

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

No skinny roadway

To the Editor:

Open letter to Willits City Council: I can't even believe that we are having a discussion about putting South Main Street on a diet. This is a stupid idea, and needs NO MORE contemplation.

First, and foremost, this town is dying, and removing lanes, where there is ample room now for bikes to ride along this stretch of roadway, is another dagger to the livelihood of this community.

It's not rocket science; you can see that this stretch of road gets backed up during commute times, school openings/closings, and during holiday weekends, narrowing it to one lane on each side would be suicidal.

We were sold on the idea of a bypass because of the cluster of traffic along this stretch of the highway, so why would we create another traffic jam?

Caltrans has decimated our town, and should have no more clout to ruin it further.

Stop this madness! It's a stupid idea that should be put to rest, and never looked at again.

Rose Macy, Willits

COVID still here

To the Editor:

COVID 19 is still here and on the rise again. I know of several medical personnel including my dentist in Santa Rosa who have gotten it, so has cancelled all appointments for now. I've also spoken with several friends locally who have had COVID-19 in the past few months, one with "long COVID" that has left my friend with months of fatigue and "brain-fog."

He was a "non-vaccor" and says he now regrets it. I know of other cases. With school back in session and the flu season arriving, I suggest we all be aware and take appropriate precautions. At the very least wash your hands with soap and water regularly.

Consider getting vaccinated if you haven't already, and consider wearing a mask in crowded places. This doesn't seem to be as extensive as the original outbreak, largely because so many of us have been vaccinated, but a new variant has emerged and is spreading, so please take care of yourself and all the rest of us. If you feel ill, stay home for a few days and get well. The choice is yours but your decisions often affect others.

COVID is a health issue not a political one, of course.

Bill Barksdale, Willits

Humane Society needs dog food

Calling all dog lovers! We kindly request donations of adult canned dog food. Any brand or flavor would be greatly appreciated

Come on down during our open hours (no appointment needed!): Wednesday thru Friday 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday 11 am to 3 pm, 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley Info: 707-485-0123

Apply to foster or adopt, or donate funds online, by visiting www.mendohumansociety.com

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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Labor Day Celebration with Huffman, Wood

Submitted by Mendocino County Democratic Party

Join us for this year's Labor Day Celebration on Monday, September 4 at Todd Grove Park and Clubhouse, located at 600 Live Oak Avenue, Ukiah, from 11 am to 3 pm.

Speakers will include:

- Congressman Jared Huffman
- Assemblymember Jim Wood
- California Democratic Party Chair Rusty Hicks
- Local labor leaders

The event is presented by the Mendocino County Democratic Party and the Inland Mendocino Democratic Club. Music will be provided by the Mendocino Gaggle of Raging Grannies. Food will be provided by Chef Denny.

Labor Day celebrates the women and men who campaigned tirelessly for workers' rights in the labor movement of the late 18th century. Their hard-fought wins are the reason for many of the rights we enjoy and take for granted today, such as a 40-hour work week, safe work conditions, paid time off, and sick leave. Those workers saw that there could be no freedom and liberty in this country without economic freedom for the working class.

Labor Day honors the source of this nation's strength - American workers, unions, and labor leaders

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, August 24: Chicken Salad Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

Friday, August 25: Turkey Dinner, Veggies, Roll, Cranberry

Monday, August 28: Hot Dog Chili, Mac N'Cheese

Tuesday, August 29: Turkey Curry, Roll, Green Salad

Wednesday, August 30: Tamale Pie, Rice & Beans

Thursday, August 31: Beef Tips & Noodles, Green Salad, Roll

Friday, September 1: Cheeseburger, Potato Salad, Pickle

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. \$10; \$9 center members; \$6 children under 8.

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

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

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

County hosts community resilience meetings

Submitted by Mendocino County Executive Office

Mendocino County is hosting resilience meetings in census tracts designated as demonstrating high-hazard exposure and social vulnerability that will offer the public an opportunity to communicate their resilience goals. The input provided at the "Prepare California Jumpstart" meetings will be used to help determine resilience projects for which to pursue grant funding.

Discussion topics to include: emergency preparedness, community planning and capacity building, infrastructure systems, economic resiliency and sustainability, health and social services, housing, and natural systems and cultural resources.

The resilience meeting in Willits is set for Wednesday, September 6, at the County Museum Wonacott Room, 400 East Commercial Street, from 5:30 to 7 pm.

Other resilience meetings in Mendocino County include one in Caspar, scheduled for Saturday, August 26, at the Caspar Community Center, 15051 Caspar Road, from 1 to 2:30 pm. A Ukiah meeting will be on Wednesday, August 30, in the UC Cooperative Extension Conference Room, 890 North Bush Street, from 5:30 to 7 pm.

A meeting is also set for Calpella / Redwood Valley on Thursday, August 31, at the Behavioral Health Regional Training Center, 8207 East Road, Redwood Valley, from 5:30 to 7 pm. Next is Anderson Valley, on Wednesday, September 13 at the Veteran's Hall, 14470 CA-128, Boonville, from 5:30 to 7 pm.

A Round Valley meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, at the Library Commons, 23925 Howard Street, Covelo, from 1:30 to 3 pm. The final meeting will be in Leggett on Monday, September 18 at Leggett Valley School, 1 School Way, from 5:30 to 7 pm.

For meeting information, please contact Disaster Recovery at 707-234-6303 or disasterrecovery@mendocinocounty.gov

Mendocino County launches Heads Up Project

Submitted by Mendocino County Department of Social Services

For the past year, criminal justice and human services organizations in Mendocino County have quietly tested a new and innovative communication pathway designed to increase and deepen collaboration.

Read the rest of Project Over on page 15



Above, from left: Two of the contestants confer on the best strategy for approaching the hole. An arsenal of specific-use discs is packed into this bag belonging to one of the professional disc golfers. A player tries to get as close as possible to the basket on his second shot. Levi Fagundes, one of the hosts of the Brooktrails Open, signs in participants and assigns tee times. At left: Tina Tyler-O'Shea attempts to finish the hole by throwing into this high-altitude basket. Below, left: Kelly Knight finishes off the hole with a shot at the basket. Below, right: Joseph Haggard, of the Basketbeaters and one of the hosts of the tournament, shows a disc with the new Brooktrails Fire logo. Further below: Kelly Knight, Tina Tyler-O'Shea, and Jessica O'Daniel take a moment from competing in the Women's Amateur Division. At bottom, from left: Kelly Knight of Santa Rosa tries a forehand shot in an attempt to curv the disc around obstacles. Jessica O'Daniel takes a shot out of some thick foliage. Ryan found a baby jogging stroller that serves as the perfect conveyance for his array of discs as well as for riding down hills.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Brooktrails Open

Basketbeaters host disc golf tournament with local and out-of-state players competing to win cash prizes

Some people may not know, but the Brooktrails Golf Course is also a disc golf course. In fact, the Brooktrails Disc Golf course has a reputation as the third-best disc golf course in California. Competitors come from far-off places in California and the rest of the country to spend time amongst the picturesque redwood trees, the creeks, and the overall beauty, as they test their skills on the ever-changing maze of tees, fairways, and "holes."

