

**Thursday, May 26, 2022**

Staff has selected a  
Read the rest of  
**Election**  
Over on Page 6

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Thanks for ‘Life Without Sport’

To the Editor:

Full disclosure: Reporter Cody Pedersen is a friend.

Hopelessly biased, yes. Nonetheless, I wanted to write to thank you for printing his column “Life Without Sport” in the May 19 issue of Willits Weekly.

Sports statistics can be a rather dry subject, something I would skim over or avoid altogether. On the other hand, reporter Pedersen’s column provided a very real, up close and personal, story about one of our own, one player and the impact COVID made on his life for two years.

His name is Kooper Dockins and I was grateful to him for being open and straightforward. Without flinching he talked about how confinement at home made it difficult to do his school work. Dockins, like many of his peers, uses sports as an incentive to get good grades. He missed competing and was afraid he would never get back to the fields and court.

I hope we’ll see more of such first-class writing and photography from Cody Pedersen. His human interest stories are a delight to read. Makes you wonder: What comes first? The photos or the story?

In addition to being a writer/photographer, he’s also a promoter, actively encouraging support of all Willits High School athletes through the Boosters Club.

Gail Richards, Willits

## Interested in creative writing?

To the Editor:

Mendocino College, here at the Willits campus, offered a wonderful Creative Writing class last semester, and will again next semester starting in August.

The class can be taken for credit, OR seniors can participate for a minimal fee: Memoirs, poetry, fiction, non-fiction – all genres and levels of writing are welcome.

I want to thank the college for providing the opportunity, the instructor, Steve Hellman, for his leadership and encouragement, and especially the members of the writing community for their kindness and affirmation.

I encourage anyone interested in writing to join this class in August.

Cathy Decker, Willits

## Senior Center seeks volunteer greeter

To the Editor:

The Harrah Senior Center is seeking a positive-minded, energetic and outgoing volunteer to greet people as they enter the senior center.

Receptionists are the first faces you see at nearly every business. They embody a business’s personality and set the tone for a guest’s visit. Our current volunteers find this position very rewarding.

Volunteering provides many benefits to both mental and physical health. Volunteering helps counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety. Volunteering also combats depression, makes you happy, increases self-confidence, and provides a sense of purpose. I can be reached at 707-459-6826 and am available to answer any questions you may have about this position.

Richard Baker, director, Harrah Senior Center

## Supports Nicole Glentzer

To the Editor:

Please vote Nicole Glentzer for Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools.

When deciding on who to vote for in an education election, I listen to those educators on the ground who are working in education; and I educate myself by attending community forums.

For these reasons, I will vote for Nicole Glentzer. Nicole began in the educational system as a classroom aide, became a bilingual teacher, served as a principal, has been the superintendent in Potter Valley, and is now leading in Ukiah Unified. Her experience in one of our smallest districts and now our largest district will benefit all schools in our county.

I am voting for Nicole because many educators support her! Longtime educator Joanie Potter, a Willits resident, and superintendent at Laytonville Unified, is supporting Nicole. Willits Unified Board member and retired educator Robert Chavez is supporting Nicole. My friend and former MCOE employee Karen Eads is supporting Nicole. The list is long and we should all pay attention to this when voting.

For those of us who have kids and grandkids in the school system, we know that we have so many kids who leave our schools prepared to get jobs and attend challenging colleges.

Hutchins disagreed at the Willits forum when she said that even the Air Force recruiters no longer recruit from Mendocino County because of low academic achievement. I checked around with some of our local educators, and they shared that all branches of the military, even the Air Force, recruit out of our Mendocino County high schools.

Our teachers and support staff work hard to meet the needs of our kids, and I am so appreciative of their work. We need a leader who will challenge the educational system to keep improving AND recognize and celebrate the hard work that ALL of our students and staff are doing in our schools. The person to do this is Nicole Glentzer.

PLEASE join me and so many educators and community members and vote for Nicole Glentzer for Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools.

Kathleen Ells Lewis, Willits

## Haschak vs. Romero

To the Editor:

I attended the Laytonville debate between incumbent John Haschak and challenger Clay Romero who are contending for Mendocino County’s Third District supervisor seat in the upcoming June 7 California Primary Elections.

As I entered Harwood Hall, tables festooned with campaign materials for each candidate flanked the doorway. What stood out most to me were the bright red baseball caps emblazoned with “Romero for Supervisor” which bore a striking resemblance to the Make America Great Again (MAGA) caps worn by supporters of our former president who incited an insurrection against the duly elected government of the United States.

Was this resemblance between Romero caps and MAGA caps just a coincidence? We were soon to find out.

The debate began with questions from the audience. An elderly man strode to the microphone and pointedly asked the candidates if they thought the 2020 presidential election was rigged and if Joe Biden is their president?

Romero’s true colors bled out immediately when he responded with the big MAGA lie that there were irregularities in the vote count and that he didn’t accept the results of the election. For this questioner to press the candidates on these wacky conspiracy theories, and for candidate Romero to openly profess his support for a seditious coup against our country, indicates just how emboldened these right-wing extremists have become even here in a progressive stronghold like Mendocino County. For this reason alone, it is incumbent upon the voters of the Third District to strongly renounce this right-wing extremism in our midst.

I have known John Haschak since his run for supervisor four years ago, and I have never seen him lose his temper in public, but he became visibly agitated with having his patriotism questioned, and as a truly patriotic American he strongly affirmed the fairness of the 2020 election results.

As the 2020 presidential election has nothing to do with local politics, debate moderator Jim Shields redirected questioning to issues more pertinent to Mendocino County. The candidates fielded questions on the regulation of cannabis, county bureaucracy, the county’s COVID-19 response, homelessness and drug abuse, the Eel River water diversion to the Russian River, fire safety, hack-

## Candidates Forum at the Grange, May 15

By Madge Strong, Willits City Council and WELL

About 50 people attended the Candidates Forum in person on May 15 in Willits, and another eight on Zoom. The forum covered three races: Sheriff (uncontested), County Superintendent of Schools, and Third District Board of Supervisors.

It was sponsored by WELL (Willits Economic Localization) and Little Lake Grange and co-sponsored by Mendocino Women’s Political Coalition and League of Women Voters of Mendocino.

For the office of County Superintendent of Schools, there was a lively exchange between incumbent Michelle Hutchins and challenger Nicole Glentzer. For the Third District Board of Supervisors position, incumbent John Haschak is being challenged by Clay Romero.

Questions by the sponsoring groups and from the audience brought out lots of differences in the candidates’ views. Here are links to videos of these two segments of the forum: Supervisor Candidates: <https://youtu.be/-KTJJv2-cBC> (beginning with a short land acknowledgement); and Superintendent of Schools Candidates: <https://youtu.be/FIOG2ZWdgwQ>

Forum organizers were disappointed that Sheriff Matt Kendall did not attend. Though he is running unopposed, there were a number of issues we hoped he would address, including: steps to fill vacancies, to attain racial and gender diversity in the force, and to assure no infiltration from white supremacists; and his position on citizen advisory oversight. The questions have been sent to him and, if/when he responds, we will publicize his answers.

Thanks to Sherrie Ebyam for moderating, our planning team and sponsors, many volunteers who helped, Little Lake Grange, and Andy Wright for compiling the video.

Note: this election on June 7 will be final in any race where a candidate receives 50% plus one of the votes cast for that office.

Also note that this year, the ballot is actually two double-sided pages long (they look the same, but the two pages cover different races). Be sure to vote on all the races on both sides of both pages!!

## Willits and the Skunk Train

Submitted by Robert Pinoli, president of Mendocino Railway

Mendocino Railway, which operates the Skunk Train, has applied for a federal transportation loan intended to replace ties and rail, refurbishments to Tunnel #1, enhancements to 27 bridges, and construction of new passenger and freight equipment, items that are essential to restoring and enhancing the centuries old connection between Willits and Fort Bragg.

The consequences of this severed rail connection come with an economic impact that disproportionately affects the Willits community. Visitors can no longer embark on a full-day roundtrip train ride through the old-growth redwoods beginning in Willits.

So, they must decide where to begin their journey, and to the detriment of Willits, they do. Only 26% of visitors embark at the Willits train station, in stark contrast with 74% in Fort Bragg. This means fewer visitors are spending money in Willits stores, restaurants and accommodations.

Should the \$21.5 million infrastructure improvement loan be granted, this inequity could be corrected, and millions of dollars in jobs and material will be invested in the greater Willits and Fort Bragg communities. The railway could move more passengers and freight with a fully operational railway, all of which will come with enormous economic benefits, including added tax revenue for local public services.

As noted in recent demographic analysis, Mendocino Railway passengers have generated more than \$67 million in visitor spending over the

Read the rest of **Skunk** Over on page 4



## Saving History

### Over 120 people voice their concerns over possible shutdown of Mendocino County Museum

The Mendocino County Museum, with its knowledgeable staff of curators and administrators and docents, is a depository of relics of a rich and colorful history. Currently it is at risk of being shut down in an attempt for the county to cut costs. But without proper upkeep, this could result in the denigration of years of collections.

Last Friday, May 20, the Willits Chamber of Commerce invited the town to a mixer at the museum to affirm their conviction that this edifice, dedicated to knowledge and research, be allowed to remain a centerpiece in the local tourist attractions. They all agreed that it should continue to be a place where families and school classes can come and be steeped in the deep history of the county, see works of art and the labors of the pioneers, industrialists and railroads that built this area.

Over 120 supporters attended the event which took place in the classroom at the end of the Long Gallery, next to the railroad room. However, the archive area of the museum was also open to the public, with docents available to explain the objects that were catalogued and preserved in the back, waiting to be included in some future exhibit. The Long Gallery with its “Wonacott Photography” attraction was open as well. It will soon be replaced by a traveling exhibit, “Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly.” People were also allowed to wander through the permanent section.

