

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 523

Thursday, October 19, 2023

DA files criminal complaint against county auditor

Submitted by the Mendocino County Executive Office

October 17 – Mendocino District Attorney David Eyster filed a criminal complaint of misappropriation of public funds, a felony, in Mendocino County Superior Court on October 13 against Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector Chamise Cubbison and former County Payroll Manager, Paula June “PJ” Kennedy.

In a public meeting of the

Read the rest of **Complaint**

Over on Page 11

Brooktrails board hears update on access roads

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board meeting on October 10 was short, just under 30 minutes, but was, nevertheless, informational. The full board was in attendance along with Township Counsel Chris Neary.

General Manager Tamara Alaniz announced: that CAL FIRE announced it would lift the burn ban restriction by the end of the week, October 14. “So,” Alaniz said, “unless circumstances, such as wind or heat that could exacerbate fire conditions that could cause runaway burn piles are prevalent, the

Read the rest of **Brooktrails**

Over on Page 10

DA Eyster addresses BOS during public comment

Posted by Mendocino County DA

October 17 – Good morning, Mr. Chairman, board members, CEO, and county counsel:

“There is a false narrative being circulated by some who have pursued an agenda of misinformation and by others who circulate this false narrative without having enough information to know better.

“In the short time I will be at this podium, I intend to provide a little background information that will hopefully encourage law-abiding citizens (1) to not be influenced by the misinformation, (2) to not engage in non-factual speculation, and (3) to let

Read the rest of **Address**

Over on Page 10



Photos by Maureen Jennison



At top, from left: Apples are readied for the grinder, loaded in, pulverized, squished, and juice bottled all in a matter of a few moments. Above: Tom Allman smiles with a freshly pressed 2.5 gallons or so of fresh apple juice. At left: These apples were picked from the tree and bottled into those same gallons not more than 24 hours apart.

‘Tommy Appleseed’

Tom Allman enjoys juicing apples and sharing the fruits of his labor with family, friends, community – and the cows

What to do after you retire? Well, if you’re Tom Allman, one of those things includes diving deep into apple-filled adventures, including pressing juice for the enjoyment of family and friends, and doing so with a fancy new industrial machine for the 2023 fall season.

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
willitsweekly@gmail.com

“This is my 12th year juicing apples,” explained Allman. “Every year, I think to myself, ‘can I make it better?’ It’s a very labor-intensive process, and this new machine employs automation at its finest. We are getting much more juice [no, there’s no previous years of ‘Lucy and Ricky’ stomping the apples with their feet in large vats] our older press was not really one-man job. With this new machine, it really can be! The press works with hydraulic pressure and food grade oil – says it’ll do 500 psi, and I think that we’re really getting about 95% of the juice out of the apples. The leftover mash is really dry when it comes out!”

And that mash? It’s made Allman’s neighboring cows deem him their favorite person.

Read the rest of **Apples**

Over on page 9



At left: Veteran juicing friend, Kevin Copperfield, helps pour the pressed juice into the funnel-bottomed bottling pot. Below, left: Tom Allman gives the apples a quick wash before grinding. Below, right: The grinder makes light work of pulverizing the fruit and separating the juice from the pulp. At bottom, left: Allman and Copperfield share a toast of freshly pressed juice, straight from the machine’s collection pan, with a grateful photographer. At bottom, right: Allman pours the juice into a bucket with a finer-mesh bag before transferring the double-strained juice into the bottling pot.



BOS suspends county auditor due to criminal charge

By Mike Geniella, October 18, MendoFever.com

On Tuesday, Mendocino County supervisors suspended embattled Auditor Chamise Cubbison without pay although the elected county official has yet to have a chance to enter an expected not guilty plea to a felony charge of misappropriation of public funds filed against her by District Attorney David Eyster.

Read the rest of **Cubbison**

Over on Page 10

Fire board opposes 2024 ballot measure

Annie Evarts
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Initiative number 21-0042A1, “The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act,” was on the agenda for last Tuesday’s meeting of the board of directors for Little Lake Fire Protection District. The board and Little Lake’s staff members are not alone in their concerns that the act, which has made it onto the ballot for November 2024, would have significant negative impacts on local city government finances and services, putting at risk

Read the rest of **Measure**

Over on Page 11

Missing Eureka woman found deceased in towed van

By Captain Gregory L. Van Patten for MCSO

On October 8, 2023 at approximately 3 pm the California Highway Patrol was notified of a reported traffic collision in the area of Sherwood Road and Birch Terrace in Willits (Brooktrails Subdivision).

After the collision, the driver of one of the vehicles, a Toyota Sienna van, fled the traffic collision scene.

The reported traffic collision prompted the response of CHP officers and Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office deputies to assist as needed.

Upon arrival, CHP officers interviewed the one motorist

Read more of **Deceased**

Over on Page 9

Back Porch Trio plays Willits Community Theatre, October 21

Submitted by Willits Community Theatre

The charm of local indie folk sounds will emanate from the Back Porch Trio at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, October 21 at 7:30 pm. A fixture over the past six years in the Northern California scene, the trio features Rosie Wetzel on ukulele and vocals, Steve Hahn on acoustic guitar and vocals, and Jeff Taylor on bass.