The two organizers of the Brooktrails Open disc tournament, Joseph Haggard and Levi Fagundes, have been with this tournament and other smaller events since 2019, and the popularity has been growing, attracting participants from as far away as Alabama.

"It's called the Brooktrails Open," Haggard explained of the tournament held last weekend. "It's essentially a disc golf tournament, very similar to a regular golf tournament. I'm part of the local disc golf club of Mendocino County, called the Basketbeaters. We put on tournaments throughout the year."

"We've been running the Brooktrails Open for about four years," Haggard

Read the rest of Disc Golf Over on page 6



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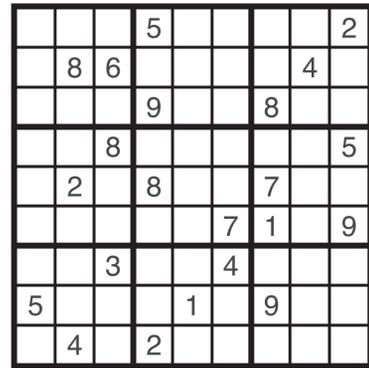
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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



Level: Advanced

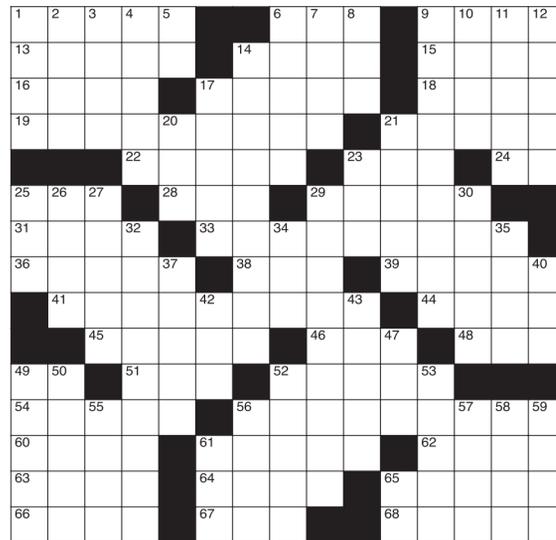
HOW TO SUDOKU

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

FINE DINING WORD SEARCH



- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|------------|
| AIOLI | CONFIT | PRIX FIXE |
| AL DENTE | DECONSTRUCTED | RESTAURANT |
| ANTIPASTO | DIGESTIF | SERVICE |
| APERITIF | DINING | SIDES |
| APPETIZER | ENTREE | SOMMELIER |
| ARTISAN | EXPERIENCE | TAPAS |
| BECHAMEL | FUSION | UMAMI |
| CHARCUTERIE | PAIRING | WINE |



CLUES ACROSS

- Russian painter
- Very fast jet
- Phillipine municipality
- Intestinal
- Small freshwater fish
- Algerian coastal city
- Vomit
- Famed astronomer
- Ghanaian currency
- Improved the condition of
- Int'l association of interpreters
- Infections
- Dish made with lentils
- Thou
- Former CIA
- Unit used to compare power levels
- Members of Pueblo people
- Myanmar monetary units
- Polished
- Signed a contract
- Nothing
- Once-ubiquitous department store
- Neural structures
- Thick piece of something
- Slang for trucks with trailers
- Longing

CLUES DOWN

- 'Iron Man' actress Leslie
- Wings
- Adjust the spacing
- They're usually locked
- Atomic #43
- Wise individuals
- Horse mackerel
- Pearl Jam's debut album
- Conjans
- Colorless crystalline compound
- Unsatisfactorily
- Plant of the parsley family

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

July 31 to August 6

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **66 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

July 31

12:31 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Valley Street and South Humboldt Street and issued a warning.

1:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

August 1

1:57 am: **FINLEY, Paige Leanne** (27) of Arcata was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of false impersonation and forgery, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia.

3:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Oak Street and issued a citation.

9:53 pm: **LAFLIN, Adam Powell** (47) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Humboldt Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of petty theft.

August 2

5:23 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Valley Street and South Humboldt Street and issued a warning.

9:41 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

10:16 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

11:07 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Oak Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:28 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

1:34 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:12 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

3:26 pm: **WILSON, John Stephen** (35) of Eureka was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (drugs and alcohol).

10:57 pm: **HAMSHAR, Brian Andrew** (45) of Hesperia was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of battery with serious injury

and carrying a concealed dirk or dagger.

August 3

10:11 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning.

10:34 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 900 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

12:16 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

12:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1100 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

2:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

3:20 pm: **MCCANN, Robert James** (45) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and failure to appear.

6:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Pine Street.

9:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Holly Street and Poplar Avenue and issued a citation.

11:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Madrone Street and issued a warning.

August 4

12:30 am: **WAGONER, Charles** (41) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of East Valley Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11550 HS (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance).

1:20 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

4:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

August 5

2:03 am: **LEMUSAGUILAR, Ryan Damian** (18) of Windsor was contacted near the intersection of West Highway 20 and Blosser Lane. 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, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher, and reckless driving.

5:14 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of McKinley Street and West Valley Street and issued a warning.

12:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Gregory Lane and issued a warning.



Paige Leanne Finley of Arcata.



Brian Hamshar of Hesperia.

Read the rest of **WPD** Over on page 13

Looking for something to celebrate?

Learn more about these, or see a list of other days at <https://www.listofnationaldays.com/>

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>August 24: National Hug Your Boss Day, National Waffle Day, Kobe Bryant Day, Vesuvius Day, International Strange Music Day, National Peach Pie Day, National Knife Day, Pluto Demoted Day</p> <p>August 25: National Banana Split Day, National Whiskey Sour Day, National Kiss And Make Up Day, National Secondhand Wardrobe Day, National Park Service Founders Day</p> <p>August 26: National Dog Day, National Webmistress Day, National Women's Equality Day, National Cherry Popsicle Day, Toilet Paper Day, National Day Of Repentance, National Got Checked Day</p> <p>August 27: National Just Because Day, National Pots De Creme Day, International Lottery Day, National Petroleum Day, The Duchess Who Wasn't Day, National Bat Night, Tarzan Day</p> | <p>August 28: National Cherry Turnovers Day, Tan Suit Day, National Bow Tie Day, National Power Rangers Day, National Red Wine Day, National Thoughtful Day, Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day, Crackers Over The Keyboard Day, Race Your Mouse Around The Icons Day, World Alternative Games, Radio Commercials Day</p> <p>August 29: National Chop Suey Day, According To Hoyle Day, National Lemon Juice Day, More Herbs, Less Salt Day, Individual Rights Day, International Day Against Nuclear Tests</p> <p>August 30: National Toasted Marshmallow Day, International Whale Shark Day, National Grief Awareness Day, National Beach Day, Frankenstein Day, National Holistic Pet Day</p> |
|---|---|



Above, from left: Picking up the BBQ dinner was as easy as: Arrive, get your bag, and head home! Above, right: Willits Boosters Club member Melissa Perez hands Matthew Jennison his barbecue dinner. Below, from left: Macaroni, Caesar salad and cheesy poppyseed mustard bread were all served as side dishes. The ribs were tender and delectable. Everything came bagged up and ready to go. Cheese lovers rejoice! The non-meaty options were delicious (especially if one remembered to ask to have the bacon bits held off of the mustard bread!).