At the last meeting of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, a proposition was brought up to shutter the museum for one year in an attempt to help balance the county’s budget shortfall. However, most of the attendees, museum staff, administrators and politicians at this event agreed that the savings in doing so would not amount to enough to save the budget. The cost of trying to preserve the relics and the fact that the employees would need to be moved to other jobs, as well as other considerations, far outweigh any cost savings.

“The idea is that the county is in a budget crunch and it appears that they are throwing out a bunch of ideas on how they might save money,” opined Saprina Rodriguez, current Willits mayor. “I heard that one of the supervisors feels that the museum is part of the arts program and not a critical part of community services, and I very much disagree. That’s one thing that concerns me, and the other is that the museum might be on the chopping block without having done a proper analysis of what the cost savings might be.”

“When I heard about the proposal, I was thrown for a loop,” said Deborah Fader Samson, Cultural Services Agency director, overseer of the libraries and the museum. “I heard about it while I was listening to the last board of supervisors’ meeting. Nobody had said anything to me prior to let me know that it was that serious. I don’t know who proposed it but I believe the executive office is recommending it to the board to supervisors as an option.”

Louis Celaya, volunteer coordinator at the Willits Chamber of Commerce,

Read the rest of **Museum**

Over on page 11



Photos by Mathew Caine

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

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Read the rest of **Letters** Over on page 15

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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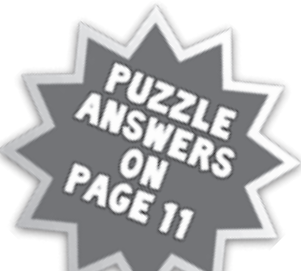
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Willits Weekly | May 26, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 3

Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



HOW TO  
SUDOKU

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

OUTDOOR FEAST WORD SEARCH

C	L	T	V	H	I	L	C	G	H	E	N	A	P	O	R	P	I	G	M
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E	Y	M	L	T	U	R	S	V	T	C	L	E	T	A	R	G	V	E	H
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BACKYARD	FESTIVE	SEAR
BARBECUE	FLIP	SMOKER
BASTE	GRATE	SPATULA
BURGERS	GRILL	STEAK
CHARCOAL	HEAT	TEMPERATURE
CHICKEN	OUTDOORS	TONGS
DIRECT	PROPANE	VEGETABLES
ENTERTAIN	SEAFOOD	WOOD

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55					56	57	58	59		60				
61					62				63					
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

- English river
- Particular part of something
- Cool!
- Welsh for John
- Given name meaning 'great spirit'
- Wrath
- Social occasion
- Mechanical belt
- \_\_\_ de la \_\_\_
- Commands
- Body part
- Caught sight of
- Funeral car
- Skin infection
- Sometimes they 'burn'
- Russian river
- Famed soap opera character Kane
- Pie \_\_\_ mode
- Endangered
- Socially inept person
- Romanian river
- Suave
- Monetary unit of Samoa
- A type of approach to please
- Form of Hebrew name

CLUES DOWN

- Reconnaissance (Brit. military)
- Asserts to be the case
- Starchy food made of dried orchid tubers
- Foes
- Rheumatoid arthritis score
- Ruler of Iran
- The top of the head
- Lilly and Manning are two
- Purchase attire for
- Glittering with gold or silver
- The bank of a body of water
- Regions
- Makes tractors
- Adult beverage
- Force unit
- Swiss river
- Cater to
- Woody climbing plants
- Seems less impressive
- Consume
- Boxing's GOAT
- Southwestern farmers
- Beverage holder
- A way to deteriorate
- Judge
- Norse explorer \_\_\_ the Red
- Farm resident
- One who helps to govern
- Plant-eating ground bug
- History Finnish county
- Conifer native to Jamaica
- Longed
- Small Japanese city
- Arum family plant
- Puts together in time
- From a distance
- \_\_\_ contendere: no contest plea
- Region
- Mountain Standard Time



Meet the Sweetheart

Danielle Barry is the 2022 contestant for annual Willits Frontier Days race

The 2022 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart contestant is Willits' Danielle Barry, 18, who has been looking forward to this experience since she was just a li'l cowgirl.

Maureen Jennison  
Graphics & Photographress  
maureen@willitsweekly.com

"I decided to run for Sweetheart this year, because I have always looked up to the Sweethearts that got me started in riding ... and since I have basically grown up at the rodeo grounds!" laughed Barry.

She's not wrong; Barry certainly can call the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds her second home, as she's spent many years there riding, helping, and volunteering alongside parents Fred and Marcy Barry who have both served as volunteers, vice-president, president, and board members for the non-profit group for over a decade.

"I will be riding my own horses for this year's competition, Rebel and Whiskey," explained Barry. "Rebel has been my partner for 10 years, and I can't imagine doing this without him (I always said I will only run for Sweetheart if Rebel was still able to be my partner and if he wanted to), and well, this is the year and we are ready!"

Danielle has been riding in gymkhanas, horse shows, and trail rides as well as in high school rodeos. Whiskey joined the team this year, and Barry noted that she couldn't be any happier with his performance. "He is teaching me new things every day!"

Barry attributes her initial interest in horses and the rodeo life to years of encouragement from past Sweethearts, many of whom continue to support her to this day.

"The past Sweethearts are the ones who really got me interested in horses," said Barry. "They were the ones who put me on their horses for the first time at the arena. Thank

you to Mary Fonsen for giving me lessons; to Marta Bartow for entering me in my first horse show; to Nicol Persico Kunka for lessons in riding, taking care of my horse and everything in between; to Amanda Hiatt for pushing me to be the best I can and to not give up when I wanted to; to Riata and Twila King for encouraging me to always do better than my last competition and to go ahead and do high school rodeo; and to Courtney Figg-Hoblyn, who not only shared her Sweetheart parade ride with me, but her horse, Clue, year after year, too.

"I also can't forget to thank the entire Persico family, and especially Mike Persico, who told me 'if you're going to ride horses, you show them who is the boss, and if you fall off, you get back on.' I think I might have been only 4 or 5-years old when he told me that, but I have never forgotten," said Barry.

Barry is graduating from Willits High School this June and will be heading to Feather River Junior College in Quincy in the fall, where she will compete on the college rodeo team while completing her college prerequisites before moving onto a four-year college to follow her dream of becoming a large animal vet.

"I am very excited to be able to run this year," said Barry. "I'm looking forward to meeting new people and representing Willits Frontier Days during this year's contest. I want to also thank everyone that is helping me along the way, and give a big thank you to the Willits community as well as my Willits Frontier Days family for always supporting me. I want to wish everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July!"

Barry will be selling tickets to all the upcoming events including this weekend's car shows and is available by calling or texting 707-272-1340.



Above: The 2018 barbecue offered a tasty meal to eventgoers. Below and bottom: Cowboys and cowgirls show their skills in the arena during the 2018 playday weekend.

Ready to Play

Willits Horsemen's and Willits Junior Horsemen's annual playday, BBQ and Rodeo weekend coming June 4 and 5

It's time to get your ropes ready and join in for the annual Willits Horsemen's weekend coming up on June 4 and 5 at their arena and grounds located at 901 Hearst Road (go under the bypass!).

The weekend kicks off with the Juniors' Playday event at 9 am on Saturday; roping, races, food, games and fun are all on the docket. The event is open to the public to come and watch, and if anyone is interested in signing up as a competitor, contact 707-841-1560 or 707-354-0112 for an entry form and additional info.

Sunday is the day for the Willits Horsemen events including the big barbecue, barrel racing, and the main rodeo event.

The barbecue starts at 11 am, and BBQ tickets for adults are \$18 each and \$8 each for children. The rodeo starts at 1:30 pm and is free for spectators to attend.

For more information on the rodeo, contact 707-529-6884 and for more info on the barrel events, contact 916-996-7126.



707.459.5193

JOHN FORD RANCH

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS and THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

Present the 2022-2023 WCA Lecture Series. Free for our citizens in Mendocino County

Ruby Ming, M.A. June 10, 2022 Japanese art and the Impressionists

Jennifer Rycenga, Ph.D. August 12, 2022 Olympian Influence: The Greek Deities in Visual Art

Arthur Zárate Ph.D. October 14, 2022 All about Islam

Loren Madsen, M.A. December 9, 2022 The Case for Conceptual Art

Ami Davis, M.A. February 10, 2023 Art in the 21st Century

Mary Okin, Ph.D. April 14, 2023 California Art

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE LOG

May 15 to May 21  
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 109 incidents in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 15

No incidents to report.

May 16

4:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

7:53 pm: PERDUE, Jeri Alanna (40) of Ukiah was contacted near the intersection of Central Street and East Oak Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disobeying a court order and failure to appear.

May 17

3:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of North Main Street.

May 18

5:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

7:05 pm: HADDON, Derek Christopher (50) of Redwood Valley was contacted in the 500 block of Raymond Lane. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance.



Chandler Bowers-Pierce of Willits.

May 19

2:14 am: GOWER, Jason Andrew (31) of Eureka was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of receiving stolen property and on misdemeanor charges of appropriating lost property, acquiring an access card without consent with intent to sell, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

6:58 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of Raymond Lane.

in the 200 block of Bonnie Lane.

12:06 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.

4:38 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 300 block of Coast Street.

May 20

3:53 am: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

2:31 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Williams Street.

11:12 pm: ACEVESLIZARRAGA, Irving (27) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Holly Street. He was arrested pursuant to 372 PC (Public Nuisance), 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

11:14 pm: TORRES, Brian Thomas (44) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1400 block of Willow Lane. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

May 21

12:49 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Main Street.

2:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

3:55 pm: BOWERSPIERCE, Chandler James (22) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of domestic battery.

8:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of School Street.

10:11 pm: MUSGRAVE, Spencer Patrick (34) of Willits was contacted in the 1100 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol).

The rest of  
Skunk

From page 2

past 5 years which supports local jobs and benefits the economy.

Unfortunately, the Fort Bragg City Council is lobbying the federal government to deny the infrastructure loan, and encouraging others to do so, too. And for no good reason. Many believe the council's actions are in direct response to a redevelopment project once promoted by the railway, even though there was no correlation between the two projects.

They simply did not consider the unintended consequences of threatening the operations of the Skunk Train that consistently ranks as one of the top reasons why visitors come to Mendocino County, as well as Willits.

While the Fort Bragg City Council is willing to live with their actions, they clearly did not consider the economic impact it would have on their neighbors, now and in the future.

Senior Center menu  
for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$7.

Thursday, May 26: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, May 27: Turkey w/Gravy, Stuffing, Veggie, Cranberry Sauce, Roll

Monday, May 30: Memorial Day, Center Closed

Tuesday, May 31: Chicken Pesto Pasta, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, June 1: Monte Cristo, Hash Browns, Fruit

Thursday, June 2: Chef Salad, Garlic Bread

Friday, June 3: Country Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Veggie

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

a plan sent out recently by Governor Gavin Newsom, as part of his May Revision 2022/23 budget document.

The plan from Newsom states that the goal is to set "the cultivation tax rate at zero beginning July 1 2022" in the state, and it will need to be approved by state legislators to move forward.

While those involved with social programs in California dependent on the funding from the cannabis tax money have expressed concerns about this plan, Newsom said this funding would not be cut.

He said that the budget plan would include "funding for youth education/ intervention/ treatment, environmental restoration, and state and local law enforcement programs at a baseline of \$670 million annually for three years. Up to \$150 million one-time General Fund is available as needed through 2025-26 to backfill ... funding, along with the authority to increase the excise tax rate through 2024-25 if tax revenues fall below the baseline."

The discussion about the following ordinance at the May 17 BOS meeting got heated at times, with Mendocino Cannabis Alliance Executive Director Michael Katz saying that the county was not taking their suggestions seriously.

"It would be incredibly disappointing if the board chose to rubber stamp [this] despite the substantial recommendations that MCA has made as to how this proposal could be made much more useful to applicants," said Katz. "I would encourage you to ask me now if you have questions as to why we feel these changes are so important that we have proposed, or continue as usual and ignore the recommendations and go along your day."

Some of the recommendations from Katz and the MCA were already in the following ordinance, according to County Counsel Christian Curtis. These included allowing cannabis applicants to fallow for more than one year, and ensuring that applying for fallowing would not affect the state permit or environmental review status for any applicants.

Another feature included in the following ordinance, which MCA asked for, is allowing applicants to reduce their cultivation size by a certain percentage and have their minimum tax reduced by that amount.

However, one sticking point for Katz and the MCA was that those with "light deprivation" cannabis operations should be able to get a reduction in the minimum tax if they reduced the number of cycles they did.

MCA's recommendation was to "allow fallowing to occur for any length of time and at any time during the permit or application period," and get the tax reduced accordingly.

As currently written, the ordinance would require that cultivators apply for a one-year fallowing period on January 1, with the exception that for this year they could apply in a 30-day window after the ordinance is officially passed.

Curtis responded that adding the MCA recommended rule to allow for shorter periods of fallowing would complicate the ordinance and make it more difficult to enforce.

"There's a few complications there," he said. "One is you're going to erode your tax base for people who currently are under their present operations and not necessarily looking to take time off, which I didn't understand to be this board's intent.... Also you would increase the workload for the tax collector, and you'd potentially sort of make things a bit more complicated from an enforcement and compliance standpoint with respect to the tax collector and the cannabis department," he said.

"Having an annual calendar ... is relatively straightforward from an enforcement and compliance standpoint," he added. "When you have everyone on sort of different schedules as to which months they're allowed to have plants in the ground and which months they're not, you're increasing the regulatory burden on the county."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak acknowledged that he had not read the latest memo from MCA with recommendations for the ordinance, which was submitted the day before the meeting, but said he wanted to work with them to possibly adjust the ordinance moving forward.

"I haven't seen the MCA memo, and that's my bad on this issue," said Haschak, who is on the cannabis ad hoc committee along with First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty. "But I think that since this is a first reading, we could approve it and then in the interim before the next meeting, we could have a meeting with those parties – MCA, with the cannabis department, and county counsel – and just look to see if those issues are still relevant."

"It will delay the process," he added, "but at least we can get something that really works properly for people. That should be our goal. If they're significant enough, Supervisor McGourty and I can recommend changes to county counsel and we can move forward like that."

When board Chair Ted Williams pointed out to Katz that the MCA memo had been submitted the day before the meeting, Katz retorted that the board agenda with the ordinance was posted just a few days before, leaving little time to craft an official response.

"I'm sure you understand that three days to respond to a complicated issue like this is insufficient," said Katz. "And so often, as we've been saying repeatedly, if we were engaged in this conversation at the earliest stages and actually sat down and been able to have a back-and-forth conversation instead of us making a comment, someone disagreeing and then saying, 'Well my disagreement is the end of the story,' then we would potentially not have to have all these back and forths."

Williams suggested to Katz that he work with the cannabis ad hoc committee more in order to get their opinions known.

"This process, I want it to work, and I want you to walk away feeling satisfied that you were heard and you were able to influence public policy," said Williams. "But just showing up at a board meeting and yelling at the board, doesn't seem to be getting you anywhere."

Katz responded that the MCA have "been begging for this engagement for over a year. We have remained available to work with them since the ad hoc was created. There has been hardly any progress since then," he said. "That is why we have to come here and constantly ask for board direction which gets ignored when we ask for it."

In response to this complaint from Katz, McGourty said he felt there had been engagement with MCA and the local cannabis community, and that he and Haschak had passed on suggestions to county counsel.

"We're trying to find a way that works, and this is what we came up with," said McGourty. "There was also a sense that we wanted to get this done in a timely fashion, and we delivered. We did the best we could to get this out as quickly as we can."

During public comments, Ron Edwards of Willits suggested that the county should strive more to listen to experts in the cannabis field.

"The thing is that whenever you have other topics, whether it be broadband, fire or water, there are experts that come in," he said. "The county staff has been working with these people for years.... But cannabis is different. It seems that we don't have a real way to get you to understand all the issues. I mean we try, I try."

"There are very few crops that you harvest multiple times a year," he continued. "So it is hard for people to wrap their minds and understand that instead of doing three runs or four runs ... we're only going to do one run. Cannabis is unique. And those of us coming to you have had the experience, have had the work on the ground. We are learning how government works and continuing to try and bring these to you."

Eventually the motion to approve the introduction of the ordinance was passed unanimously, with Haschak again emphasizing that he was open to making adjustments.

"I think that we should approve it, and then in the interim before the next hearing we can meet with MCA," he said. "See what the issues are, see if they resonate at all with us, and then either bring back some modifications or go forward with the second reading. Because there was a timely sense that this needed to be passed so people could follow this year."

Critiques about the county's cannabis program were also plentiful during the consent calendar portion of the meeting, which included an update from the Cannabis Department. The approval of that update was pulled from the consent calendar for discussion.

Much of the concern centered around whether all cannabis applicants who are in legal compliance would be approved by the county before a June 30 deadline that the state has set for their annual licenses.

MCA weighed in on this issue as well with another memo, stating: "In reviewing the Mendocino Cannabis Department report, we are struck by the sterile presentation of data summarizing the numbers of applications in various stages of processing accompanied by very important dates after which applicants will no longer qualify for county permits and/or state licenses."

"The MCD report repeatedly assures the reader that every portal, grant, renewal or permitting function is 'prioritized.' While those assurances seem highly unlikely, in this past Friday's MCD update Director [Kristin] Nevedal stated that staff are currently assigned exclusively to 'portal corrections' with all other reviews placed on hold."

At the meeting, Director Nevedal tried to reassure those in the cannabis community seeking permits that they would be processed in time.

"The state is working closely with the cannabis department here in Mendocino," said Nevedal. "And we will be providing them a list of the outcome of the reviews of all the applicants in the portal. They'll use that list of those who have completed their applications through the portal as local authorization."

"In the meantime, those who are eligible for renewal are having their renewals processed by the [state] Department of Cannabis Control. And the fact that they are in the corrections portal does not impede their ability to renew their provisional license.... We were told clearly in a state call that there has been no hang-ups of provisional license renewals due to portal status."

Like MCA, Supervisor Williams also sounded very frustrated with the cannabis permitting process in the county, and suggested they consider quickly approving all permits which don't have any obvious violations.

"I don't know what to do with it, but I don't want this process to go on," he said. "We're not getting anywhere. I'd like to hear from the ad hoc. Do you think this process is working? Do you want to continue as is? Do you want a different makeup? What do you need?"

"And I'll tell you, if you don't want to do it, I'll bring action to the board," he added. "And it'll be to issue permits to everybody who's tried in good faith, without a sustained code violation – presume they're operating legally, give them their permits, and get cannabis out of here. We can't spend every meeting talking about cannabis for an hour."

Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren agreed for the most part, saying that the county should seek a permitting process that is "as flexible as legally possible."

After the discussion, the board directed staff "to bring back an answer to whether the current cannabis permitting ordinance is as streamlined as it can be, and if not, a recommendation on a more streamlined version with the pros and cons."

vendor, Ecologic Environmental Systems. Alaniz said, "and we are ready to pull the pin on getting the clarifier project started. So, tomorrow we will be wiring a 50% deposit to start the process."

