields. She ran into Louis Rohlicek, who was also playing with his dog. They came up with the idea that Willits needed a dog park because users of the ball fields didn’t like dogs doing their business on the playing fields. We roped in Chris and Greta Kanne and Jeanne King.

“We ended up presenting our plans to the city council for approval,” said Fitzpatrick. “They suggested that there was land next to the skate park and they were happy to support the dog park if we did the fundraising and work. We did a bake sale to raise money. We sold the bricks that you see when you first walk into the dog park.

“We raised enough to get the chain-link fence put in and we had several work days to clear the property, dig some trenches to put in the water line to the small dog park. We had tons of community input. It was really cool. It all came together quickly and efficiently,” Fitzpatrick said.

The group decided to name the park after Frank Grasse, who was a much-loved veterinarian at the East Hill Veterinary Clinic prior to turning it over to Chana Eisenstein.

Alex and Kelly Newman bring their lab-mix, Trixie, to the park daily to bleed off some of her doggie energy. “We’ve been coming to the dog park about a year now,” said Alex Newman. “We really like to be able to take our pets out and socialize. We live close by so we walk Trixie to the park. It’s good for the animals. It helps them to relax. It’s good for us. It’s a great way to socialize. It’s meditative for us, watching the dogs play.

“Trixie always knows when it gets to be this time of day that she wants to come here. It’s worse in the morning because she knows first thing in the morning, we bring her out. We bring her here twice a day,” said Alex Newman.

Savannah Pierson brings her lab-mix, Leia. “We come here as often as we can,” said Peterson. “We want our sweet pup to be socialized and have fun. It’s like the brewery for pups. Leia loves other dogs. We have a lot of space at home for her to run around, but she loves it here.”

Teddy, a Newfoundland border collie mix, doesn’t play much with other dogs but is beginning to interact a little bit. “She doesn’t come here to play with the other dogs. She comes to chase her stick. She plays a little bit but she goes over the jumps and guards her stick. Even though she doesn’t really play with the other dogs, it’s been really good to bring her here for socialization,” explained Valerie Boman.

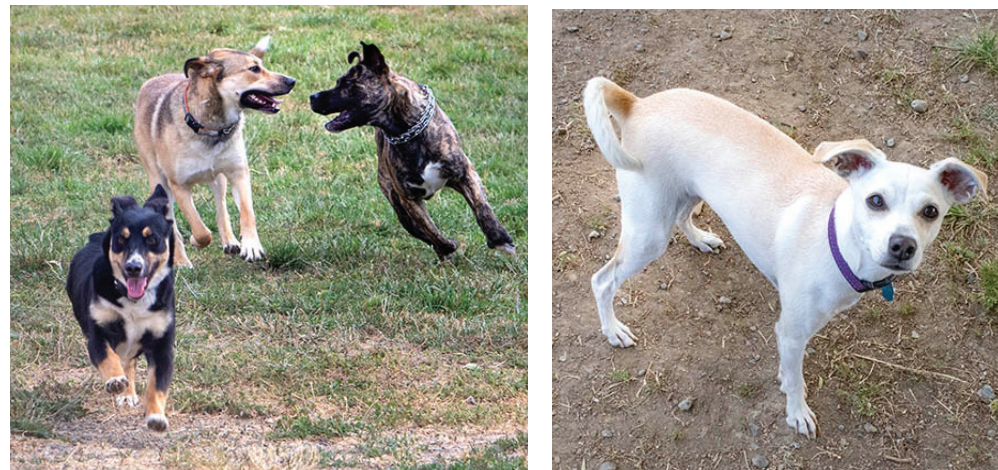
Gina Scott brings her little schnauzer, Earl, most days. Earl prefers the smaller park section for the smaller and shyer dogs. “Earl has two girlfriends – Missy and Bella,” said Scott. “He is a gadabout, but he treats them all with respect. We’ve been coming here for about three or four years. This is the best place for dogs to socialize. They need that. It’s beautiful out here and there’s a breeze.”

“Here’s the thing about dogs,” commented Alex Newman, “every morning they’re that same level of happy. They’re that same level of happy when you feed them. They’re that same level of happy when they know they’re going to go for a walk or ride in the car. It’s like the greatest experience ever. And it doesn’t matter how many times they do it. That pure joy reaction is always the same and it’s genuine. I think that’s a great model for us. We should live our lives and cherish every moment and enjoy everything. Don’t let our lives become mundane.”



At top, from left: Savannah Pierson loves to hang out at the dog park with Leia, her lab-mix. Rose Michels brings little Bear to the park daily. Gina Scott frequents the smaller dog park with her schnauzer, Earl, who has a doggie girlfriend named Bella. Above: Teddy loves two things at the park, to jump and to carry her stick. Below, left: Sometimes, the dogs just want to watch, which gives their owners a chance to talk. Below, right: The dogs wait patiently (mostly) for their owner to fling the ball.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, left: The dogs make friends with whom they can run and wrestle. Above right: Bella, a Jack Russell-Whippet mix loves hanging out.

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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Willits Weekly

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

(707) 459-7910

Thursday, July 20

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.

Towse at Shanachie: a folk-pop collective fronted by London-based singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Grace Fellow. Will be accompanied by Mendocino born-and-raised fiddler, Corwin Zekley. Thursday, July 20 at 7 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Friday, July 21

'Complete Streets' Workshop: The City of Willits and Blue Zones Project Mendocino County host a workshop on crafting and implementing complete streets policies, which help communities create road networks that are safe and inviting for everyone, including bicyclists, drivers, transit operators and users, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities. With Dan Burden, Blue Zones Fellow, "who has helped more than 3,500 communities throughout the world become more livable and walkable." Friday, July 21, from 8 am to 4:30 pm, Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Free. Morning snacks, coffee and lunch included. Register in advance at <http://go.bzpr.com/be3j5l>

Clay Hawkins Duo at Shanachie: "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart" by slide guitarist and songwriter Clay Hawkins and longtime co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass. Friday, July 21 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

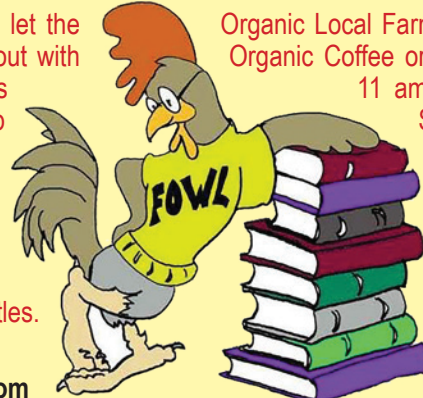
Ethno at BACE: Electronic World Music by Jeff Franca of Thievery Corporation. Friday, July 21, doors open 8 pm, 18+ \$20 pre-sale; \$25 at EventBrite.com. BACE, 109 North Main Street.