Boosters BBQ dinner raises around \$9,500 for Willits High School sports programs

A steady stream of vehicles came through the pick-up line on Saturday, August 19 at Smokin' G's and Big D's BBQ to grab their dinner to-go, and support the Willits Boosters Club, at the same time.

200 tickets were available to purchase for the dinner which included a rack of

ribs, salad, macaroni, bread and cookies. The event was almost sold out on the day of, but a few lucky recipients were able to snag some left over dinners, too, just at the last minute. Most tickets were pre-purchased ahead of time from Boosters Club members, or local businesses who participated in the event including Browns

Corner and 101 Trailer & RV Supply.

Monies raised from the dinner go to help purchase uniforms and other multi-year items which can benefit many kids, for many years, who play sports in Willits.

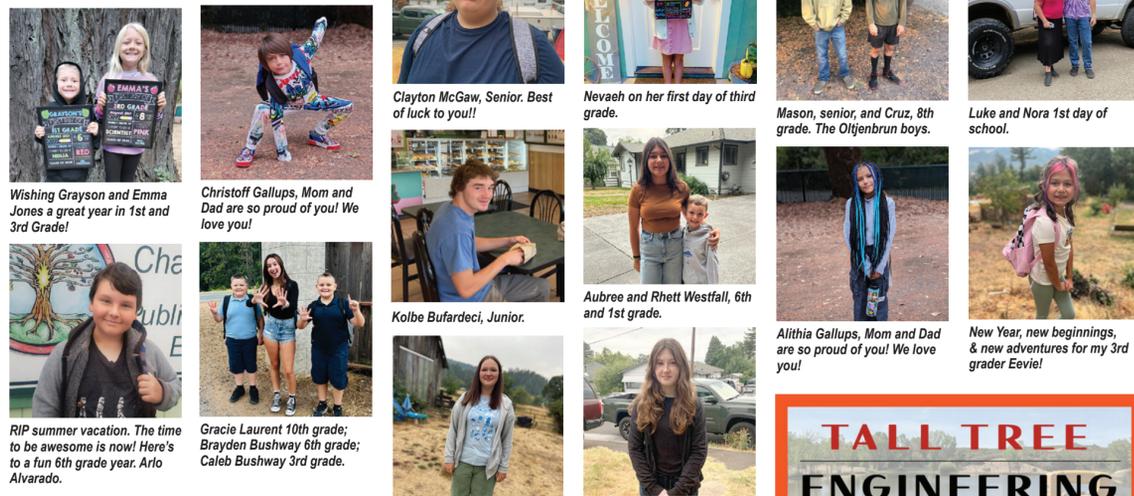
"We can say that the dinner was a success," said Boosters Club member

Jamie Bouthillier. "We appreciate all who supported the cause. All proceeds will go straight back into our sports program and to uniforms. A big shout out to Smokin' G and Big D's along with all the others who helped to deliver a hot tasty meal!"

— Maureen Jennison



Welcome back to school!



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What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, August 24

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.

Friday, August 25

Block Carving Party at the Museum: Begin carving your linoleum block for Roots of Motive Power's 41st Annual Steam Festival at the Museum Block Carving Party, Friday, August 25, from 1 to 4 pm. "Don't forget to bring your block back and have it printed by Roots' Buffalo Steam Roller during the Steam Festival, September 9 and 10. With permission, the Museum will exhibit your entry in a pop-up community printmaking exhibit. Last year, over 60 community entries contributed to a dynamic show! Roots has generously supplied materials for the program. Supplies are limited and available first-come, first-served.

BLOCK CARVING PARTY!



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, August 25 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Pete Sawyer and the Left Hand Monkey Wrench Gang at BACE: BACE, collaborative music & art space in the heart of Mendocino County, announces the return of Pete Sawyer and the Left Hand Monkey Wrench

Gang, Friday, August 25 at 9 pm. Come out to hear the #gratefuldead tunes performed by wonderfully accomplished musicians, dedicated to honoring the music from the godfathers of all Jam Bands! 109 North Main Street. 18+. \$30 advance, \$35 at the door.

Saturday, August 26

Mariposa Market Anniversary: Mariposa Market is celebrating our 44th Anniversary, Saturday, August 26, from 9 am to 7 pm. Come enjoy Mariposa Made Tasty Bites and enter our raffles. 500 South Main Street. See you there!



Paws and Tales at the Library: Animal-themed story time with special guest, Casey the therapy dog, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Saturday, August 26, 11 to 11:30 am. Happening on the last Saturday of the month. All ages welcome. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

'IMPRESSED' opens at the Museum: 2nd annual celebration of community printmaking opens at the Mendocino County Museum, on Saturday, August 26, 12 to 4 pm. Featuring art by Rik Olson, Solage Roberdeau, Meg Polhad and other printmakers connected to the SF Center for the Book, a partner with Roots of Motive Power and its Buffalo 1924 steam roller. Also work from the Art Explorers out of Fort Bragg. Everyone is encouraged to participate; community submissions made during Roots' steam-up on September 9 and 10 will be incorporated into the exhibit. 400 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendocinocounty.org/museum or 707-234-6365.



Seed Saving Class at the Willits Library: The Willits Library offers a Seed Saving Class with Jamie Chevalier of Quail Seeds, also Willits Weekly's garden columnist. Saturday, August 26, 1 to 3 pm. Hands-on class will cover saving, threshing, and cleaning your own vegetable or flower seeds. Take seeds home from our seed library to grow year after year. 391 East Commercial Street.

Sunday, August 27

Portuguese folk singer at WCT: Romantic folk singer Ramana Vieira and her ensemble will perform at the Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, August 27 at 2 pm. Music aficionados will have the rare opportunity to be immersed in the rapturous rhythms and stirrings of fado – the classic folk music of Portugal with its dramatic tales of love, loss and redemption. Tickets are \$20 and available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org and at the door.



Dan Essman
Columnist

Laytonville Vegan Potluck: The Summer of L.O.V.E. Vegan Potluck is set for Sunday, August 27, from 4 to 6 pm at the Long Valley Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road. Come share your favorite summertime plant-based dishes with your friends and neighbors at this joyous celebration of summer's garden delights. Please bring a dish that contains no meat, dairy, eggs, gelatin, bone broth or honey, and label if containing gluten, nuts or soy. Dining starts at 4:20 pm. A labor of L.O.V.E. - Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience.

Thursday, August 31

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.