"Just a reminder, this is a drought resiliency project that we've received the grant for and, because the district had a maintenance and operation issue with the clarifier last year, and as we only have the one clarifier at this time, we are glad to be moving forward now."

During the public comment period Asik Ali stepped to the podium and asked the board if they had any advice or recommendations for him in regard to problems that he and his neighbors have been experiencing on Ridge Road. He and his family have lived there for 12 years and recently, during the past couple of years, there have been individuals racing through the neighborhood and exhibiting no regard for maintaining the peace of the area.

Frank Sanderson appeared before the board again and asked if there had been any progress made in addressing the Dogwood trash site. He said: "You can google Dogwood and see the large amount of trash deposited there."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak who was participating in the meeting via Zoom responded to Sanderson and said: "This is an issue with the Solid Waste agency. They are trying to get their capacity up in order to deal with it."

Supervisor Haschak also responded to Ali's concerns: "I can reach out to the sheriff and see if they can put more enforcement there," he said, adding that possibly speed bumps could be placed and that they would need to talk to the county Department of Transportation's Howard Dashiell to start the process to install the speed bumps. He suggested that Mr. Ali contact him by phone and he provided him with his phone number to get the ball rolling.

Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea added: "Unfortunately this board doesn't oversee enforcement of the laws in our jurisdiction. It's really the sheriff and the highway patrol who are responsible for the enforcement. This is a beautiful, beautiful place to live, and everyone should drive safely to preserve the environment."

Brinka Bording, a resident of Birch Drive, said that recently she'd had her homeowner's insurance abruptly cancelled by State Farm. She wondered if other Brooktrails residents had had similar experiences.

She said she'd spent a great deal of time in the past couple of years clearing her property – eliminating trees, reducing shrubs, working with the Nutmeg Trail. She complimented the PG&E crews, stating that they'd been wonderful in aiding her efforts. She'd invited State Farm out to view her home site, to see that she'd complied with their recommendations to clear debris, etc. and they didn't respond.

"They were relying on a five-year-old photograph of my property," she said, "and were not interested in viewing the improvements made." So, in response to the cancellation of her coverage, Bording was glad to say she'd immediately contacted her auto insurance company, USAA, and they'd come through to provide homeowners coverage for her home.

The board then addressed an item that had been added to the agenda: "Consideration of Resolution 2022-01 Approving Application for Per Capita Grant Funds."

Providing background information, the General Manager said, an application for these funds had been submitted back in 2020, and "we had been waiting for quite some time to get word."

Brooktrails recently received word, she said, that after adopting a resolution, the board could receive this money, "\$177,952, for our parks and recreation program." The original application outlined a project that provided connectivity between the Parcourse and Ohl Grove Park, including a bridge crossing and a gazebo.

The current grant will be enough money to rehabilitate exercise stations on the Parcourse. And, the general manager told the board, due to Brooktrails' status as being in "a severely disadvantaged community," the township will not be required to provide a match for the funds.

Brooktrails resident Roger Patereau was present to re-appeal the water overusage bill that he had received. The district's policy is that when an overusage occurs that is inexplicable, the customer and the district will split the overusage bill in half. After some considerable back-and-forth discussion between Patereau, General Manager Alaniz, Board Counsel Chris Neary, President Rick Williams, and Director Tony Orth, it was determined that Patereau actually had a credit of \$191.71 on file and did not owe any amount for water at this time.

Brooktrails resident Angela Scarberry came forward to re-appeal the discontinuation of water service due to nonpayment of the bill.

Counsel Neary said: "I'd like to put the situation in perspective. The tenants have stated that the house is in foreclosure. The landlord, Barry Thomas, has previously stated that the tenants are squatters. They do not have a written lease in place. They have presented a rent receipt that is from two years ago. They are asking us to turn on the water and have the bill go to the landlord if they don't pay."

"We've reached out to the landlord, and he has not come forward to establish the Scarberrys as tenants and he is not willing to approve them as the account holder. This dispute is really between the Scarberrys and the property owner."

Alaniz said she'd provided the Scarberrys with a standard tenant agreement for them to have Thomas sign, and it has not been processed. She again stated that the district makes agreements with customers, and the Scarberrys are not customers on record. Discussion came to an end when Scarberry said she would be taking the issue to court.



# Willits Weekly

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Above: Most of the 60 attendees at Willits Bike Night pose for this group shot in front of the Scoops sign. At left: Old friends socialize in their first get-together of the season. Below, left: Corey and his girlfriend, Heather, dyed their hair and beard to a matching pink. Below, right: Billy Smith of the Willits Cruisin' Knights successfully started his Harley which had been sitting for several years. At bottom: Two members of Wino's Crew show their colors.

Photos by Mathew Caine



## Bike Night Returns

Willits Wild Bunch and Wino's Crew gather at Scoops Deli to kick off annual fundraising activities

One by one and in groups, the full-throated, loud Harleys drove into the parking lot at Scoops Deli like a scene out of "The Wild Ones" with Marlon Brando, their club colors, emblems, mottos, and political leanings in full display.

To many uninitiated citizens, the gathering engendered fantasies of drugs, murders, guns, and general mayhem a la "Sons of Anarchy" or the "Hells Angels" movies of the '70s with Peter Fonda and Bruce Dern. However, those that know these leather-clad figures on their gleaming, mostly black Harley-Davidsons, are very aware of their proclivity toward altruistic causes, their hearts of gold, and their general raucous ideas of fun.

Many of the bikers, primarily the Willits Wild Bunch and Wino's Crew, spent numerous years in the military or in law enforcement. This gave them a hard-boiled view of the world, a world which many would like to assuage with activities that benefit the communities in which they live, especially those that give love and light to children.

It is in this light that the Willits Wild Bunch was formed several years ago. When they are not partying loudly and with much laughter or taking long group rides, they are raising money to buy Christmas gifts for kids in need. Their Willits Toy Run, each year in November, gathers presents and money to help bring joy to children whose parents may not be in a position to create the kind of Christmas that most would like to give their kids.

This Thursday night gathering was a kickoff to the year of activities that the Wild Bunch engages in annually. Richard "Pops" Venturi, president of the club, is looking forward to continuing their tradition of visibility in their slate of altruistic activities and fundraising.

"The weather kind of dictates when we can have a Bike Night," explained Venturi. "We had one planned in April but unfortunately it was raining that Thursday, and since this is an outdoor event, we had to cancel it. Tonight's

get-together will be the first of five in a row. We are going to have these every third Thursday through September. Every third Thursday at 6 pm, we'll be at Scoops Deli," said Venturi, noting that the gatherings are not exclusively for bikers. Anyone is welcome to participate.

"Currently, we're getting ready for Hometown Celebration," Venturi continued. "We'll have a booth up there. We have two awesome raffle prizes for the Toy Run this year. The drawing will be on November 27, at the Toy Run. First prize is a \$1,000 Chevron gas card and the second prize is a \$500 Chevron gas card. We figure with the rising gas prices, by the time Toy Run comes around, the \$500 gas card will be enough to fill a motorcycle gas tank."

"We have some awesome sponsors this year: the Family Tree Resource, who sponsored the \$1,000 gift card and Kure of Willits sponsored the \$500 card. They're going to be given out at the Toy Run on the 27th of November. We're doing raffle prizes here during every Bike Night. We'll have at least two or three prizes including a 50 / 50 Raffle."

Lisa Kvasnicka, owner of Scoops, provided a variety of sliders for the parking lot event. This night brought in 50 motorcycles and about 60 participants, and lest anyone think that this was an exclusively male event, several women drove in on their own Harleys, every bit as proficient as the men at handling their machines. Several unaligned bikers also attended.

DJ Miley T (Mike Tobin) provided the sounds, which mostly consisted of spirited oldies, appropriate considering the age of most of the motorcycle club members, although younger initiates are always welcome.

What is on the Wild Bunch's agenda for the year?

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At right: This colorful seed head is from basket sedge, a plant the Pomo use to make baskets.

Marisela de Santa Anna shows the Merlin Bird ID app, on which she's just recorded a bird song that the app identifies as the lazuli bunting.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Further right: International naturalist Michael Ellis brought his powerful spotting scope and photographed the close view of a Bullock's oriole nest with its entryway on the left.

Ellis also photographed this variegated meadowhawk dragonfly on Saturday.

Photos by Michael Ellis



Above: Participants walk close to de Santa Anna, far left, as they amble along the road in the shade of the lichen-festooned valley oaks where birds abound in the diversely rich habitat. At right: This is a native honeybee and is one of a plethora of pollinators in the mitigation land. At right, below: Cattle graze on the mitigation land, where grazing by ruminants like cattle is necessary for propagation of the Baker's meadowfoam.



Above, left: Holding a sprig of mugwort, de Santa Anna tells about Native American uses of the plant as an astringent and for remembering dreams. Above, right: A beaver skull is found with long, orange teeth, which attests to its diet of crawdads that provide the iron needed for strong teeth.

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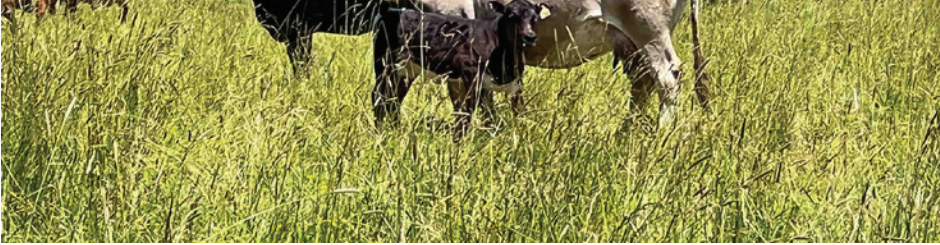
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Above: Participants walk close to de Santa Anna, far left, as they amble along the road in the shade of the lichen-festooned valley oaks where birds abound in the diversely rich habitat. At right: This is a native honeybee and is one of a plethora of pollinators in the mitigation land. At right, below: Cattle graze on the mitigation land, where grazing by ruminants like cattle is necessary for propagation of the Baker's meadowfoam.