Saturday, July 22

12th annual Jesse Pittman Memorial Race: This fun 5K run/walk for all ages – for serious runners and others not so serious – takes place in Willits again this year. Saturday, July 22 at the Rec Grove. The event is a memorial in honor of Jesse D. Pittman, 1984-2011, who was raised in Willits, and was a Mendocino County CalFire firefighter, and a Navy SEAL who died while serving in Afghanistan. Funds raised go to college scholarships for Mendocino County students. Opens 7:30 am, race starts at 9 am. Pre-register at www.jessepittman.run, or sign up on race day.

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S BACK!
What's Happening Around Town

FOWL Pop Up Book Sale: "Don't let the summer heat get you down! Chill out with a good book." Friends of the Willits Library presents a Summer Pop Up Book Sale at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial, from Saturday, July 22 through Saturday, July 29. Come browse our garden and home project books, as well as children's, fiction and non-fiction titles. Books are CHEAP- 50 cents to \$1.



Organic Local Farm Fresh Eggs, Real Butter, Juice, Organic Coffee or Tea: Sunday, July 23 from 8 to 11 am, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. \$10, \$9 for seniors, \$5 children under 10. Also: extra sides of Organic Fruit \$2, Amish Organic Maple Syrup \$1, Fresh-made fruit syrup \$1, Extra Beelers Bacon \$1.

3rd Annual Great American Freedom Fly-in: Saturday, July 22, 11 am to 3

pm, at the Willits Airport in Brooktrails. Hosted by Willits Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 1027, now celebrating 30 years of service to the community: www.eaa1027.org. The public is invited to attend, see the planes up close and talk to the pilots, and enjoy a burger barbecue, beverages, and Haagen-Daz ice cream served from noon to 2 pm.

Dog Nail Trimming: with Alisha Richardson, Saturday, July 22 at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street, 2 to 4 pm. No appointment needed. \$20 to #25. Questions? Email k9nails@gmail.com

'The Great Upwising: Beyondananda and Beyond': An evening with Swami

Beyondananda, sure-fired wise guy and verbal ping pong champion. Saturday, July 22 at 7:30 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. "Through his mind-expanding humor the Swami seeks to bring people together in laughter and celebration, above and beyond political divides." \$20; tickets available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org and at the door.

Peter Jong Chang at Shanachie: Guitarist gives live performance of "Emerge" – all original fusion and instrumental rock styles, with elements of rock, jazz, funk, soul, and reggae blended together seamlessly. Saturday, July 22 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, July 23

Grange Pancake Breakfast: "Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast for all you can eat pancakes (choose our Sourdough Wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-free), Beeler's Quality Bacon,



Blushin' Roulettes at Shanachie: Guitarist / songwriter Angie Heimann and Cas Sochacki on dobro, deliver old-time tunes with a modern twist. Thursday, July 27 at 7 pm. \$10. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

'The History of Cattle Brands': A community conversation about the importance of cattle brands, community, and history. Sunday, July 23, 1:30 to 3 pm, Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. With Archives volunteer Carol Cox, Curator Lindsey Dick, local Rancher Dan Arkelian, Blacksmiths Jim and Marianne Underhill, and other community members... Included with the cost of general admission, \$7 adults. More info: www.mendocinocounty.org/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.org, or 707-234-6365.

Thursday, July 27

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.

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Friday, July 28

'A Night of Jazz': "Sultry vocalist Sharon Garner joins the Lincoln Andrews trio for an evening of rare and vivid jazz sounds at the Willits Community Theatre on Friday, July 28 at 7:30 pm. Garner's vocal work extends impressively from the 1980s into the present, while she performs regularly at the North Coast Brewing Company and the Headlands Coffeehouse. The global perspective in the beats of Mendocino County native Lincoln Andrews



on his double bass blend with Andrew Loudon on guitar and Gabriel Yañez on drums." Tickets: \$20. available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.

Donnie "Mississippi Saxophone" at Shanachie: Local harmonica (aka "Mississippi saxophone") player Donnie and his friends and fellow musicians play an improvisational variety of Chicago style Blues, Rock, Funk, Latin & West African music. Friday, July 28 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, July 29

Forrest & Friends: An evening with Forrest Glycer, founding member of Schindig, with fellow schindigger Malakai Schindel, joined by several local musicians. Saturday, July 29 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One'

The Story: Tom Cruise is back! Again! And Rebecca Ferguson. And Simon Pegg. The Heroes. And also assorted Others, though not all of them are quite as nice, especially the smiling and sinister Esai Morales (but "quite handsome" according to a woman in the theater, who actually said it aloud with fangirl enthusiasm).

It seems an all-powerful Artificial Intelligence has "gone rogue," though what its motives actually are remain hazy. The impossible mission team has focused on obtaining a pair of (somewhat gothic and appropriately pulp-fictionish) interlocking keys which somehow will allow whoever possesses them to control (maybe!?) the rogue AI.

Good people get dead, and bad people get dead. There are extended car chases. Women with switchblades. Evil guys also with too many knives which they leave in other character's chests. A sunken Russian submarine in the Arctic. Death around every corner in Venice. Non-stop suspense. Heroes die. The usual. And this is just Part One.

My Thoughts: Tom Cruise knows how to make a movie. There are car chases with slapstick sight gags and funny dialog jumbled all together with riding a motorcycle off a cliff to catch a runaway train. By the way, this may read like spoilers, but it's not. It's an action-filled screenplay, and the action doesn't stop. People shouting at each other. Hair-raising stunts. Brutal knife fights. Shootings. Explosions. I already mentioned a runaway train fergawdsakes! What else do you need to know? Nothing ... you don't.

Parents: PG-13. Some main characters are killed. The who, what, and why of things aren't always clear. People are expendable, lives are cheap. Not for children.