From upbeat rockers to plaintive ballads, the trio presents a wide-ranging, fun-loving sound created from a combination of musical influences, folk to blues, classic rock, jam band, Americana, and bluegrass. The trio's sound starts with their unique original songwriting built on a blend of vocal harmonies and tasteful yet simple acoustic instrumentation from their three instruments. While they offer up a collection of their own songs, they also mix in clever concepts of popular cover tunes.

For the WCT show, the Back Porch Trio will be joined by a very special guest, Yvonne Boyd on percussion. While they bring their unique voices and instruments to the WCT stage, something funky and folksy is guaranteed to unfold. Tickets are \$20 and available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org and at the door.



The Back Porch Trio headlines the Willits Community Theatre on October 21.

WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR

DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS & TRANSPORTATION

ANNUAL SALARY: \$94,234-\$114,815

Under the general supervision of the Superintendent: Plan, direct, organize and manage construction projects and the maintenance, repair, cleaning and grounds keeping work of the District. This director supervises personnel and is responsible for the administration of a department budget. This position requires specialized knowledge of transportation, maintenance and facilities as well as skill in directing the operations of major departments within the district.

For more information and to apply please log in to Edjoin <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1850435> or contact Trina Seaton, HR Director (707) 459-5314



Waldorf School's Enchanted Pumpkin Path, October 31

The Waldorf School of Mendocino County is hosting its annual Enchanted Pumpkin Path on October 31, from 4:15 to 8 pm at their Calpella campus, 6280 Third Street.

This beloved offering to the community was founded 35 years ago to provide a whimsical and safe alternative to scary, over-stimulating Halloween activities. The school campus will be transformed into a magical alternative to trick-or-treating for younger children and their families.

Each year the Enchanted Pumpkin Path presents eight short theater skits with treats, bringing to life backdrops and characters that captivate children and their caregivers alike. A host of local actors and actresses grace our stages with their presence and bring mirth, humor, and mystery to the production.

The school community and thespians see this event as an offering to the larger community. Dedicated volunteers are working at all levels to make the magic come alive!

Guests will be greeted by music and revelry, the blacktop will feature chalk drawing, minstrels and a fire pit. The Smoky Cauldron Café will be offering chili and soup, light snacks, homemade baked goods, Black Oak Coffee, apple cider, and hot chocolate.

Guests will be escorted through the path in groups to see skits. After traveling through the theater skits, guests are encouraged to linger for snacking and visiting with friends.

The cost of admission is \$10 per person. Tickets are on sale now at mendocinowaldorf.org/events, or at the Waldorf School office, 707-485-8719. Tickets for entrance to the path are sold in 15 minute blocks starting at 4:15 pm and running through 8 pm. The Café will be open until 8 pm.

We hope you and yours can join us for an inspired, enchanted evening! See you all on the path.

ENCHANTED PUMPKIN PATH HALLOWEEN NIGHT
TUES. OCT. 31ST
4:30PM - 8:00PM

\$10
Tickets available at: MENDOCINOWALDORF.ORG

Her Side of the Story

Female pioneer exhibit opens at Mendocino County Museum October 28

Submitted by Mendocino County Museum

"Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women" will show at the Mendocino County Museum October 28 through December 23, 2023. It will feature 30 first-person accounts collected from women who traveled by land or sea to settle throughout California prior to January 1, 1854.

It will be enhanced with the addition of women's stories from across Mendocino County with special contributions from the Kelly House, the Grace Hudson Museum

and Sun House, the Anderson Valley Historical Society, and the Mendocino County Museum collection.

For more information, please visit www.mendocinocounty.org/museum or contact the Mendocino County Museum at museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

"Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women" was developed by the Society of California Pioneers and travels through Exhibit Envoy.

Ar right: Eduardo Nieto's mother, Maria Guadalupe Nieto, has many years of cooking experience and her own personal style.

Below: Bad Habit Grill is now open for breakfast between 7:30 and 11:30 am.

Photos by Mathew Caine



The rest of Grill | From page 3

Money is a means to an end for Nieto, not the culmination of his life. "I want to give back to my community. I don't want riches. What am I going to do with a lot of money? I always lived in a small family home. We'll fund what we should for Max [his infant son] with a college fund, etc. but we're not going to spoil him with money." Nieto came from humble but comfortable beginnings.

"I also want to give back to my community in the future when I can because the Willits High School community shaped what I am. I graduated at 17, one year early, and went to Sacramento State, which made me change what I was. I became more humble. I got to see every kind of life, from the richest to the poorest people."

His idea for the restaurant is to provide the basic traditional Mexican foods that his mother, Maria Guadalupe Nieto, has brought with her, while integrating his wife, Jasmine Elizabeth Avalos,' Salvadoran dishes, including pupusas, a round, breaded bun with various fillings and served with various sauces.