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## The rest of Museum | From page 3

spoke about the museum's place in the town's tourism. "We just want the whole county to know the importance of our museum. It's key to our tourism, to the local citizens who want to know more about our local history, what's going on in Mendocino County from back in the 19th century. It's a rich history.

"When people come in to the chamber of commerce, as they do quite often now that the weather is getting nice, the tourists want to know what to see in Willits," said Celaya, "I tell them the County Museum is right down the street."

"They threw out this idea of closing down the museum and this gathering is a result of that, almost a protest of that," said Third District Supervisor John Haschak. "It's showing what the people feel about the museum. People are very supportive of what we have here and the importance of the museum, culturally, historically, representing the range of experiences that the people of Mendocino County have had.

"It's a very loved part of our cultural fabric in Willits and in Mendocino County," continued Haschak. "We have Roots of Motive Power. We have the arts center. We have the library. We have the community theater. All of these things representing who we are." The supervisors meet on June 7 and 8 to go over the budget.

"To the entire board of supervisors, we need your support to keep this local, vital piece of our heritage alive! Keep the future alive through our past," said Malakai Schindel, after entertaining the crowd, along with Kyle Madrigal, with an impromptu concert.

"This museum stands as a testament," continued Schindel, "to the painstaking work that has gone into preserving every little piece of everything we can possibly unearth and uncover. I was inspired in the past, at a very young age, and have always believed that we can learn immeasurable truths by looking at ourselves through the lens of history."

The Mendocino County Museum is open at 400 East Commercial Street, Wednesday through Friday, 10 am to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 pm. Call 459-2736 for more information, or visit: [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum).

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## LEGAL NOTICES

WW387  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2022-F0232  
The following person is doing business as Root Wisdom, 9021 Hearst Willits Road, Willits CA 95490.  
Registered owner: Kirra Swenerton, 9021 Hearst Willits Road, Willits CA 954900.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on March 1, 2022.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on March 3, 2022.  
/s/ Kirra Swenerton  
Publication dates: May 12, 19, 26, and June 2, 2022.

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

## The rest of Car Show | From page 1

Napa Auto Parts!), are frequently also seen driving down the parade route for Willits Frontier Days or at other car shows.

"It's difficult to keep my father away from a car show," laughed Erik. "He had heart surgery last week, like they were literally in his heart repairing a valve, and this weekend he'll be working at the show. My mother always said if the show ever falls on their actual anniversary date, he better be doing something for the anniversary instead."

Come wish the Ydes a happy anniversary and enjoy the festivities on Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm at the Rec Grove Park.

A Lions Club Breakfast will start a little earlier on Sunday than the show; "Willits Lions Club will be cooking their delicious breakfast at the Willits Car Show from 8 to 11 am," the local service club announced. "We will be serving breakfast at the renovated Scout Hut. Everyone is welcome – not just the car show participants."

Contact any Lion for advance tickets at WILLITSLIONS@gmail.com or phone 707-459-3575. Breakfast tickets are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children over 6 years of age.

DJ and emcee Mike Tobin will preside over the mic at the Rec Grove, and 40th Anniversary Car Show T-shirts and canvas shopping bags will be on sale. The long-sleeve T-shirts feature a memorial sleeve to "honor our past fallen heroes – Bob Hansen, Lynn Kennelly, Neil Orr, and Ron Moorhead – these individuals have had such a big part of Willits and the car and bike show." T-shirts will be available for \$30 each.

For more information, contact the Chamber at 707-459-7910.

Saturday's Block Party will feature a "Pre Car Show" from 11 am to 2 pm. Join South Main Street businesses for parking lot sales at 101 Trailer & RV and NAPA Auto Parts; a Cornhole Tournament; and car, truck and motorcycle shows, including a Big Truck Show at Les Schwab Tire Center. "Dust off your oldie but goodie cars, trucks or motorcycles and bring them down, and hang out at either parking lot!"



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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.*

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Accountant Wanted**  
Sport Auto Center, Fort Bragg, \$24 - \$30/hour + Benefits. Exp. in Accounting/ Accts Payable/ Accts Rec. req'd. Exp. In Automotive Accounting a plus. Contact Mindy 707-964-5915 for details. EOE.

**Help Wanted**  
Interested in the news? Willits Weekly would like to talk to you about contributing news reports to our local weekly. Experience with news reporting is ideal, but not required. Email [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com) with a brief inquiry and your contact information, or call 707-459-2633.

**Brookside Registration Open**  
Brookside TK / Kindergarten registration now open. To register go to [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.com). Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2022; TK: age 5 between Sept. 2, 2022 and Feb. 2, 2023.

**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/p>

**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 [uicearhail@gmail.com](mailto:uicearhail@gmail.com)

**John Ford Ranch Beef**  
John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$325.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$159.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.

**For Rent**  
HOUSE 8 miles outside of Willits, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 car garage, private entry, locked gate. \$1,800.00 per month. Call 1-707-354-4395

**Indoor Yard Sale**  
Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). Saturday, June 4 – 8 am to 4 pm.

**Classified ads are \$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!**

**willitsweekly@gmail.com**

Below: The 1962 Corvette John Yde has owned for 55 years on display at a past car show.

Submitted photo



# Walk and Paddle

Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County raises money for support services during pledge event held at Big River

The 22nd year of the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County's Walk and Paddle event kicked off on the cool and overcast morning of Saturday, May 14 at Big River near the town of Mendocino. Over 60 participants registered and paid \$25 each for the choice of either walking (3-mile round trip) up the beautiful trail next to the river or to actually paddle a board up the water. On either route, the participants were in the company of mostly cancer survivors or those taking part in memory of those who have passed away from this terrible medical scourge that has affected so many lives.

The Cancer Resource Centers was

*Clockwise, from top: The attendees who stayed after completing the course pose for a group photo. Karen Oslund, executive director of the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County, participates in the Walk and Paddle event. Sara O'Donnell, founder and executive director emeritus of the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County, walks the course at Big River. Several of the attendees prefer to paddle up Big River. Participants of the Walk and Paddle fundraiser near the end of the 3-mile round-trip hike up the beautiful path.*

founded by Sara O'Donnell and is now headed by Executive Director Karen Oslund. The organization is set up to support those who have received a diagnosis of cancer and can benefit from knowledgeable information and assistance in navigating the disease, including help with appointments, clothing, and any other needs.

At the end of the walk, which began with a song-session circle, honors were given out to top pledge gatherers Linda Jo Stern, Terrene Ah Sing, and Aaron and Maria Watson. The Biggest Team Award was given to a group from Comptche.

To contact the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County, email info@crcmendocino.org.



Photos by Mathew Caine

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

## 'Downton Abbey: A New Era'

**The Story:** The latest chapter in the Crawley Family saga. Violet Crawley (Maggie Smith) inherits an estate in the south of France. But why? Perhaps there's a scandal. It's a mystery that requires solving.

**Dan Essman**  
Columnist

Plus, a motion picture company wants to shoot a movie at Downton Abbey. Enough (vulgar) money is involved that perhaps the leaky Downton Abbey roof might be fixed. Meanwhile, movie stars thrill the downstairs help. OMG!

The struggles and troubles of the rich, and we are allowed to be privy to their problems, and we root for them because we've known them for so long. And as has been amply demonstrated since September 26, 2010 (when the show premiered), the posh set are people, too. Decent even.

**My Thoughts:** This is an all-around tea party of a movie. Its essence is familiarity. The actors are tip-top British and American, both leads and secondary. Dame Maggie Smith is always impeccable, and she's my favorite. I have had a crush on Elizabeth McGovern ever since "Lovesick" (with Dudley Moore).

Those caveats noted: I come to "Downton Abbey: A New Era" as an outsider. For affectionate longtime fans, this movie will no doubt feel (after 56 hours of TV chapters and feature films) like attending a comfy family reunion with beloved, occasionally irritating, cousins.

This flick is a lot like "Fast and Furious 9" but for tea cosy huggers and readers of romance novels. (Confession: I respect a puffy and attractive cosy as much as the next man, and adore a good cuppa. But romance novels, not so much.)

So, go see the flick and sip a cabernet or beer, and lounge in the Noyo's comfy new chairs.

**Parents:** Kids might be bored. But it's all quite pretty and safe.

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



## Little Lake Health Center hires first-ever pediatrician

Submitted by MCHC Health Centers

Pediatrician Dr. Julia Katsuura has joined our primary care team at Little Lake Health Center in Willits. Dr. Katsuura, board certified pediatrician, graduated from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York, and subsequently completed a three-year pediatric residency at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine.

"I am very excited to now be able to offer pediatrics at our health center in Willits," said MCHC's Chief Executive Officer Rod Grainger,

"This will be the first time in our 30-year history, that we have hired a pediatrician at this location. Our wonderful family practice nurse practitioners and physicians do see some kids as part of their practice, and now we can grow our services (in Willits) to also include newborns and younger children, thus meeting the needs of even more community members."

Dr. Katsuura is a Northern California native, having grown up in San Jose and completing her undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley. Starting in college, Dr. Katsuura engaged in volunteering efforts which fostered her desire to continue focusing on reaching out and helping others in need. Through a program called "the Suitcase Clinic," she worked as a student volunteer with the homeless population of Berkeley, and before long assumed a leadership position where she taught the course material designed to prepare future students to effectively work with the underserved.