Friday, September 1

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, September 1 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, September 2

Blues and Brews at the Rec Grove: Willits Lions Club and Cosmic Pickle Productions bring you the annual free Blues and Brews concert at the Rec Grove in Willits on Saturday, September 2 from 11 am to 7 pm. Come early for the amazing Gospel Blues Band/Choir with Minister Cynthia Lewis and Dearnman's Brothers and Sisters in Christ, followed by Clay Hawkins. Dance to Dirty Cello and enjoy a big finish with Blue Luke and Co. Enjoy Big Earl's BBQ, Turtle Island Tacos, and Northspur Brewing Co. and Hare in the Forest brews, along with select wines. Shop the crafts of 30



vendors. Celebrate community good times with your Willits friends and neighbors!

Willits Summer Art Walk: The Willits Center for the Arts, with business/organization venue partners and the Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join artists, musicians, dancers, artisans and other creatives for the final 1st Saturday evening stroll along East Commercial Street this summer. Saturday, September 2, 5:30 to 8:30 pm. More info, including if you're interested in having a pop up, at: www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

'Made in Mendocino, Art Quilts' at WCA: The September exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts is "Made in Mendocino, Art Quilts," showcasing the diverse and creative

work of 20 talented art quilters. Each piece has been carefully selected to demonstrate the diverse range of quilters' artistic visions and technical mastery, showcasing the vibrant diversity within the local community. Opening reception Saturday, September 2, in conjunction with the Art Walk, 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Free admission. Galleries open Friday-Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. 71 East Commercial Street.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
MADE IN MENDOCINO
ART QUILTS

Saturday, September 2, 2023
in conjunction with Art Walk, 5:30-8:30

Galleries are open Fri. - Sun. 11 am - 5 pm

71 E. Commercial St. (next to the Noyo Theater)
Willits, CA 95490
For more information: www.willitscenterforthearts.org

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Strays'

The Story: "R" rated canine comedy saga of revenge and hair-raising adventures, plus almost continual heavy handed tasteless-but-funny doggie sex jokes. Reggie is a tiny mutt with a Brillo pad coat, a love of tennis balls, and a scummy, cruel, dope-smoking, booze sucking, piece-o-crap master named Doug.

Reggie is a good dog who adores his master. But his master Doug is an exceptionally bad man. He drives Reggie to a strange scary city far far away and abandons him to the mean streets. Reggie doesn't know what to do until he sniffs the hind parts of a fast-talking Boston Terrier who preaches with gusto the joys of living the "stray lifestyle." They are joined by a lovely lady Australian Shepherd and a stolid-but-noble Great Dane. They form a pack. Urinate on various things. And set off to help Reggie find his home, and that lowlife Doug. Much and many surprising adventures ensue.

My Thoughts: I don't usually enjoy poop and urine jokes. P. and U. humor makes for cheap laughs. But there are times when P. and U. jokes feel liberating. "Strays" is one of those times. So much dog poop is spread across the big screen in so many scenes, that I gave up. I held my nose, and I laughed. A lot!

Parents: Most kids would probably love the movie. Kids love poop jokes. At the same time, the near-constant joking commentary on canine sex behavior is wrong for children. But parents cannot bring children into the adult theater, so if your junior whines about wanting to see the dog movie, tell them no because it's rated R, and they can't go into the adult theater anyway, and to be grateful that they get to see "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." My goal: Peace in the family.

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

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 Assembly of God Church
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-6:7-9 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:8-10 p.m.

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

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

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Anton 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
707-272-4177
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

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

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

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

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: .

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.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

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!"

WOMEN WHO LOVE TO SING!



No audition or prior experience required
We sing songs of peace, joy, social justice, and healing

Inland Valley Women's Chorus
Our 30th season begins:
Thursday, Sept. 7th ~ 6:00-7:30pm
(and continuing every Thursday)
Holy Trinity Church, 640 S. Orchard Ave., Ukiah
NOTE: Carpooling available from Willits

Lap swim at City Pool

Lap swim has returned!

Starting Wednesday, August 23, the City Pool will be open for lap swim only, Monday through Thursday from 6 to 8 am. Lap Swim will continue until October 1, 2023. City Pool is located at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street.

- Posted by City of Willits

Long Valley Garden Club PRESENTS

Summer of L.O.V.E.

VEGAN POTLUCK

Sunday, August 27th, 2023
4:00 to 6:00 pm
375 Harwood Rd.
Laytonville, CA

Please bring a dish that contains no meat, dairy, eggs, gelatin, bone broth or honey, and label if containing gluten, nuts or soy

Hosted by L.O.V.E. Community's Creative Team

Claws for a Cause

September 2

Willits Rotary Club invited the public to the 10th annual Claws for a Cause event, Saturday, September 2, 5:30 pm, Ridgewood Ranch in Willits. A benefit for the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center, celebrating 30 years of service, with 10% to the Willits Rotary Scholarship Fund. Dinner features Maine lobster and filet mignon, live & silent auctions, Beer & Wine, the Ice Box Gelato Truck, desserts by Kemmy's Pies, and live music by Ed Reinhart and The Reveleers. Info or tickets: 707-391-3873 or 707-272-1918, or purchase online at www.seabiscuitridingcenter.org/events-1/claws-for-a-cause-1

WILLITS ROTARY CLUB INVITES YOU TO JOIN US AT THE 10th ANNUAL

Claws FOR A Cause

SEPT. 2ND

A BENEFIT FOR THE SEABISCUIT THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

5:30pm Ridgewood Ranch, Willits
4:30pm Early Bird Facility Wine Tour

WINE • LOBSTER • FILET MIGNON

Dinner, Live & Silent Auctions, Beer & Wine, The Ice Box Gelato Truck, Desserts by Kemmy's Pies, AND Live Music by Ed Reinhart and The Reveleers

For more information or tickets call 707-391-3873 or 707-272-1918

DAMASCUS SPONSORS:

Adventist Health, Metal, Spentime

Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center (STRC) is a therapeutic partnership program that serves children with disabilities in Mendocino and Colusa Counties. For more information visit our Facebook page.



Roots of Motive Power's 41st Annual Steam Festival

September 9 and 10

Come join us for our 41st annual Steam Festival, Saturday, September 9 and Sunday, September 10 at the Roots yard, 420 East Commercial Street. We will be debuting Roots' newest asset, the Keystone Well Driller, with its water cart powered from its own boiler this year. We will also have all the regular exhibits like the Bucyrus-Erie 50B; the antique tractors back in the pit; the Bluestone Mining And Smelting #1 Heisler steam locomotive; the Port of Olympia #2 BLW steam locomotive; and steam roller printing services at the Rec Grove 11 am to 3 pm both days.

The annual BBQ, raffle, and auction happens Saturday starting at 4 pm. Sober Grad committee will be serving hot dogs, chips and sodas both days. Sugar Mama's shaved ice and Carson Knives will be back again this year. Cover Apple Farm will also be back this year pressing cider on Saturday only. Come join us for a couple days of steam, whistles, tractors, and free train rides.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Paint and Sip
with Laura Corben

Paint, Sip, Laugh, Eat. Catered by Scoops.