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

WCT Summer Camp's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Opens July 28 at WHS
The annual Gateway to the Stage Summer Camp put on by the Willits Community Theatre brings its children's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to the Willits High School auditorium on July 28, 29 and 30 and on August 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Written by Ken Womble and directed by Tim Fischer, the condensed version of Shakespeare's classic of romance and magic features 30 young actors ages 7 to 13 performing the passion, humor and fantasy of the bard's original poetry—along with the use of love potions and other mischiefs.

Tickets are \$10 for all shows and available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.

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FREE TO ATTEND! DATE: July 22, 2023 (Saturday)
HOSTED BY RAYMOND HEBEL
TIME: At 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Black Oaks Coffee Roasters
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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."

LEGO Club: Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. "It's 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." Willits Library meeting room.

Games at the Library: First and third

Fridays of the 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!"

Sit-N-Sew: second Saturdays, July 8 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in – bring your sewing project and have fun.

Open Source Design, Artistic Expression, and Engineering Club: Every Saturday except the third Saturday of the month, 11 am to noon. "Open to everyone with an interest in open source and everyone who wants to develop their creative and engineering skills."

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."

Summer Fun at the Library!

Join us throughout the month of July as the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street, offers an abundance of Saturday activities celebrating its 2023 Summer Reading Program theme of: "Find Your Voice!"

July 22, 11 am to 1 pm, Rock art
Join us inside the library. Paints and pebbles will be provided. Take your new art home with you to beautify and to display.

July 22, 2 to 2:30 pm, Mr. Elephant Sings
Inside the branch, Mr. Elephant will be singing original, family-friendly songs.

July 29, 11 am to 1 pm, Paws and Tales
Paws and Tales story time featuring a real pup, Casey the therapy dog, plus an animal-centered craft all can make.

These events are open to everyone, and all ages are encouraged to attend. The Willits Branch Library will be providing supplies for each activity as needed. More info: www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Library at 707-459-5908.

Ongoing Events

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

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

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

Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl: "Sign-ups start at 4 pm. 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 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 2 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, for new students ages 7 and above. Use the back doors to enter. Special small child (Lil Dragons) classes only on Thursdays at 6 pm, ages 3 to 6. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0565. Program is continuous year-round. Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street.

REDWOOD EMPIRE FAIR
AUGUST 3-6, 2023

OPEN THUR & FRI 3 P.M.
SAT & SUN NOON

NIGHTLY MOTORIZED SPORTS ACTION
THURS: 6 PM: Side by Sides, Quads
Motorcycles and Monster Trucks
FRI: 6 PM: Mudd Boggos and Monster Trucks
SAT: 6 PM: Truck & Tractor Pulls
SUN: 6 PM: Boat Races, Jalopies, and Junior Mudd Boggos

PRE-SALE CARNIVAL WRISTBAND TICKETS
Pre-sale ends Thurs, Aug 3 at 2 pm, sharp

AVAILABLE NOW AT:
Mencio Mill in Ukiah & Willits & Fort Bragg, J.D. Redhouse, Creative Workshop, Raley's, Ukiah Taco Bell and Super Chavez Market

PRE-SALE \$30/EA | AT CARNIVAL: \$37/EA
Unlimited rides for one day

FAIR ADMISSION
ADULTS \$9
CHILDREN 16-12 YRS: \$7
CHILDREN 15 YRS & UNDER: FREE
SENIORS 65 YRS & OVER: \$7
PARKING: \$10
WWW.REDWOODEMPIREFAIR.COM

Avenues to Wellness presents a Bereavement Support Group

This facilitated 8-week group starting August 10 provides an opportunity to learn the symptoms of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward. This group will start August 10, 2 to 4 pm at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Free of charge. Limited to 8 participants. Please call Suzanne to register or for more information: 707-456-9676. Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit: avenuestowellness.org

'The History of Cattle Brands'
July 23 at the Museum

Join us at the Mendocino County Museum on Sunday, July 23, from 1:30 to 3 pm, for a lively afternoon conversation about the importance of cattle brands, community, and history!

Archives volunteer Carol Cox will share her adventures researching the Mendocino County Museum cattle brand collection.



While conducting her research, Carol met knowledgeable local residents who helped reveal the significant role cattle brands and ranching have played in Mendocino County history and into the present day. Carol will be joined by local Rancher Dan Arkelian, Blacksmiths Jim and Marianne Underhill, and a variety of community members who contributed to the effort.

Curator Lindsey Dick will share cattle brands from the museum's collection, the 1852 Mendocino County Brand Book, a quilt created to celebrate Stella James' 50th wedding anniversary, and other unique brand-related objects from the collection.

Program attendance is included with the cost of general admission, \$7 adults. More info: www.mendocinocounty.org/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.org, or 707-234-6365.

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!"

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!"

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyotheatre.com

Movie Times for July 21 thru July 27

BARBIE (PG13) 1 hr 54 mins
Fri.-Sun.: *1:45, 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:45 & 7:30pm
*1:45 show is in small theater

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 7 (PG13) 2 hrs 43 mins
Fri.-Thurs.: 4:20, & 7:45pm

OPPENHEIMER (R) 3 hrs
Fri.-Thurs.: 3:30 & 7:15pm
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners

Masks Optional
Tightwad Tuesday Title for July 25 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!



From far left: Gary Martin, Willits Center for the Arts curator, poses for a photo in the back gallery where local native art is on display this month. Martin has been an art educator for over 14 years in Willits, Laytonville and Covelo, sometimes utilizing audio-visual presentations as part of his talks to kids. Martin has received the honor of having the front gallery at the Willits Center for the Arts named after him. Photos by Mathew Caine

'Nurturing Creativity'

WCA Curator Gary Martin wins prestigious award for his work teaching local children about art

"I teach the little kids what pictures are, what landscapes, seascapes, genre, still lifes, abstract painting," explained Gary Martin, this year's Outstanding Elementary Art Education Teacher of the Year, awarded by the California Arts Education Association.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com
"Last year, I taught them about five different artists. They can identify Picasso, Van Gogh, and others. These are 4-year-olds. It was experimental for me, working with preschool because Imagination Station comes to the art center once a month and I do a presentation upstairs on our impressive big screen.

"Then I bring them downstairs and give them a clipboard and paper and crayons and tell them to go into the gallery, find their favorite picture and draw it. I get a lot of scribbles but they're beautiful."