She worked at UCSF prior to medical school as a research assistant in the transplant department, collecting samples and working with patients. This was her first exposure within healthcare to the pediatric population, as there were children on the unit in need of transplanted organs to thrive. This work sparked a passion that years later inspired her to become a pediatrician.

Dr. Katsuura reflects on her decision to become a pediatrician: "It is the specialty that best fits my personality. During rotations in medical school, where I spent time in various areas of medicine, I discovered how much I love working with kids and families, finding a way to jointly create a plan that best benefits each child's growth and development."

Upon graduation from her pediatric residency, Dr.

Katsuura continued at the University of Tennessee as chief resident for an additional two years. This prestigious position is offered to a graduate who has demonstrated clinical excellence and a propensity to teach. During that time, she oversaw resident physicians and medical students and engaged in lecturing and writing papers.



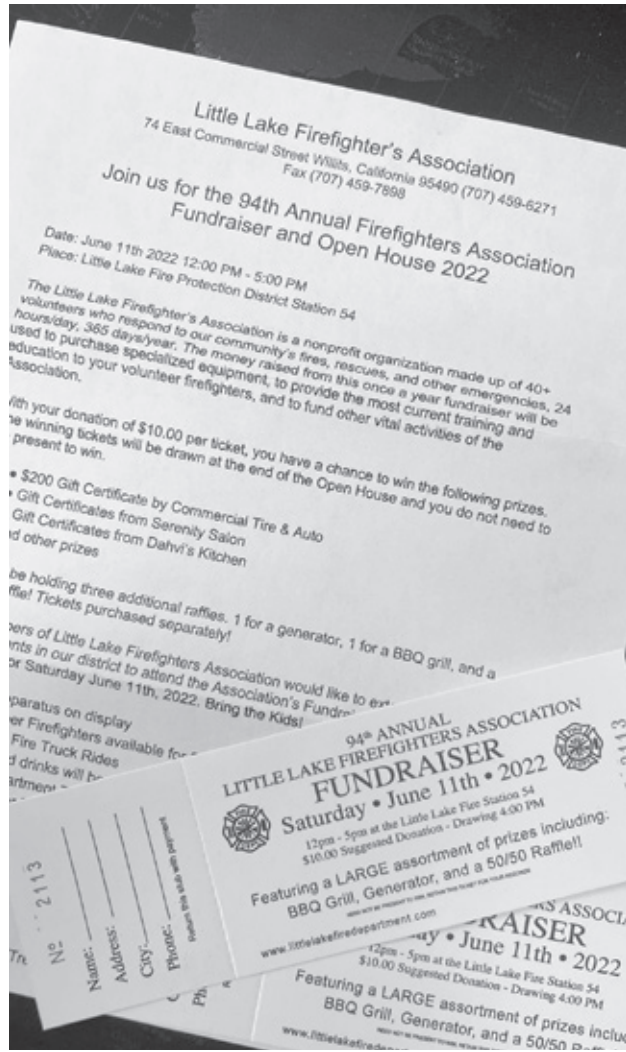
Little Lake Health Center in Willits welcomes pediatrician Dr. Julia Katsuura.

always our dream to move to and work in Willits," she said. "We were drawn to the natural beauty of this area where you can step outside and feel like you are surrounded by nature."

Dr. Katsuura has two children of her own, thus she understands the many questions and concerns that parents may have. "I feel confident in answering 'the mommy questions' that are not necessarily taught in medical school or residency," she said, "such as practical sleep advice or addressing behavioral concerns." Having worked in a pediatric office in Ukiah for the past year, she is ready to be closer to home and to serve the local Willits community.

Dr. Jerry Douglas, chief medical officer for MCHC, states: "The practical knowledge, clinical experience, and warm personality of Dr. Katsuura, makes her a wonderful addition to our primary care team at MCHC. We are looking forward to serving this community together, for many years to come."

MCHC Health Centers includes Hillside Health Center and Dora Street Health Center in Ukiah, Little Lake Health Center in Willits, and Lakeview Health Center in Lakeport. Learn more at [www.mchcinc.org](http://www.mchcinc.org).



## Support Little Lake Firefighters Association

Don't forget to send in your raffle tickets for the Little Lake Firefighters Association! Or plan to stop by the volunteer firefighters' 94th Annual Fundraiser and Open House, set for Saturday, June 11, from 12 to 5 pm at the Little Lake Fire Protection District Station 54 on East Commercial Street.

Fire season has already started in Mendocino County, with the May 20 Owens Fire on the coast south of Point Arena, the first 2022 fire incident listed on CalFire's incidents page.

The Owens Fire started in the late afternoon, and burned 36 acres before 100 percent containment on May 22. The wind-driven vegetation fire threatened 50 homes, resulting in a few hours of mandatory evacuations, and the closure of Highway 1 at Bill Owens Road and Schooner Gulch Road.

The Sheriff's Office announced that evacuation orders were lifted just after 9 pm on May 20. Cause of the fire is still under investigation.

— Jennifer Poole

## MCHC welcomes new midwife to Care for Her

Submitted by MCHC Health Centers

Certified Nurse Midwife Brie Abbe has joined the Care for Her team at MCHC Health Centers. Abbe is a recent graduate of Frontier Nursing University, who recently moved her family to Ukiah from Bar Harbor, Maine to work with MCHC. Her family includes her partner (Mwaura Ngoima, an artist), and two children, Olida, age 5, and Rio, age 11.

Midwives such as Abbe, with a strong background in nursing and genuine compassion for patients, have a multitude of job opportunities at their fingertips. Abbe intentionally chose this area and this job, out of hundreds of jobs across the nation, because of the strong team at MCHC and the beautiful rural location.

Dr. Donna Smith, Lead OB/GYN, states: "Our team intentionally chose Brie, out of numerous qualified candidates, because she aligns with our philosophical approach that patient care is a great privilege and responsibility. We feel very lucky to have such a kind, intelligent and motivated midwife join us."

Throughout her life, Abbe has been dedicated to health, learning, teaching and equality. She has worked as a health science educator, teaching high school students about sexual health, and spent time working with the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action, in Malaysia. She later gained experience on the mother/baby unit at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, as a registered nurse, where she assessed, supported, and cared for postpartum patients and their newborn babies.

Abbe most recently worked at a critical access hospital in rural Maine for nine years, as a labor, delivery, and mother/baby nurse. There she provided comprehensive nursing, lactation care, and served as a childbirth educator. Outside of employment and education, Abbe connected with local stakeholders in her area to support programming for Women's, Trans, and Gender-Fluid Health.

She loves to work in communities where multiple generations are enjoying their lives in proximity, sharing in moments such as the birth of a grandchild. Journeying with families, through the life-changing experience of childbirth, is an honor for all midwives, and Abbe is no exception.

She talks about one of her intentions as a midwife: "It has been and will always be my goal to connect with and empower families to trust their instincts. Certainly, learning from healthcare professionals and other parents whom you admire is important, and equally important is to listen to what your instincts are telling you."

MCHC's Care for Her program is a midwifery-based model, in which our OB/GYN physicians are an amazing source of support and back-up, providing consultation for our midwives and direct care for complex pregnancies and deliveries. MCHC's Interim CEO Rod Grainger states, "We are so blessed to have this unique model of care which is the perfect fit for Mendocino County and adding Brie to this team will only serve to strengthen the care we provide."

MCHC Health Centers includes Hillside Health Center and Dora Street Health Center in Ukiah, Little Lake Health Center in Willits, and Lakeview Health Center in Lakeport. Learn more at [www.mchcinc.org](http://www.mchcinc.org).

The rest of Tour | From page 10

wetlands when the bypass was constructed. The project has many stakeholders who collaborated with Caltrans including that group of citizens. "This meant many, many meetings with Caltrans and the agencies," de Santa Anna said. "We've all been working together to meet the success criteria Caltrans has to meet before they can leave the valley."

Orth said that when the whole team decided where the mitigation land should be located, all agreed that it should be in Little Lake Valley and not somewhere else in Mendocino County. "And it led to this mitigation land," he smiled and the group cheered.

"Look at the treasure we ended up with," continued Orth. "Caltrans has planted over 80,000 valley oak trees. We'll see some of these 8-to-9-foot tall. But not just valley oaks were planted. They've planted lots of grasses, shrubbery, and lots of incredible plants."

Baker's meadowfoam (a small plant with tiny white flowers) and North Coast semiphrase grass are considered threatened and endangered on the California Native Plant Society list and are federally listed.

"We have the largest population of Baker's meadowfoam in the world right here in our Little Lake Valley," said de Santa Anna. "It's a wetlands plant that needs inundation. This valley gets inundated every winter and that's important for Baker's meadowfoam." She explained that the plant has oil in it that's related to whale oil. "That's an interesting thing we don't want to lose off the face of the planet," she added.

When folks met up after carpooling to the destination along Berry Creek, de Santa Anna started talking birds: "We have a lot of neotropical birds out here. Some of them are long migrants from a long way away. Some are short migrants that come from a short way, meaning Northern Mexico or Southern United States. Swainson's thrush, which just started singing here, comes as far away as Argentina. They're beautiful and come here because we have lots of insects and not so many other birds eating them. Hopefully we'll see some insects as well."

One person asked, "Where does the bluebird migrate from?" De Santa Anna answered, "They don't migrate. They're our local resident. They can do some elevational switches. At my house we get bluebirds in winter but not in summer. They're in the valley at this time of year." She said they have a couple nesting in their home nesting box and it's their second clutch "because there was such a dry spell in winter."

Along the valley-oak-lined dirt road, de Santa Anna pointed out birds and bird calls. She recognizes all the bird songs, some beautiful, some raspy, some varied, and others with a predictable cadence.