September 15
5pm
\$50
Includes canvas, materials, wine and appetizers. Limited to 12 participants.

ALL LEVELS WELCOME
Register online at www.willitscenterforthearts.org

E. COMMERCIAL ST. WILLITS
ART WALK
FIRST SATURDAYS
5:30 - 8:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 2
TAKE A WALK WITH US!
ART - MUSIC - FOOD - CRAFTS - COMMUNITY
COME DOWNTOWN TO EAST COMMERCIAL ST.
ENJOY WCA GALLERY OPENINGS, MUSEUM EVENTS, AND POP-UP CREATIVE HAPPENINGS!

SEEKING ARTISTS for POP-UPS!
For more information go to willitscenterforthearts.org or email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org

THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE!

GOT FRUIT?

The Grateful Gleaners can help harvest your home orchard!

Gleaner volunteers will bring ladders & smiles to your backyard, harvest your fruit trees, then distribute the bounty to local organizations including Nuestra Alianza, Willits Daily Bread, The Caring Kitchen, Willits Senior Center, Food Bank, Kids Clubs, and more!

CONTACT THE Grateful Gleaners:
707-367-7391
GratefulGleaners@Willits@gmail.com

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA

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

Starts Friday, Sept. 1: EQUALIZER 3

GRAND TURISMO

(PG13) 2 hrs 15 mins
Fri.: 4:15 & 7:15pm
Sat.: 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15pm
Sun.: 3:15 & 6:15pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 6:15pm

BLUE BEETLE

(PG13) 2 hrs 7 mins
Fri.: 4:40 & 7:30pm
Sat.: 1:45, 4:40 & 7:30pm
Sun.: 3:40 & 6:30pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 6:30pm

STRAYS

(R) 1 hr 32 mins
Fri.: 5:40 & 8:00pm
Sat.: 3:00, 5:40 & 8:00pm
Sun.: 4:40 & 7:00pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 7:00pm
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners



The first cohort of nursing students from Pacific Union College, from left: Kayla Schnitzius, Crystal Yanez, Siena Karp, and Emmanuel Villegas-Meza; with Associate Patient Care Executive Amy Buckingham in the center.

Adventist Health Howard Memorial welcomes first cohort of Pacific Union College nursing students

Submitted by Adventist Health

Adventist Health Howard Memorial is pleased to announce its first cohort of Pacific Union College nursing students to the hospital, welcoming Kayla Schnitzius, Crystal Yanez, Siena Karp and Emmanuel Villegas-Meza as they advance their careers.

This innovative partnership between Adventist Health in Northern California and Pacific Union College creates opportunities for future nurses to enroll in PUC's Associate of Science in Nursing program. This new program was recently opened to Adventist Health employees and community members across Mendocino and Lake counties and aims to address the critical shortage of healthcare professionals in rural areas and to ensure that high-quality care remains accessible to all residents.

As part of this program, 18 spots were available to students meeting admissions criteria, including prerequisite courses. Those accepted through the admissions process will be entered into a hybrid program taught by nursing professors from PUC's Angwin campus leading the programs instruction, with clinicals happening at local hospitals including Adventist Health Howard Memorial, Adventist Health Ukiah Valley, Adventist Health Mendocino Coast, and Adventist Health Clear Lake, allowing our team and community members to remain local.

"We are thrilled to partner with Pacific Union College to address the pressing need for qualified nurses in our region and are excited to welcome our first cohort," said Linda Givens, administrator at Adventist Health Howard Memorial.

Amy Buckingham, associate patient care executive at Adventist Health Howard Memorial, echoed that same sentiment with the support being provided to both students and the hospital system as a whole. "We could not be more excited to have this program beginning next month," Buckingham said. "This collaboration allows us to invest in the future of healthcare by supporting the education and training of talented individuals who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of others."

Out of over 200 applicants, these four students were admitted to the program. Their clinicals will be conducted at Howard Memorial. The other 14 students will be working at other Adventist Health hospitals across Northern California.

Adventist Health is a faith-inspired, nonprofit, integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii with over 400 sites of care. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care agencies, hospice agencies, and joint-venture retirement centers in both rural and urban communities. Our compassionate and talented team of 34,000 includes employees, medical staff physicians, allied health professionals, and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission; living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope.

We are committed to staying true to our heritage by providing patient-centered, quality care. Together, we are transforming the healthcare experience with an innovative whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual, and social healing to support community well-being.

A letter from ...

The Executive Director of La Vida Charter School

Ann Kelley

Dear Community:

La Vida starts the new year celebrating a few things. This is the school's 22nd year, and we recently received Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation renewal until 2029. We were so pleased to receive the rating of "Highly Effective" from the WASC team. The accreditation ensures the transferability of courses to colleges, universities, and other high schools.



Executive Director Ann Kelley.

We are also celebrating Willits' own Gary Martin, who received the Outstanding Elementary Visual Art Educator of the Year from the California Art Education Association. Martin's Art Appreciation presentations have been a highlight of each month for students over many years. It is a well-deserved award.

We also celebrate the accomplishments of the faculty with their summer projects. 78 online high school courses received A-G accreditation, bringing the school's total of university prep A-G accredited to 285 courses both traditional and online. The school now has a Career and Technical Education Pathways Program for 10 industrial sectors that are complete, with several other industrial sectors having partial fulfillment.

A Mindfulness Program was created for the onsite classes in which teachers will interweave calming and centering breathing and activities with students throughout the day. Also created this summer is the kickoff class for the Ethnic Studies Program, a Native American Studies Class that will focus on the local Pomo language and

Read the rest of **La Vida** Over on page 11



Charter School Association lunch policy

The Charter School Association of Willits has announced an amendment to its policy for serving meals to students under the National School Lunch / School Breakfast Programs for the 2023-24 school year.

In addition, Charter School Association of Willits is incorporating fresh produce from Mendocino County local farmers.

All students will be served lunch and breakfast at no charge at the following sites:

- Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street, Willits
- Willits Elementary Charter School, 405 East Commercial Street, Willits
- River Oak Charter School, 555 Leslie Street, Ukiah
- Redwood Collegiate Academy, 1059 North State Street, Ukiah
- Sequoia Career Academy, 1031 North State Street, Ukiah

For additional information, please contact us at wcs@willitscharter.net or by phone at 707-459-5506.

The rest of

La Vida

From page 10

culture and end with the students self-publishing a historic memoir about the local Native peoples from the early 20th century county resident Ray Schultz, who published several local history volumes.

A fun Fall Floral Decoration Specialty Class is added this year, which will double as a fundraising effort for the students' high school dance. Robofity, a coding course activating robots, is offered to all students in grades 5-8. Italic Handwriting and Calligraphy will be offered to all upper grade students. A special course on Jobs in the Renaissance will be offered to Junior High students this year.