Children have a thirst for knowledge and an innate sense of art, unclouded by the vagaries of everyday adult living, with its responsibilities and disappointments and worries. Martin, over the last several years, has made it his passion to tap into that curiosity, to help grow a deep respect for personal visual expression, and to teach them how to create the visions that reside in their young heads.

Martin teaches classes in Willits, Laytonville and Covelo,

and has been recognized with this current award. The award puts Martin in an exclusive group of educators who have been recognized for excellence in their efforts to instill a healthy respect for the arts.

"I ran a survey of high school kids in 2008 and asked them who Mona Lisa was," Martin recounted. "Seventy-five percent of them did not know who the Mona Lisa was. That told me that I had to do something. We don't have art in the schools, at least for the littles. After I teach them what pictures are, I teach them the elements of art and the principles of design. Then I go from there into art history. I start with pre-history (about 40,000 B.C.) and just go on from there."

After Martin graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1968, he spent



Read the rest of **Martin**

Over on page 9

At left: A class from Imagination Station Preschool comes to the Willits Center for the Arts monthly to see the exhibits and learn about art.



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LEGAL NOTICES

WW443 NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: UTA C. BAVIERE AKA UTA CHRISTINE BAVIERE AKA UTA BAVIERE-STEGEMANN

CASE NO. 23PR00116
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: UTA C. BAVIERE AKA UTA CHRISTINE BAVIERE AKA UTA BAVIERE-STEGEMANN

A Petition for Probate has been filed by OLIVIER BAVIERE in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that OLIVIER BAVIERE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: August 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.

If you object to granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 905.2 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: ALEXANDER C. RICH, CARTER RICH PC, 716 S. Main Street, Willits, CA 95490. Telephone: 707-456-9210.

Publication Dates: July 13, 20, and 27, 2023

The rest of **Warning** From page 1

checking for hot spots with a water tender, and planned to check the fire scene again on Monday.

A second fire in the Covelo area, the "Rifle Fire," on Rifle Range Road on the edge of town, was reported Sunday afternoon. Initial scanner traffic reported multiple RVs were involved, with a 1/4 acre fire spreading slowly into surrounding vegetation.

Watch Duty reported a full wildland fire response was dispatched around 2:30 pm, and that "propane bottles were igniting." But air attack and additional resources were cancelled about 20 minutes after dispatch, and final acreage burned was kept to 1/4 acre. Firefighters remained for an

The rest of **CAL FIRE** From page 2

niques, which are particularly challenging to implement effectively. By leveraging the vast petabytes of data recorded by the cameras, a machine-learned model has been created to accurately differentiate between smoke and other particles in the air.

CAL FIRE's significant investment in the ALERT California program has totaled \$20,277,000 over the past four years, and the commitment will continue with an additional funding of \$3,516,000 in the coming years. This collaboration with UC San Diego has proven highly successful, as technology advancements are shared as open-source and freely accessible resources to benefit a broader range of users. The AI implementation trial aims to unlock the immense potential of AI technology in wildfire prevention, detection, and response.

anticipated 2-3 hour clean up.

Watch Duty, <https://www.watchduty.org/>, is produced by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Sonoma County, and alerts you to nearby wildfires and firefighting efforts in real-time. Watch Duty launched statewide in June 2022, and is free to use, although an annual membership of \$25 is encouraged.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office asks citizens to sign up for emergency alerts via MendoAlert or Nixle at www.mendoready.org. Keep your eye on the "Mendocino Sheriff" page on Facebook for community alerts, too.

By harnessing the power of AI, we have the opportunity to revolutionize our firefighting strategies by analyzing vast amounts of data, predicting fire behavior, and providing real-time insights to firefighters on the ground. The ALERT California platform will ensure the development of an exceptional tool, making it accessible to all first responders across California.

By combining the expertise of CAL FIRE and UC San Diego's ALERT California program, this groundbreaking partnership strives to create a safer and more resilient California. Together, we are working towards a future where advanced technologies enable us to effectively combat wildfires and protect our communities.

Visit <https://cameras.alertcalifornia.org/> to see the network of cameras.

Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Assessor Clerk Recorder Technician I**
\$40,144 - \$48,776
- Bookmobile Driver - Extra-Help**
\$18.54 - \$21.46 Hourly
- Chief Planner**
\$95,846 - \$116,500
- Corrections Deputy**
\$54,184 - \$65,873
- Corrections Lieutenant**
\$90,251 - \$109,678
- Deputy District Attorney I/II/III**
\$76,419 - \$122,824
- Deputy Probation Officer I/II**
\$51,937 - \$69,617
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II**
\$62,628 - \$87,214
- Environmental Compliance Specialist**
\$62,920 - \$76,502
- Environmental Health Specialist I/II**
\$55,993 - \$75,067
- Environmental Health Technician**
\$46,072 - \$56,035
- Environmental Health Technician Assistant**
\$41,496 - \$50,460
- Health Program Eligibility Worker**
\$37,960 - \$46,155
- Juvenile Corrections Officer**
\$50,710 - \$61,630
- Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help**
\$24.38 - \$28.22 hourly
- Planner I**
\$71,364 - \$86,756
- Planning Technician I/II**
\$53,331 - \$71,489
- Tobacco Education & Advocacy Intern (Work Experience Trainee)**
\$17.77 hourly

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

The rest of **Martin** From page 8

time as a marionette operator. In this capacity, he travelled the country promoting movies for 20th Century Fox and Keebler Cookies. He pioneered a gay publication by the name of "Impact," after relocating to New Orleans.

In 1981, after selling his publication, he began working at Primavera Gallery in Philadelphia, where he learned about art, sales and curating. His passion for art brought him to pursue a master of arts in art history at San Jose State University in 2000, at age 50.

He moved to Willits in 2008 where he began his career teaching art history at Mendocino College, at the same time volunteering to teach art to youngsters at Willits High School. In 2019, he was chosen as Teacher of the Year in Mendocino County and Art Champion of Mendocino County in 2021. He has been nominated for Teacher of the Year by the National Arts Education Association.

Martin, as curator of the Willits Center for the Arts, has created and organized scores of gallery exhibits, encompassing the best of local talent and has presented the art to the public, as only someone with his love of the genres could, furthering the love

CLASSIFIEDS

Computer Help

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

Counseling / Psychotherapy

Accepting new MediCal clients, Divora Stern LCSW, sliding scale available. PHONE SESSIONS only: 707-354-9911. No need for computer / travel, just call. 22-year private practice, CBT, energy psychology, and alternative modalities.