Participants heard and / or saw: gorgeous blue and orange lazuli bunting males that have sweet, high-pitched notes; orange-crowned warblers, migratory birds that have a little trill; three different vireos; oak titmouse; yellow-breasted chat, the largest North American warbler; common yellow throat; chestnut-backed chickadee; song sparrows and black-headed grosbeak with their lovely songs; Bullock's oriole; tree swallows; red-shouldered hawk and more.

Mitigation lands trail cams have captured lots of gray squirrels, wood ducks, beavers, fox, bobcats, turkeys, deer, elk and lots of bears. During the tour, animal scat was found on the road. One poop was probably from an otter, since there was a water hole nearby and, what looked like, an otter "slide." There were also signs of birds being killed and eaten. On one tour a bear loped across the field to everyone's thrill.

There were wildflowers, and grasses, grasses, grasses – with sounds of human sneezes added – were seen and appreciated along the way. Of note were the basket sedges – fields of them – that the Pomo use for basket-making.

Currently MCRCD has a permit to collect seed from the local native plants for propagation and future planting. "We have some areas," said de Santa Anna, "that have been taken over by other plants. We're getting rid of those invasives and planting Baker's meadowfoam," or other native plants as appropriate. She emphasized that they need permitting when plants are state-listed as threatened, endangered or rare.

"The Willits Bypass Mitigation Land is the largest project in Caltrans history. I know they're working on one now that could be larger than this but, as it stands, this is the largest plan," de Santa Anna informed.

The mitigation wetlands are being studied with plans made to preserve, reconstruct, and replant threatened areas in order to maintain its biodiversity and habitat in perpetuity.

To discover more about the Willits MCRCD Mitigation Land, de Santa Anna's wildlife blog, and monthly tour dates, visit [www.mcrd.org](http://www.mcrd.org).

An app de Santa Anna suggested for birding by sound or photo is Merlin Bird ID.



# SATURDAY COVID VACCINE CLINIC

Clinics will be for ages 5 and older. Children and Adults. For entire community. Do not need to be Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic patients.

**MAY 28 • JUNE 11 • JUNE 25**

Appointments are preferred, but drop-ins will be accepted, too.

**CALL 707-459-6861**

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT FOR 9 AM - 12:30 PM & 1 PM - 2:30 PM**

**AT BAECHEL CREEK CLINIC: 1245 S. MAIN STREET, WILLITS**

Pfizer vaccines will be administered at Saturday clinics. Although we will do Moderna by special advanced request for those 18 years and older.

Patients have to wait onsite for at least 15 minutes after vaccination

### Quilty Pleasures 2022

### Free Quilt Show Presented By

**Long Valley Quilters**  
Saturday May 28th 10-4  
Sunday May 29th 11-3:30

**Fat Quail Quilt Shop**  
44550 Hwy. 101  
Laytonville, CA 95454

**Quilts for Sale**  
Raffle Baskets/Quilt Raffle  
Antique Washing Machine Display

- MASKS REQUIRED INDOORS -

For more info, entry form & map visit  
<http://www.fatquail.com>  
or call (707) 984-6966



## WPD chief donates to Sober Grad

Thank you to Willits Chief of Police Fabian Lizarra, for your continued support of Willits Sober Grad with this \$2,000 donation for the Class of 2022 Sober Grad Party. Davina Sentak, president of Willits Sober Grad, accepts the donation with a smile.



## Nourishing Gift

### Willits gardeners scoop up donation from Cold Creek Compost

"Everyone appreciates a load of good compost," stated Martin Mileck, owner of Cold Creek Compost. "I feel strongly that businesses should support the communities that support them." In that spirit, Cold Creek Compost, a well-known supplier of compost to Northern California agriculture and local gardeners, gifted the people of the City of Willits with 48 yards (24 tons) of free compost, deposited at the eastern end of the Willits Skate Park parking lot.

The load was left last Wednesday, May 18 and by the following Saturday, over half of the pile was gone, utilized by the locals for their spring gardens.

"Cold Creek reached out to us out of the blue and asked if we'd be into accepting a donation," said Kenan O'Shea, Willits Public Works Superintendent. "They do this for a lot of other communities, especially Sonoma County. This was their first donation here. I imagine if it goes well and we get a rapport established with them, there might be some more in the future."

O'Shea explained that the Public Works department posted signs at the site, "telling what's in the compost and how to best use it so people don't go filling up a flower bed and burning up everything. It's compost, more of a soil amendment than a regular planting medium. It's got a lot of chicken parts in there. It's really pretty stuff. It's got a good consistency. It's last year's blend, so it's not as hot and heavy as some of the stuff they make this year."

Thank you, Cold Creek Compost. Judging by how quickly this pile has nearly disappeared, the people of Willits greatly appreciate your donation.

For more information, visit [www.cityofwillits.org/CivicAlerts.aspx](http://www.cityofwillits.org/CivicAlerts.aspx).

**At top: As of Saturday, May 21, this is what remained of the 48 yards of compost donated to Willits by Cold Creek Compost. Below: Signs posted by the City of Willits advise how to use the compost and the guidelines for distribution.**



Photos by Mathew Caine



### I Am Proud To Be Endorsed By These Elected Officials, Community Leaders, and Groups:

- ✓ JARED HUFFMAN - Congressman
- ✓ MIKE MCGUIRE - State Senator
- ✓ JIM WOOD - State Assemblymember
- ✓ MATT KENDALL - Mendocino County Sheriff
- ✓ TOM ALLMAN - Former Sheriff
- ✓ SAPRINA RODRIGUEZ - Willits City Mayor
- ✓ GERRY GONZALEZ - Willits City Council
- ✓ MADGE STRONG - Willits City Council
- ✓ RICK WILLIAMS - Brooktrails Township President
- ✓ TINA TYLER-O'SHEA - Brooktrails Township Vice-President
- ✓ ED HORRICK - Brooktrails Township Board Of Directors
- ✓ RALPH SANTOS - Brooktrails Township Board Of Directors
- ✓ TONY ORTH - Brooktrails Township Board Of Directors
- ✓ MARY NORRIS - Cahto Tribal Chair
- ✓ MIKE CARTER - Coordinator of Mendocino Auxiliary Communications Service
- ✓ INLAND MENDOCINO DEMOCRATIC CLUB
- ✓ MENDOCINO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE
- ✓ MENDOCINO WOMEN'S POLITICAL COALITION
- ✓ MENDOCINO CANNABIS ALLIANCE
- ✓ COVLEO CANNABIS ADVOCACY GROUP
- ✓ SEIU 1021 COUNTY WORKERS UNION
- ✓ SEIU 2015 CALIFORNIA'S CAREGIVERS UNION
- ✓ AFL-CIO NORTH BAY LABOR COUNCIL
- ✓ Tamara Adams
- ✓ John Almida
- ✓ Toni Amelung
- ✓ Dr. Bruce & Cassandra Andich
- ✓ Jeffrey Apodaca
- ✓ Jim & Leigh Austin
- ✓ Amanda Baguley
- ✓ Kim Bancroft
- ✓ Bill Barksdale
- ✓ Maria Batts
- ✓ Kerry Bell
- ✓ Judi Berdis
- ✓ Kate Black
- ✓ Doreen Blumenfeld
- ✓ Jolene Carrillo
- ✓ Louis Calaya
- ✓ Melinda Clarke
- ✓ Laura Colby
- ✓ Mary Colvig
- ✓ Robert Comings
- ✓ Tom DeMarchi
- ✓ Carlin & Jed Diamond
- ✓ Ellen Drell
- ✓ David Drell
- ✓ Sherrie Ebyam
- ✓ Valerie Edwards
- ✓ Helen Falandes
- ✓ Ken Fennell
- ✓ Michael Foley
- ✓ Allen & Maria Garcia
- ✓ Stephanie Garrabrant Sierra
- ✓ Eric Glassey
- ✓ Karen Gridley
- ✓ Elizabeth Hart
- ✓ Alexander Harter
- ✓ Dina Hutton
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- ✓ Richard Jergenson
- ✓ Perri Kaller
- ✓ Jean Kaplan
- ✓ Steve Keyes
- ✓ Steve Keyes
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- ✓ Doris Kramer
- ✓ Elida Leon
- ✓ Freddie Long
- ✓ Kirk Lumpkin
- ✓ Linda MacDonald
- ✓ Gary Martin
- ✓ Dr. Mills Matheson
- ✓ Jane McCabe
- ✓ Patricia Moeller
- ✓ Mike Moreno
- ✓ Chris Neary
- ✓ Barbara O'Reardon
- ✓ Carol Orton
- ✓ Karen Oslund
- ✓ Verne Ostrander
- ✓ Gary Owen
- ✓ Mary Pappadakis
- ✓ Stacey Patton
- ✓ Lee Persico
- ✓ Rick & Kris Pierce
- ✓ Cancy Rash
- ✓ David Robinson
- ✓ Louis & Sally Ronick
- ✓ Laura Rowland
- ✓ Sally Rulison
- ✓ Greg & Donna Schindel
- ✓ Jim Schroeder
- ✓ Henry Shebitz
- ✓ Dennis Sota
- ✓ Sheryl Smith
- ✓ Jennifer Spokne
- ✓ Tony & Melodie Sorace
- ✓ Lyn Talkovsky
- ✓ Ann Waters
- ✓ Dickey Weinkle
- ✓ Lynn Williams
- ✓ Susana Wilson

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Haschak for Supervisor 2022, FPNC# 1442639

### The rest of Issues | From page 1

the report after going through the contractor's "O&Ms and As-Builts" and finding "several large and many small issues," Lucier told the board.

"O&Ms" refers to a detailed document containing instructions to "operate and maintain" a facility, and "As-Builts" are revised drawings showing how something was actually built, as opposed to how it was initially designed.