"La Vida Charter School in a Land Called Honahlee" is the theme this year which is a focus on imagination. Dragons, unicorns, phoenixes, winged lions, sasquatch and other crypto creatures will feature large in the writing and storytelling of the students. Field trips to amazing, inspired landscapes created with vision include Emandal in Willits, Jack London's Beauty Ranch and Wolf House in Glen Ellen, and Muir Woods in Mill Valley. The fall musical in the theme is about Story Elements and Genres: "Beauty and the Beast Tell All" is told through fantastical characters like Beauty and the Beast, Nessie the Loch Ness Monster, Moby Dick, Medusa, and many more.

Orientation and Curriculum Check Out kick off the year before the first day of school on August 28.

La Vida continues as a small school alternative, a non-classroom-based home study program that is enhanced by optional culturally rich onsite classes two days per week, Monday and Tuesday for K-8 and Wednesday and Thursday for High School.

The membership in the Alliance For Public Waldorf Education is an important influence for the school. Teachers are also fortunate to work with two highly accomplished Waldorf mentors for classroom support and for school-wide vision. At this time the school is full with a waiting list.

The process of measuring student individual growth starts in the first weeks with diagnostics in reading and math, and then growth continues to be measured in the fall and spring with the Measures of Academic Progress test. The community is held together through communications via the Parent Square app that allows everyone to receive announcements in their method and language of choice.

May it be a wonderful year of exploration, discovery and accomplishment for all.

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WILLITS CHARTER SCHOOL
2023-2024 School Year

1431 South Main St, Willits CA 95490
Phone: (707) 459-5506 Fax: (707) 719-6038

School Starts / School Ends						
August 28, 2023 - First Day of School						
June 7, 2023 - Last Day of School						

HOLIDAYS						
September 4: Labor Day						
November 10: Veterans Day						
November 20-24: Thanksgiving Recess						
December 22 - January 5: Winter Recess						
January 15: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday						
February 16-19: Presidents' Day Recess						
April 1-5: Spring Recess						
May 24-27: Memorial Day Recess						

Non-Attendance Days for Students						
August 21-25: Teacher work days						
November 1: Teacher work day						
March 29: Teacher work day/Snow day						
June 10: Teacher work day						
June 12-14: ELOP PD						

Quarter Endings						
First Quarter: November 3, 2023						
Second Quarter: January 26, 2024						
Third Quarter: March 28, 2024						
Fourth Quarter: June 7, 2024						

Important Information						
During severe weather conditions, we will notify families and local radio stations, Facebook and ParentSquare regarding district school closures.						

If WUSD is closed, WCS is closed.						
KOZT 95.9 FM KZYX 91.5 FM						
m = minimum day, school ends at 2:10 p.m.						
e = early day, school ends at 12:18 p.m.						
E = Additional Extended Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) Days from 8am - 5pm						
*ELOP is also offered Monday - Friday before school @ 8am & after school until 5pm						

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Aug. 2023

Vaccines might seem scary but that's nothing compared to the diseases they prevent.

pho-tog-ra-phress

www.mphotographress.com | 707-972-7047
photography by maureen jennison

It's great that most of us have no idea what measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough, pneumonia, or meningitis can do to a child.

We're here to help you keep it that way.

We make it easy to vaccinate your child. CALL US TODAY to establish care with our Pediatrics Department, and we'll help you stay on track with all your child's healthcare needs. We'll stay by your side from your baby's first smile through the toss of their cap at high school graduation.

MCHC HEALTH CENTERS
HILLSIDE | DORA ST | LITTLE LAKE | LAKEVIEW
(707) 456-9600

LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER • 45 Hazel St., Willits • mchcinc.org
WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE.
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL.
MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

The Waldorf School OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

Enrolling Now for 2023/24

- Preschool & Kindergarten
- 1st -8th Grade

Call for a tour

Inspired Teaching - Enthusiastic Learning

www.mendocinowaldorf.org 707-485-8719

JULY 2023						
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At right: Jenn Proccacci, Michelle Peñalosa and Zach Reichenbach display the new Round Valley newspaper, Round Valley Reader. Below, left: While We're Young entertains the crowd in the main kiosk. Below, right: Ivana, from Argentina, sells her intricately painted hats. At bottom, left: The Blackberry Festival has many colorful displays of merchandise and crafts. At bottom, right: Children have fun at a station set up for painting with natural pigments.



From far left: Mary Lou Mileck, one of this year's organizers of the festival, helps out at the event. Magician Professor Pepper, who entertained at various locations, stands behind Mickey the Clown, a longtime Covelo resident and MC of the festival for the entire 40 years. The music kiosk is centrally located and is the focal point of the two-day Blackberry Festival.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Covelo Gem

One-of-a-kind Blackberry Festival features colorful characters, artwork, blackberry concoctions, and more

It rained, not just a little, but a hearty deluge for a period of time. The downpour seemed somewhat appropriate on the 40th anniversary of the Covelo Blackberry Festival, as the first festival in 1983 was also greeted with a healthy rain which did nothing to dishearten the attendees or the festival.

The rain, in fact, was a welcome relief to the high heat and nothing could dampen the spirits of the vendors and the families who had waited all year to go to this wildly popular event. Eventually the rain cleared and the sun reappeared.

"This is the 40th anniversary of the Blackberry Festival," explained Mary Lou Mileck, one of the current organizers. "A group of local people built this little arbor, and wore a bunch of purple balloons and paraded through town. Then next thing you know, there was a festival every year. We have a lot of blackberries, you know. We thank Luther Burbank every day for the abundance of blackberries. He imported them from the Himalayas. So, these are not the local blackberries, which are different."

In an area built up exclusively for use of the festival, the abundance of trees and foliage provide a shady respite for the 50 vendors and informational booths. The site was once a flour mill and is now owned by international fabric dyer John Marshall.

The festival has been attracting

Mathew Caine
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Read the rest of **Blackberry** Over on page 15

In Loving Memory



Alleen Dorothea 'Bobbie' Fearon-Recio

Bobbie was born on January 19, 1931 in Berkeley, California to Arthur and Very Fearon. She was raised in San Francisco with her brother Grover and sister Lavinia. She attended Santa Monica City College and then majored in Biological Science with a minor in Art at Humboldt State in Arcata.

She was always an adventurous and independent woman and had a number of careers throughout her years. She carried the mail in Sausalito, manufactured semi-conductors for Howard Hughes in Santa Monica, sold real estate in San Diego, built houses in Redwood City, and later developed property in Willits.

In 1956 she met and married Simon "Nick" Recio. They owned and operated the "Flying Jib" restaurant in Santa Monica. In the 1970s they moved to Wheeler, Oregon where they operated the River Sea Inn until the late 1980s, when they sold that restaurant and moved to Willits where they opened a coffee shop in the Safeway shopping center. This restaurant didn't last very long, as they both really wanted to retire.

Bobbie settled in and after closing their restaurant, restoring and building several houses, she and Nick purchased 10 acres on Live Oak Road and built "Rancho Babba" as their final residence. They had no children, and in 2015 she lost Nick.