Other treats include quesabirrias, "like quesadillas but with seasoned meat inside them. There is a sauce that people either pour over the dish or just dip into," explained Nieto. They also serve gorditas. "They're like a tortilla crisp with chicken, sour cream, lettuce. There are different ways you can make it. Some people like the vegetarian gorditas with beans and cheese. Some people cook the chicken differently with more or less spice."

In addition to the Hispanic foods, Nieto will also be offering American food in order for the entire family to be able to enjoy a meal together. "We wanted to be able to please the entire family, so we have Mexican, El Salvadorian, and American food all in the same place. We have American favorites for the kids.

"Our main goal is to prosper, have affordable foods," said Nieto. "We are also trying to incorporate more traditional dishes and a different cooking style. We would like to be able to serve atolés, a hot drink that is served during the winter months, and different types of soups, my mom's homemade spaghetti, which is a tradition on her side of the family. I'd like to incorporate all the dishes she knows. She cooks a different kind of tamale as compared to everybody else. We plan to integrate that later on.

"I can't name all the food that we will be having because she hasn't told me all the dishes yet that she wants to cook. She's been a cook for many restaurants and she knows a little of everything. She even knows how to make sushi. We might integrate some sushi later. We're trying to expand our menu and see what works."

The long-range plan is for Nieto to bring his family's tastes to underserved communities where it may be difficult to find good Mexican and Salvadoran food.

Nieto has recently opened Bad Habit Grill for breakfast, from 7:30 to 11:30 am with very affordable breakfast plates and burritos. Regular hours are: Wednesday through Sunday, 7:30 am to 8 pm; Monday and Tuesday, 7:30 am to 6:30 pm. Menus can be found on their Facebook page. To contact Bad Habit Grill, call 707-380-3861 or email Jasmine1558@gmail.com.

Mendocino County Museum

ON EXHIBITION
10.28.2023
12.23.2023

Her Side of the Story

Tales of California Pioneer Women

'Su Lado de la Historia'

La exposición se inaugura en el Museo del Condado de Mendocino el 28 de Octubre

"Su versión de la historia: Cuentos de mujeres pioneras de California" se exhibirá en el Museo del condado de Mendocino del 28 de octubre al 23 de diciembre de 2023. Contará con 30 relatos en primera persona recopilados de mujeres que viajaron por tierra o mar para establecerse en California antes, hasta el 1 de enero de 1854. Se mejorará con la adición de historias de mujeres de todo el condado de Mendocino con contribuciones especiales de Kelly House, Grace Hudson Museum y Sun House, la Sociedad Histórica de Anderson Valley y la colección del Museo del Condado de Mendocino.

Para obtener más información, visite www.mendocinocounty.org/museum o comuníquese con el Museo del Condado de Mendocino en museum@mendocinocounty.gov o al 707-234-6365.

"Su versión de la historia: Cuentos de mujeres pioneras de California" fue desarrollada por la Sociedad de Pioneros de California y viaja a través de Exhibit Envoy.

Soulful Willow

Meet our beautiful Willow. This gal was picked up by one of our fosters after she was spotted wandering around the Calpella / Redwood Valley area with her pregnant sister. Her sister was lucky to score a foster home to raise her babies in, now it's time for Willow to find her place. Willow is a sweet, shy girl just needing the love and time she deserves! Willow is just over 1 year old and around 60 pounds. Come on down to meet this beauty with the soulful eyes!

The Humane Society for Inland 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.mendocinohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Confident Giza

Giza is a very outgoing cat who just loves to explore before she'll come back to you for pets. Giza would likely do well in a home with children.

Giza is available for adoption at the Fish out of Water pet store in Willits.

CA Mentor is Seeking Caring Individuals

We offer a competitive stipend approx. \$1,300-\$6,000/mo.
Open your heart and home to an adult with intellectual/developmental disabilities.
We offer 24 hour support.
To learn more contact CA Mentor Cathy (707) 324-9009
— Serving Lake and Mendocino Counties —

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 our feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinocounty.org/animalshelter.com.

Gentle Chandu

Chandu is a handsome young adult dog. Chandu is a natural explorer, and loves being taken out for nice long walks or hikes in nature. He enjoys meeting new people and plays well with other dogs. He has good recall and does well off leash.

Chandu is an affectionate and gentle dog who will thrive in a home that has time for consistent training and socialization.

To learn more about Chandu or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 707-459-4900.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Marc Komer Legal Document Assistant

An Affordable Non-Attorney Service
(707) 459-2775

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

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



SHERWOOD VALLEY BAND OF POMO INDIANS PRESENTS

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT



MUSIC, FOOD, GAMES & PRIZES

**31st
Oct
2023**

**CALL TO RESERVE
YOUR SPOT BEFORE
OCT. 26TH**

**3 PM
6 PM**

**GET YOUR HALLOWEEN NIGHT
STARTED WITH FUN
FOR EVERYONE!**



Casino Parking Lot
100 Kawi Pl.
Willits, CA 95490



To RSVP your Trunk or Treat spot please contact Tina Vansickle @ (707)-459-9690