Firewood for sale

One true cord of 16-inch firewood. Fir starting at \$250 and up, plus delivery. Call Dave at 707 459 2868.

Firewood for Sale

FIR \$300/cord, OAK \$400/cord, \$35 delivery near Willits; \$60 delivery near Ukiah. Call (707) 456-0270 or (707) 354-2244, Kindling, 1.5 cubic feet: \$20/box

For Sale

Camp Trailer
2002 Nomad, 23-foot, pull-behind camp trailer (25 feet to the 2-5/16 ball). Registration paid through July 2024, no leaks, no smoking and well-cared for. Ready for an adventure! \$10,000. Call 707-459-3141.

The Fruit Group

Fruit Group has apricots and plums (\$38/small lug), cling peaches, nectarines both yellow and white (\$37/lug). Tomatoes in mid-July. Order at dobbins99@SBCGlobal.net or call 707-459-2713. Pick up every other Friday at Napa Auto Parts.

John Ford Ranch Beef

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

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

Willits Center for the Arts

Help support local artists, your community and art education by helping to keep the doors open to your art gallery. We need volunteers to sit at our desk and greet people. Shifts are Friday, Saturday and Sunday; 11-2 and 2-5. Contact Lexi at wcaolunteer@willitscenterforthearts.com or 904-295-9481

Marc Komer

Legal Document Assistant

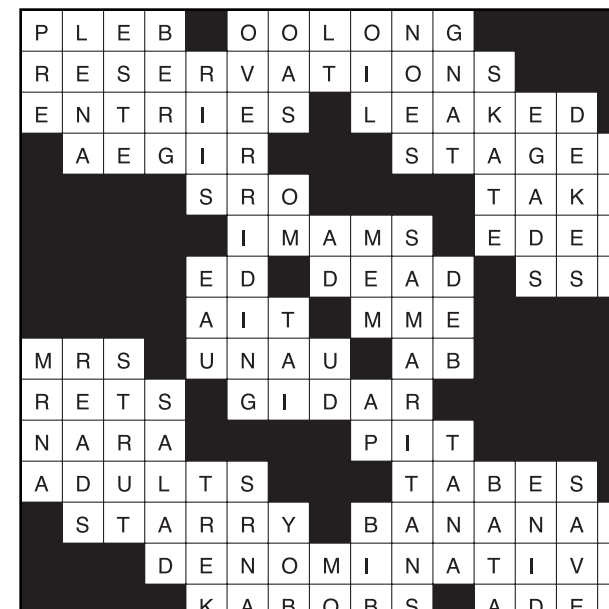
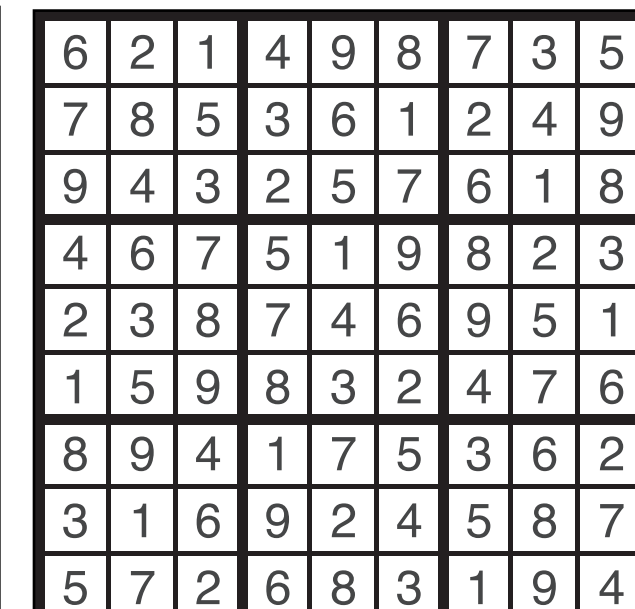
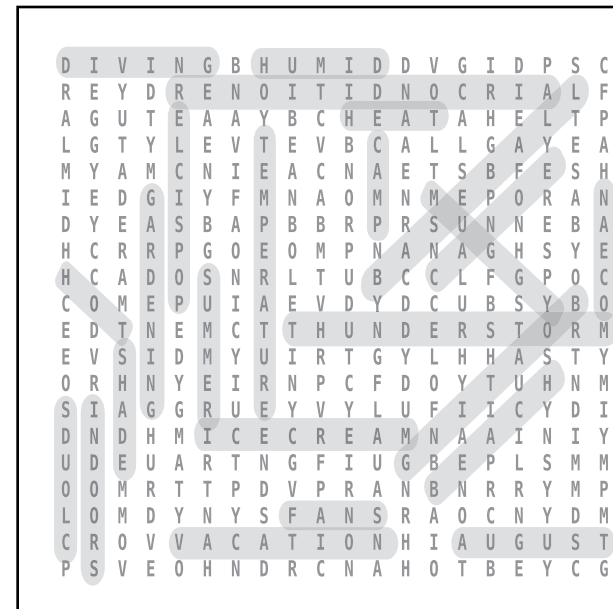
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Above, from left: Piracicaba is a sprouting broccoli that starts producing early and goes most of the winter. It is a good pairing with purple sprouting broccoli. With both of them in your garden, you can harvest broccoli florets over many months. Cold-hardy cabbages like January King need a long time to mature and make a head, so plant them soon. Photo by Brian Campbell. Nantes-type carrots are very brittle, juicy, and sweet. They are perfect for late summer and fall snacking. Beets are a delicious and highly nutritious fall crop that keeps well all winter. Their sweetness is a great counterpoint to all the leafy greens of fall. This is Lutz, an especially sweet variety. Sugarloaf chicory is more cold-hardy and longer-lasting than lettuce. It makes a head like romaine lettuce for winter salads. Below, left: Purple sprouting broccoli is more tender than regular broccoli with very sweet flavor. It overwinters and makes great numbers of small sprouts in spring. Plant now to make a big plant that can survive winter and make a big crop. Below, right: The perennial form of arugula is more heat-tolerant than the normal kind. It is a different species that grows wild in Mediterranean regions and is extremely heat- and drought-tolerant. At bottom, left: Cabbage is one of the long-season brassicas that should be planted now so that it has time to head up before winter. At bottom, right: Basil is not just for summer pesto. Some kinds – like Tulsi and this Opalescent – are best for herbal tea. There is still time to plant some to dry for winter.