During her years in Willits, Bobbie was a regular at the old health club pool and enjoyed many friendships doing water aerobics together. She became known as "Pineapple Bobbie" for the beautiful pineapple plants she grew at the health club pool.

After the health club closed, the social contact waned and she missed visiting with her "Pool People." She became the matriarch of the Country Pond Club and presided over monthly luncheons with her friends for several years. In 2015 she decided she needed more social contact and her health prevented her from getting out as much as she had in the past so she built the Country Pond Pool on her property to aid in the treatment of her arthritis and back problems, but mainly to bring her water aerobics friends back together. This has been a great success with many of her "Pool People" friends coming to visit and work out regularly.

This was Bobbie, a matriarch, generous to a fault and always doing her best to fill the need she saw around her and to see the best in the people around her.

Bobbie was preceded in death by her beloved parents, her brother Grover, sister Lavinia and her husband, Nick. She is survived by her niece, Michelle Fearon of Florida and nephew Ronnie Fearon of Sweden.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

The rest of Amtrak

From page 1

requirement for intercity passenger rail/thruway bus services to sell companion rail tickets as a condition of the sale.

As such, following extensive planning coordination, in 2021 after the impacts of the pandemic had eased, SJJPA opened parts of the Amtrak San Joaquins Route 7 as well as Routes 1c, 10, 18, and 19 for bus-only sales.

"We are pleased to now be at the point where we can expand connectivity along Route 7 to its fullest extent," said Pat Hume, chair for the SJJPA. "Fully opening Route 7 is a result of extensive collaboration with local stakeholders and regional transit providers and is a part of our ongoing effort to make Amtrak San Joaquins a comprehensive transportation solution for communities statewide."

Making Amtrak's Thruway bus routes available to non-rail riders brings several benefits including:

- Improved access to transit for priority and underserved communities.
- Reduction in greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions by diverting trips that would have previously been taken by an automobile.
- Reduced car trips on some of the state's most congested freeways.
- Better utilization of current transit infrastructure.

Increased revenues for the state at virtually no additional cost.

The rest of Quality

From page 1

According to the AirNow.gov site, recommendations for "Unhealthy" air conditions include: "For everyone: Keep outdoor activities light and short. Go indoors if you have symptoms. For sensitive groups: Consider moving all activities indoors. Go indoors to cleaner air if you don't feel well. Sensitive (at risk) groups include people with heart or lung disease, older adults, children, and pregnant people and those who spend a lot of time outdoors."

By the 3 pm report, the AQI was down to 132, and by 4 pm, the index showed 116 – both levels still considered "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups."

On Tuesday morning, the 8 am update showed the AQI at 52, or "Moderate," but just barely over the "Good" level. Since then, the Willits air quality has been "Good" or "Moderate," with the clearest air usually very early in the morning.

Mendocino County Air Quality District has an informative website, including information about permissive burn days when burning is not banned, as it is now, at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd/.

If you scroll down to find "Air Quality for Mendocino" and click "Current," the www.airgov.com site opens, where you can see air quality from all over. Enter "95490" or "Willits CA" to see the latest report from the Blosser Lane monitor. You'll see a button option for a "Fire & Smoke Map" where you can zoom out to see air quality and fires from everywhere in the United States, including Alaska.

The rest of Fire

From page 1

The August 17 evening update reported "four smokejumpers and the Elk Mountain Hotshots (Crew 4) were joined by a helitack crew on the Rock Fire in the Sanhedrin Wilderness on the Upper Lake Ranger District. Two helicopters supported the crews with successful bucket drops. The Rock Fire is 1.5 acres. Though much progress was made, containment remains at 0%. Resources on scene will continue working on the line tomorrow."

The next update, the morning of August 18, reported that "crews have made significant progress knocking back interior heat and constructing handline around the fire, estimated at 2.5 acres. Four smokejumpers, a hotshot crew, and helitack crew remain on scene. Later today, a helicopter from the Slide 1 fire will shift over to the Rock Fire to assist firefighters on the line."

Crews continued working to contain the fire over the next couple of days.

To keep up with reports on fires, locally and throughout the West Coast, visit www.watchduty.org.

The rest of Munchery

From page 1

allowed family, friends and the public to share in the official cutting of the ribbon.

"It is with great excitement that the Chamber-sponsored ribbon cutting event at the Munchery was a success," said WCC coordinator Susan Mahoney who addressed the gathered crowd at the event. "Everyone is so happy that The Munchery is finally open for all to support and enjoy. Best wishes for great success!"

If the excitement shared at Thursday's event, and the even more exuberant support at the Friday Bar Bites event (with live music by Tastes Like Chicken on the outdoor patio) is any indication of the public's excitement and willingness to support Brown Martin's Munchery endeavors, it looks like the eatery is a welcome addition to the Willits scene.

"We just couldn't believe the amount of people who showed up," laughed an overwhelmed and grateful Brown Martin. "It was really nice to see everyone and we were thrilled to have the Chamber here for the official opening. They were so friendly and nice to work with! We were packed Thursday, and had literal lines out both the back and front doors on Friday. I got millions of hugs, it was amazing. My cooks joked that while we were planning Friday as the "soft opening" it was anything but. It was a full on service!"

Brown Martin and her family have been

The rest of Project

From page 2

The ultimate goal of the Heads Up Project is to identify the right person to respond to community members in need of assistance.

After months of testing and practice, the project is now ready to be amplified in the public arena. Current active partners include Ukiah Police Department, Mendocino County Probation Department, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Mendocino County Department of Social Services, and Mendocino County Behavioral Health Department. Numerous community-based organizations provide additional support through accepting secondary referrals.

The overarching goal of the Heads Up Project is to provide early identification and diversion of individuals in need of behavioral health and social services support so as to avoid unnecessary and unproductive use of criminal justice resources.

The project provides a pathway for law enforcement agencies in Mendocino County to alert the Behavioral Health and Social Services departments about individuals in our community whose needs are not in alignment with the structure of the criminal justice system. After receiving a referral, the Heads Up team identifies the most appropriate human services worker and / or organization to respond and follow-up with the household in need.

The Heads Up project was initially conceived by an informal group of criminal justice, behavioral health, and social services leaders and staff working together to address issues of mutual concern.

In 2020, a small team from the Ukiah Police Department, the Mendocino County Probation Department, the Dual Response Mobile Crisis team from the Mendocino County Behavioral Health Department, and the Special Projects Team with the Mendocino County Social Services Department began to meet regularly to work on a collaborative response to a handful of individuals in Ukiah with repeated and unproductive interactions with law enforcement, the jail, the social services system, and the behavioral health system.

Although the team achieved limited success with the specific individuals in question, our pathways for communication and collaboration improved significantly.

As a result of efforts focused initially on one or two individuals, the team grew in scope and membership to become an informal Criminal Justice – Human Services Collaborative Team. The addition of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office in 2022 accelerated the scale of the project considerably.