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.agapebiblechurch.com

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

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

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
•Sound of Soul events
•Membership Discourses
•Spiritual Discussions
•ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 550-224-8703
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 Brunau

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.willitsonline.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



Above, left: This is a great time to start chives from seed. By next spring you will have an easy-care and permanent clump of edible leaves and flowers. Above, right: Dill is an easy, fast-growing, and effective herb to scatter through your summer plantings. The young leaves add freshness to summer salads; the flowers and older leaves are great for cooking; the seeds give pickles their flavor. The flowers attract beneficial insects that eat pests, so plant every couple of weeks. Below, left: Radicchio is easy to grow in fall, but difficult in spring. Planting now will give you spectacular salads during the winter holidays. Below, right: Perennial spinach is a leafy green that's perennial in our climate. Since it's a perennial form of chard rather than an actual spinach, it is heat-tolerant and produces harvest after harvest over many months. Further below, left: Fall vegetables – as well as your existing plantings – will benefit from summer plantings of alyssum. It is the host plant for several beneficial insects that eat late-summer pests like mites, thrips, and aphids. Further below, right: Quan Yin is a lettuce that's bred for summer planting. It's heat-resistant and sweet. It will sprout even faster if you refrigerate the seeds for a week before planting. At bottom, left: Fennel is an easy-to-grow alternative to celery in our climate. Planting now will give you crisp bulbs for salads and cooking until hard frost. Photo by Karen Morton. At bottom, right: The longer nights of September give beans the weather they prefer for high production, but spring-planted beans won't last that long. If you sow some now, they'll be ready to make a good crop when conditions are favorable.



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COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

July: Planning the Fall Garden

During last year's heat and drought, the surprise successes in our garden were the carrots and Brussels sprouts we planted in July. The carrot bed gave us juicy snacks during the hot days of late summer and fall, and comforting soups and stews much of the winter. The Brussels sprouts, started later than the usual spring sowing, were extra mild and sweet when the sprouts matured in March.

Now, when it's so hot, sowing winter vegetables seems counterintuitive, and thinking about winter meals is difficult. But it really pays. The kale you plant now can start giving harvests in September and be a mainstay on the table all the way through April. For most of that period, you won't be worrying about watering or weeding, either, just picking the leaves as you want them.

Many of the most productive winter crops take a fairly long time to mature – and they need to be more or less mature when cold weather arrives. They will make very little new growth after October.

Purple sprouting broccoli is a treat that people in colder climates can't enjoy, because it must overwinter as a big established plant before making loads of small, very sweet broccoli florets all over the plant in early spring. Cauliflower, kale, collards, regular broccoli, and cabbage are other brassicas that will need to grow large for good fall and winter production. Long-season roots like parsnips and rutabagas are often planted in spring for fall harvest, as are Brussels sprouts. Plant them right away to attain usable size this winter.

Other crops grow faster, but will not survive as long into winter. Fennel, escarole, peas, radicchio, endive, and Chinese cabbage are autumn treats, lasting until December. You can sow them from now through August for eating from September to the new year.

In our climate, root crops do not need full sun to do well, but they need dependable moisture for a good start. You can sow beets, turnips, onions, and rutabagas in flats or modules. Carrots and parsnips should be direct-sown. Soak carrot or parsnip seed for 4 to 6 hours, rinse well, plant, and keep moist until seedlings are visible. Placing a board or cloth over the soil helps retain moisture. (Check daily for sprouts.)

Most salad and stir-fry crops grow fast and don't last. Sowings can start now, and go through September. Lettuce, arugula, mizuna, tatsui, yukina, and other greens

are in this category. Start a few now, and reserve some space for later plantings.0

You'll want to sow most of the fall and winter vegetables in flats, pots, or modules, so you can keep them out of direct sun while they are small. Filtered light or morning sun are best for germination and early growth. Once they have a couple of true leaves, you can start getting them used to life in the open. When they outgrow their pots, you have several options.

A month from now, when your seedlings are ready for transplant, there will probably be areas in your garden that are no longer productive, or never panned out. For example, bush green beans give a few pickings and then quit. Don't leave them in the ground. Pull them out and let your winter crops benefit from the nitrogen those beans have put into the soil.

If no permanent spots have opened up yet, try a holding bed. Instead of transplanting into their final position, put the seedlings into a temporary plot at half the normal spacing. When more space has opened up, they can go to their final spacing to attain full size and productivity. Large containers can act as a holding bed, but usually it is a small section of garden. There is a detailed description of how to do this in the "How-To" page at quailseeds.com.

As long as there is adequate water and fertility, you can overlap crops. I have had great luck with planting kale and collards amongst winter squash vines. The young plants appreciated the cooler soil and partial shade in summer. When fall came the vines died down and acted as mulch. I like to plant beets or spinach under tomatoes, and lettuce, peas, or endive under corn.

Cool-season vegetables don't like full sun in summer but will need all the sun they can get in fall and winter. When they are planted among summer crops, or near deciduous trees, that happens naturally. Often, the solution to one plant's problem is to be with other plants.

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.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier

The rest of **LLFD** | From page 1

the USDA. During this process, they were informed that they might also qualify for a Type 6 engine grant. A Type 6 is smaller compared to a Type 3, and tends to be a customizable, 4-wheel drive pick-up. Though they carry less water, Type 6 trucks have greater maneuverability and can access areas larger engines can't. To Little Lake's satisfaction, that money was also rewarded.

The two new engines and all the equipment necessary to outfit them came to a total of about \$739,000. The USDA grant allowed for \$191,000 to be put towards the cost of the Type Six fire truck and will cover at least 55% of the cost of the Type 3, but possibly more as things are still being finalized. Little Lake Fire does have a vehicle replacement fund, but as Schnitzius explained, "With the rising costs of engines today, our community could never afford one outright with the revenue we have."

The Type 3 engine, now known as 5469, was delivered the week before the meeting and is in the process of being fully outfitted. The Type 6 is complete and ready for training. These engines show up relatively bare, and it's up to Deputy Chief John Thomen to source several quotes before purchasing necessary gear and tools. Thanks to Thomen's meticulous care of old equipment, though, not everything needed for the engines had to be found brand-new.

The board then moved on to discussions about the recent solar power installation for the firehouse. Solar power and an EV charging station, though not required, had been a part of the original plans for the recently constructed firehouse. The EV charging station is still incomplete and will hopefully see some grant funding in the future to cover its cost, but the Little Lake staff is looking forward to lower PGE bills thanks to the new solar system, especially as the building will eventually be used for 24-hour firefighters.

Division Chief Eric Alvarez had several updates including the completion of annual safety checks for motels/hotels, and the near completion of safety checks for schools. Willits has one fire marshal, so, as Administrative Assistant Schnitzius helped explain, the inspection load can be difficult to juggle. Though the state fire marshal can perform checks on schools, it's often significantly more expensive. As of the time of the board meeting, there was just one school left to inspect.

Alvarez also talked about a planned increase in collaboration between City of Willits Code Enforcement and Little Lake Fire through the use of a software program called iWorQ. iWorQ is cloud-based and will allow both the city and Little Lake Fire to jointly manage, update, and have access to permits, licenses, and other community-based projects.

New businesses will have to have forms signed off on by the fire department before they can open. There was some lag in that process previously that saw businesses in operation before fire code inspections were complete. Safety inspections of buildings both old, new, and vacant will also see more collaboration as a way to streamline that process.

Training Chief Jeff Donaldson discussed an active shooter drill put on through the Joint Resource Task Force at Willits High School, for the following day, Wednesday, July 12. That training is specifically for law enforcement and firefighters, though there are separate trainings for teachers and students.

Both Donaldson and the president of the Firefighters Association, Aaron Branscomb, had good news to report about Willits' Fourth of July festivities. It seems everything went smoothly without any major incidents.

The meeting concluded with Deputy Chief John Thomen reporting a total of 38 calls for the month of June, which he described as average. They broke down to 9 fire calls, 21 rescue/emergency medical calls, 1 hazardous condition call with no fire, 1 service call, and 6 false alarms.

Deputy Chief Thomen also said he'd be attending the chief's meeting in Fort Bragg the next day. The chief's meeting is held every three months to discuss topics like grants, legislation, and monies coming from the passing last November of Measure P, for example.

The Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 5 pm.

The rest of **Letters** | From page 2

landowner will collect 10 rents a year in perpetuity, while the quality of their soil goes through the roof.

If this caught on we could have a whole patchwork of lease-a-mini-farms all over this county, everyone involved would make money, and our food security problem would be much less, if not eliminated.

Leasing land is not the goal for young farmers, ownership is. Tilling and improving the soil for years and then leaving it all behind is not fun, but at least you have that practical experience with no great investment in land.

You now know that you can successfully commercially farm. I am sure that will not be that easy, but we can make this work, so we all can eat.

William Bruneau, Willits

The rest of **Awards** | From page 1

this year because of their commitment to our community and the community of visitors who visit Ukiah and Mendocino County and leave with a better impression than when they arrived," Seward said. Owner Jitu Ishwar, his wife Paru, and their partner Anil Bhula have been hoteliers in Mendocino County for the past 25 years.

METALFx of Willits received this year's Industrialist Award. The company morphed from a local sheet metal fabrication business into a multi-faceted facility.

"They've been featured on the 'Manufacturing Marvels' Fox Business program and are known for their superior customer service, an 'engineering first' approach, and their ability to do everything from welding, powder coating, punching, forming and CNC machining," Fair Board Member Casey Burris told attendees.

METALFx President, CEO and managing partner Henry Moss hails from Baton Rouge, LA. He and his wife, Kristy, have a daughter living in L.A. and a son who is currently on active duty in the Marine Corps. They are also the proud grandparents of one grandson.

Moss is a member of the Young Presidents Organization – a global organization of over 22,000 presidents and CEOs. He is an Advisory Board member for both Ukiah and Willits High Schools and an Advisory Board member for the City of Willits Planning and Development Committee

KOZT FM Radio was the recipient of this year's Media Award.

"For years, Tom Yates and Vicky Watts of KOZT have brought great rock and roll music to nearly every corner of Mendocino County, but one thing they also do is deliver critical, live updates during fires, floods, power outages and even heat waves like today," Board member Roberto Muniz told the guests

"If you've been to a State Park in Mendocino County, you've probably witnessed the great work of Mendo Parks," Muniz also said. "Currently serving 10 state parks, the mission of Mendo Parks is to inspire and ensure stewardship of the state parks in Mendocino County," Mendo Parks was the recipient of one of two Exemplary Service Awards.

Mendo Parks provides many of the enrichment programs the public is familiar with, such as Campfire Programs, Park Brochures, Latino Outdoor programs, and Junior Rangers. The award was accepted by interim director Scott Menzies.

Board Member Casey Burris presented the second Exemplary Service Award to the Mendocino County Museum. The award was accepted by museum director Karen Mattson.

"Mendocino County Museum is currently celebrating its 51st Anniversary. Karen works with Museum staff and volunteers, who act as stewards of the Museum's expanding collection of over 60,000 artifacts," Burris said. "The museum also hosts traveling exhibits and programs that educate and inspire awareness of the peoples, communities, and history of Mendocino County." The Museum is supported by the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum, Museum Volunteers, and the greater community.

This year's Blue Ribbon Award was given to longtime Ukiah resident and stalwart volunteer Marge Pardini, who at 98 years old is still driving and still serving her community. She received a standing ovation for her years of service.

The board also commended CEO Jennifer Seward for her quarter of a century serving the Fair, noting that unlike many cities that have lost their fairs to economic hardships, the Redwood Empire Fair continues to be a successful and essential community enterprise. Seward in turn thanked her staff and the audience members, many of whom are lifetime supporters of the Fair.

The theme for this year's fair is "Jungle of Fun." The Fair runs from August 3 to August 6. For information about the Fair visit https://www.redwoodempirefair.com,

REFUkiah@gmail.com, or phone (707) 462-3884.

The rest of **Committee** | From page 1

to cancel the event.

"One of the provisions in the amended agreement is that a golf committee be formed, comprised of the golf course operators, myself, the general manager or her designee, and a township board member," said Neary.

With full board approval, the item was added to the evening's agenda: "Consideration of Agreement to form a Golf Course Committee and Appoint a Board Member to the Committee."

Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea reminded the board of the upcoming July 27 meeting at 4:30 pm of the Mobility Solutions for Rural Communities Feasibility Study at the Ukiah Senior Center, 497 Leslie Street.