Shortly after the Sheriff's Office joined the team, the idea for the Heads Up email alert system was conceived, embraced, tested, and fully implemented in about six months. To date, the project has responded to over 250 unique situations. At full capacity and with full participation, the team estimates that the demand and need is likely three or four times the current volume.

Heads Up responds to a wide variety of community needs. Referrals exclusively originate from a law enforcement organization – typically in response to a 911 call for service for a situation that is not criminal in nature.

Originally, the team anticipated that the majority of referrals would be for persons experiencing mental health issues and / or homelessness. However, experience thus far has revealed a wide range of needs within the community of individuals initially requesting a law enforcement response.

Referrals have included: elderly clients in need of greater assistance within their home; parents of teens struggling with complicated and unruly behavior; family members concerned about the general well-being of their loved ones; neighbors concerned about behavior of an individual within their neighborhood; clients themselves calling law enforcement for reasons that are not immediately clear; and much more.

The Heads Up Project is unique in that the collaboration is not funded through any grants or dedicated funding sources. All of the participating partners are doing so within their current scopes of funded work, and sometimes working outside of those scopes to meet the unique or unusual needs of a resident.

The Heads Up project is also designed to be truly collaborative in nature. No single agency or organization is in charge of the project. In keeping with our common understanding that complex community problems require complex and creative solutions, Heads Up Project members recognize that no single agency or administrator is responsible for solving societal problems with multiple causes.

For questions or further information, or to be linked to a spokesperson for the project, please contact Megan Van Sant, senior program manager, Special Projects Team, County of Mendocino through email vansantm@mendocinocounty.org or by phone at 707-463-7733.

More information, including the details about the logistics of the project, can be found at www.headsupmendocino.org.



local business owners for decades; the family owns Brown's Corner and is a landlord to several businesses on site including next door dispensary Element 7. Seeing the opportunity to place an additional business in the middle of the two downstairs shops, Brown Martin started tossing around the idea of a restaurant, sharing the sentiments of many Willitsians: "Willits needs more places to eat!"

"We were looking at purchasing another restaurant, but when that – and their liquor license – fell through, we decided to build here, and look around for another license, and thankfully were able to purchase the one once held by the Yokayo Bowl," she explained. "Originally we were just thinking of a deli of sorts, sandwiches, ice cream, salads, but when we were actually able to get the full license, the game was on, and we switched gears and started envisioning a place for dinner and drinks, mimosas and brunch and the ball started rolling."

The Munchery is planning to be open for breakfast, lunch, dinner – and Sunday brunch – and will be closed on Tuesdays. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, they will be open from 7 to 11 am for full breakfast service, and then from 11 am to 2 pm for lunches of salads, sandwiches and soups. They will close for turnover and reopen from 4 to 9 pm for full dinner service, including everything from steaks to pastas, and then will also have bar bites at night.

On Fridays and Saturdays, The Munchery will follow the same schedule, but will stay open an extra hour, closing at 10 pm. Sundays will feature brunch only, from 8 am to 2 pm. Patrons of all ages are welcome, despite the service of alcohol, as the eatery offers a variety of meals.

"Feel free to bring the whole family!" said Brown Martin. "We're very child-friendly!"

The menu will be seasonally consistent with some staples that will stay, but will also include specials depending on local ingredients, availability and inspiration of chef Joshua Landes and the kitchen crew.

"We all work together and bring ideas on how to use what's local and fresh," said Brown Martin. "Joshua Landes, us, and the crew come up with great ideas to use what we have, and what's available, and we try and source from local farms as much as possible. We also have had wonderful insight from a very helpful friend and restaurant industry expert, Justin Simoneaux, and we look forward to receiving feedback, support and encouragement as we move forward at The Munchery."

The Munchery is located at 1797 South Main Street with parking on the north side of the building. The eatery offers inside and patio dining and eat-in and to-go options. Find them online at Facebook as "The Munchery" – where you can see posted menus and more, or call 707-941-0028 for additional information.

The rest of Blackberry

From page 14

more and more hearty people from all over Mendocino County.

"Most of the attendees are locals," said longtime Covelo resident Mickey the Clown, who has emceed the festival for all of its 40 years. "In the past few years, more outsiders have begun to come up. Getting up to Covelo is not easy to do.

"People usually need a reason to travel here," said Mickey. "This festival is a good reason. People like the music and the food and the vibes here. It's free. People can just come in and enjoy. We have blackberry slushes and ice cream."

The two-day Blackberry Festival is an eclectic event based around the abundance of blackberries in Round Valley. The event attracts craft vendors with colorful displays of handmade goods, toys, blankets, and other beautiful items.

Junior Escalante, an Apache entrepreneur, travels the country selling his blankets and jewelry. "I do a lot of the Native American events. I travel throughout the states of California, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, Texas, Nebraska. I am out of the Yuba City area.

"I feel blessed to be able to do what I do and get to see all the states," said Escalante. "I also do a lot of the Native American jewelry with abalone shells. I do that for a lot of the California Natives. I also do sterling silver. I'm very particular on my pieces. If they are not to my perfection, I put them aside and start over."

Several of the booths offered information on community services and local organizations. Jessi Alvarado, a Covelo resident and owner of Full Circle Trading Post, promoted her efforts to create a skate park for the youth of the valley.

"We, most likely, have a location and we're working on solidifying that aspect," said Alvarado. "Once we have that, we can apply for bigger funding. We have a lot of support. We're planning our skate nights for the year. We should have one in about three weeks at the Rec Center. Pro skaters attend." For more information, visit www.rvskateparkproject.org.

The Friends of the Round Valley Library, the Friends of the Eel River, the Great Redwood Trail, local radio station KYBU, the Wildlands Conservancy, UCCE Mendocino College, and North Coast Opportunities were there to impart information and engage in discussions.

Of course there was music. Mickey the Clown introduced the acts throughout the two days. Several groups with colorful names played in the central kiosk. Yippie Coyote, Loko Yokol, Eagle Mountain String Band, While We're Young, and even local Willits resident and artist Marjo Wilson, amongst others.

The official Blackberry Festival song, originally sung by the Blackberry Jammers, was performed as always. The lyrics declare: "Round Valley for blackberry jam. From the finest ladies in all the land..."

As the performers entertained, people perused the booths and ate Indian tacos, blackberry slushes, blackberry pie, elotes, and other traditional and local treats. The family-oriented event had many activities for the kids. A giant water slide provided a way to have fun while staying cool. There was a small roller coaster, paint activities, and other fun distractions.

For the adults, a bucking bull let them test their rodeo skills, and there was a square dance Saturday evening. On Sunday, in addition to the activities in the arbor, the Round Valley Feather Dancers danced, and there was a car show on the street and a pancake breakfast provided by the Friends of the Round Valley Library.

The Round Valley Blackberry Festival is a great way for families from all over Mendocino County to spend a day traveling to a place they rarely go, listen to some music, play games, buy gifts, and generally enjoy a fine outdoor activity with friendly people. It should be on everyone's calendar for 2024.

For more information, visit www.roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com.

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