Brooktrails residents interested in bus transportation possibilities for the community are invited to provide input. To find out more about the proposed plans, those interested can find information on the Mendocino Transit Authority website: www.mendocinotransit.org.

Board President Rick Williams asked if General Manager Tamara Alaniz had anything to report and she said she had a couple of things to share.

"First and most important, since our last meeting," said Alaniz, "is that we are very glad that the district will continue to be able to maintain our three full-time fire department employees because the community supported our assessment.

"We are in contact and are in communication with the county and our consultant to take the necessary steps to get the assessment on the tax rolls. Due to the good press, possibly, we are very happy to have acquired three new fire department volunteers also.

"Our Low Income Household Water Assistance program," said Alaniz, "has been submitted on behalf of their income-qualified customers to us. We had \$17,854 that had been paid on customer accounts who were income qualified for the program."

Alaniz reported that the water supply is very good. However, the ground saturation has caused a delay in the installation of a needed clarifier since the ground needs to be completely dry before the concrete pad

and footings can be poured.

"Finally," added Alaniz, "I just want to emphasize about the grant submitted that Supervisor Haschak spoke of at our last meeting. The board of supervisors has prioritized the grant for the Brooktrails second access route, and I want to state that this is very important for our community.

"This is absolutely critical and what a big deal this is. This is money to build a road, not to just to plan for a road. This is the furthest we've ever gotten to getting this accomplished," she said.

Brooktrails resident Joe Haggard who heads up the Basket Beaters Disk Golf Club went to the podium and announced that there is a Disk Golf Tournament, the Fourth Annual Brooktrails Open, scheduled August 18, 19 and 20.

"It's one of our most notable events that we have each year," said Haggard. "We have 90 players registered with a possible 140 players coming to participate. The majority of those registered to play are mostly out-of-town folks, so this is good news for our Willits community."

Haggard also wanted to note that in regard to the golf course agreement, he'd like disk golf to also be recognized and made a permanent feature of the course. Williams extended an invitation to Haggard to attend the golf course committee meetings to assure that the disk golfers will be represented.

The board then voted unanimous approval of the "Accounts Payable" in the amount of \$80,642.57.

Finally, there was discussion to settle the structure of the new golf course committee, which, it was determined, would be a standing committee. It was decided that there would be four members of the committee: Neary, serving as the initial designee of Alaniz; the golf course operators: husband and wife Marcus Newby and Jaclyn Christian; and board member Tyler-O'Shea, who accepted the appointment to serve as suggested by Williams.

The first meeting of the committee was set for Thursday, July 20 at 4 pm in the Brooktrails Community Center.

stryker

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Agile Popper

Meet Popper, the spirited cattle dog extraordinaire! This lively girl is not only incredibly sweet but also sensitive, athletic, agile, and clever. With her intelligence and athleticism, she'll keep you on your toes and push you to embrace an active lifestyle like never before. Popper's lively spirit will keep you entertained and engaged, and she also knows how to be a sweetheart. She'll shower you with affection.



Popper

Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to come visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website:

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

Thoughtful Boone

Boone is a shy guy who will need a little extra TLC. Someone who is experienced with shy dogs would be the best home for him! When Boone first got here, he did not walk



Boone

on leash and was completely shut down. With a little help from staff, Boone is now able to walk on leash, and we have found that he loves treats, and is more comfortable outside.

Boone still needs help

with building confidence, training and socialization, but due to his young age and the improvements he has already made, we think with the right owner, he will make a wonderful companion! Though he is improving, we are still looking for a home with adults and / or older children. Boone lived with another dog, but an intro with any potential canine friends is a must before he goes home.

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



Memories of Home Arts building fun in the years past: Shirley Dempel, left, and Kaylynn VanSuan judge pies by taking tasty samples.

Redwood Empire Fair

Carnival, grandstand shows, exhibits and features buildings, and Livestock Auction
August 3 to 6 at Ukiah Fairgrounds

There's going to be a "Jungle of Fun" for the Redwood Empire Fair, held at the Ukiah fairgrounds on August 3 to 6. Each day has a different schedule of featured activities, including shows in the grandstands, livestock shows in the arenas, fun on the fairway, and more.

Motorized grandstand shows all start at 6 pm and are free to attend with fair admission. Thursday will be monster trucks, motorcycles and ATVs; Friday will be mud-slinging mud bog races and monster trucks; Saturday includes truck and tractor pulls; and Sunday will showcase jalopies, boat races and junior mud boggs.

Live music shows are also held at 6 pm and 9 pm and include Warehouse 21 on Thursday; Waylon and the Wildcats on Friday; Karaoke and Country Dancing with DJ Ken Steely on Saturday; and Banda Pacifica on Sunday.

Livestock shows are held throughout the days, some of which include sheep, beef and swine on Thursday; more swine, dairy cattle, goats and round robin on Friday; and then the Junior Livestock Auction on Saturday.

Racing pigs, pony rides, Brad's World of Reptiles, jugglers, hypnotists, clowns, and much more can be enjoyed on the fairway and in the buildings, and youth and senior exhibitors have crafts, arts, and other creations on display in the exhibit halls, including the Home Arts, Fine Arts, Junior, Horticulture, Floriculture, and Agriculture buildings.

Admission to the fair is \$9 for adults; \$7 for children (ages 6-12); \$7 seniors (65 years+); and free for children 5 years and under. Parking is \$10.

Carnival pre-sale tickets are on sale now at Ukiah Taco Bell, Raley's, J.D. Redhouse, Super Chavez Market, Creative Workshop, and Mendo Mill stores in Ukiah, Willits and Fort Bragg. Pre-sale wristbands are \$30, and will be \$37 at the fair. Pre-sale ends Thursday, August 3 at 2 pm sharp. For a complete schedule of events and more info, go to Redwoodempirefair.com.

— Maureen Jennison

Funny Spike

If you're looking for a cat to make you laugh, look no further than Spike. She is an adorable little weirdo who has plenty of love to give. She loves to sleep outside in the sun, she gets along with the other cats, and loves to be loved. Her ideal spot is in your arms tucked under your chin and she will purr all day. She needs a bit of help with figuring out the litter box, but with a little bit of patience and training, she'll be just fine. Spike is 4.5 years old, and has been waiting for 488 days to be adopted. Her adoption fee is sponsored, so she can go home with you for free!



Spike

The Humane Society for Inland

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