"The As-Builts and the O&M manuals are really only as good as the subcontractor that supplied them," said Lucier. "We're going to have a picture that the architect drew for us in the original plans, and then we're going to have a modified set of plans that ... will show whatever modifications [the subcontractor] made.

"The thing that is hard, is getting the subcontractors that did a lousy job on their As-Builts to do a more professional job," he explained. "They're going to come back with another set, with a whole bunch more drawings, and we're going to take it on faith that now we really got it.

"But we're really always taking it on faith that they're providing what we asked for," he continued. "We're not going to go up in the ceiling and chase out every conduit.

"I don't think we go anywhere without a good set of As BUILTS," Lucier concluded. "After all of us are gone, someone's going to have to go back and use them."

After Lucier's presentation, the board unanimously decided to "respond to ACGC's request for final payment with a letter saying that they had "reviewed input from our construction manager that indicates that there are deficiencies that need to be cured, and we will act on the final payment once those deficiencies are cured."

Unanimous disapproval of final payment for construction was followed by unanimous approval of payment for purchase of a subscription to new software that promises to greatly enhance the department's firefighting operations.

Described as "really neat ... [and] great" by Chief Bill Carter, the software, FlowMSP, is a web-based self-described "pre-incident planning platform."

"If you're not familiar, it's just like it sounds," explained Carter. "Preplanning is something we do ... mainly with commercial structures.

"We normally do it on paper," he continued. "It takes somebody to go out, sketch out a draft, identify the address, identify the building, make notes, identify hazards. It all ends up in a binder somewhere, and you almost never have it when you really need it.

"I've been in this department for a while, and I've never had access to a pre-plan on a commercial structure fire during the incident, not once," Carter told the board.

Information about buildings needs to be put into the system, and Carter made that sound like a snap.

"We do every building with our cell phone or our tablet. We can do it from our desktop if we know all the attributes. We can go out and make a line item, take some pictures, come back and preplan at our desks. It's really easy," he said.

"We can go to any building, either by Google mapping and finding it and pin dropping it or typing in the address," he continued. "It'll pull it up automatically.

"We automatically pinpoint the roof access. It automatically calculates the square footage of the roof, and gallons per minute of the water flow required to fight the fire, say if it's fully involved.

"A lot of times, we're running around in a structure looking for a gas shut-off in the middle of the night," he said. "We probably walked right past it. Maybe it's in a little enclosure or something. We can take pictures of those.... We can have utilities marked so we know exactly where they are. Any access points, any hazards, can be listed.

"On top of that, it'll have the hydrant layer built into it.... It will automatically highlight the hydrants needed to fight the fire by gallons per minute they put out, [information] which we give to the system."

Even if a structure is not preplanned, "we can still see it on the map if there's a street view available on Google," he went on. "Sometimes it's nighttime, and

we've got an address: no building, no description, no business name. We're looking for an address.

"All our calls will come through it ... [and an] unlimited number of people can have access to it.

"If we're going into another jurisdiction, or they're coming into ours to a major incident, we can share the link and get all of their preplanning information right onto our tablets and cell phone," he continued. "Hopland's in it, and Redwood Valley is in its infancy."

And all for the low price of "\$2,000 a year ... not that bad at all," Chief Carter said. "It's pretty neat. It does so much more than I can tell you in a few minutes. It could save a life."

Even the best software in the firefighting world, though, is worthless without firefighters, and there are two new ones coming on board.

The first is a volunteer who is "already geared up and made a call," Firefighters Association President Aaron Branscomb told the board.

And the other is one they are looking to hire in the next month or two – a new hourly 8 am to 5 pm "training officer, management type ... employee.

"We're looking for someone in the engineer/captain realm already," said Carter. "We need someone who can train, drive apparatus, is hazmat certified...."

The new hire's title will be "training officer," and the current training officer, Eric Alvarez, will become the new fire marshal.

And given his lame duck status, Alvarez gave what he called his "possible last training report" to the board at the meeting.

"We're finishing up the wildland series, did the static water supply ... showed what the static water sources would look like, how to obtain water, how to get water out of there to fill engines, ... and also did the fire shelters and hand tools," he said.

They also reviewed completion of "the ICS 231 form."

ICS stands for Incident Command System, and the form is actually "a placard to put on somebody's house, [which is used] more commonly on strike teams or out-of-county assignments," he said.

"The fire's maybe a day, two days out, [and] the firefighters will go out there and triage different structures ... look for water sources, the 100-foot defensible space, anybody that's left at that location, access for engines, and then any special notes on hazards ... or other things they see," he said.

This "structure triage" training was not just limited to a review of filling out a placard. It also included the real deal.

"I have my guys get on their gear. We take engines up to the location and they'll hop out ... talk to the homeowner," Alvarez explained. "This year we did it in Brooktrails [at] five addresses. Two years ago, before the COVID, we did Pine Mountain.

"We don't really get out that much in those areas, Pine Mountain and all those side streets," he continued. "Even with Shafer Ranch Road, there's a ton of side streets and addresses, so for them to get out and go through that is a big deal. I want to do Black Hawk and Black Bart. I'm not that familiar with that area myself."

Training and preparation never stops, and neither do actual calls for help. And in April, there were 57 of them.

"We had 20 medical/emergency calls, 21 traffic accidents, five hazardous conditions, four service calls, two false alarms, and five fires," Carter told the board.

It all costs money, and some of that money gets raised by the volunteer firefighters themselves through their nonprofit organization, the Little Lake Firefighters Association.

The Association's next fundraising endeavor will be the "94th annual Fundraiser and Open House" on June 11.

Save the date, and come on down to the new firehouse and join in the fun for the whole family with fire trucks on display, firefighters available for firehouse tours, antique fire truck rides, T-shirts with a new logo for purchase, raffles with lots of prizes, and food and drinks for a small donation.

### The rest of COVID | From page 1

is not stressed," he said. "Remember the unvaccinated people are hospitalized at a rate that is 8.9 times the rate of people who've been vaccinated."

"The deaths in Mendocino County have really not changed," Dr. Coren said. "They remain at 124."

Mendocino County is following a trend in California, and around the country of rising COVID case rates, Coren said. "COVID in California, led by the Bay Area, is experiencing a new wave of confirmed COVID – rising case rates, and increasing hospitalizations at well. The state forecasts a peak in mid-June, and Mendocino County will probably follow the state by a few weeks."

This rise in cases is "being driven by Omicron subvariants," he said. "In CA it's BA.2, and the more highly transmissible BA.2.12.1 is following up and increasing in its numbers.

"Our testing positivity is up all over, and this is confirmed in other areas by wastewater testing, which is important because so much more testing is being done through home tests."

Coren also reported the Mendocino County schools "did show some increased antigen positive tests. Over 100 were reported in Fort Bragg after spring break, prom and party at the end of April. However these numbers decreased rapidly, and the inland proms are pending and graduations are coming up, these are planned to be outdoors."

Mendocino County currently has a number of small COVID outbreaks, all under 5 cases. Coren described them as "outbreaks at several

### The rest of Letters | From page 2

and-squirt forestry by the Mendocino Redwood Company, and the legal standoff between the sheriff and the board of supervisors.

On issue after issue, Romero recited a list of grievances, but he had nothing to offer in the way of solutions, and he showed a complete lack of understanding of how government bureaucracy actually works.

While Romero appeared clueless, incumbent Haschak, who has been working diligently on all these issues over the past three years, expressed well nuanced understandings of the complexities of each issue and explained clearly what he is doing as our supervisor to make the system work better for the residents of the Third District and all of Mendocino County.

In my personal experience, Haschak has been the most accessible and responsive supervisor the Third District has had in my over 40 years living here.

By the end of the debate, even Romero himself was asking Haschak for advice. To conclude, each candidate questioned the other, and Romero asked Haschak to please explain the difference between a CEO and a CAO form of county administration. Haschak politely thanked Romero for the question and proceeded to give a clear and concise explanation of what is a tedious but important matter of public policy.

Even as Romero exposed himself as unprepared and unfit to be a county supervisor, he made no argument at all that Haschak has been anything other than a stellar supervisor for the Third District during his first term in office. Romero is clearly not running for supervisor because he wants to represent the people of the Third District, but rather as a means of infiltrating right-wing extremism into our county government.

Voter turnout in midterm primary elections is usually very low, and it is in such low turnout elections that extremist candidates have their best shot at success. This 2022 midterm primary election for Mendocino County Third District supervisor has turned into a referendum on right-wing extremism in our district. After witnessing this debate, I urge every responsible voter in the Third District to show up, and let's re-elect John Haschak by a landslide.

Jon Spitz, Laytonville

Whether your child is just starting out or has been playing for several years, our total soccer program will meet the needs of your soccer-loving kid. Our one-week summer camp in Willits is from June 20 – 24 for 7- to 15-year-olds. Our professional staff, including our club Director of Coaching Shane Huff, runs this dynamic and fun summer program.

## Thank you

To the Editor:

The Rotary Club of Willits has finalized our Rotary District 5130 matching grant for 2021-22, "Instruments for Music at Willits High School," and would like to thank those who donated to the fundraiser for additional funds for this worthy program.

The Rotary Club of Willits donated \$2,400. Rotary District 5130 matched that amount with a \$2,400 donation, for a total of \$4,800. Added to that amount, many members of the community, named below, generously donated another \$6,000 to support music at Willits High School.

Our Rotary Club of Willits would like to give a special thank you to Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra, incoming Rotary Club of Willits president for 2022-23, for her tireless energy in promoting this project. Garrabrant-Sierra busked with her fiddle, in front of Grocery Outlet seven times over the past year. She brought in an additional \$1,000 for this fundraiser, which put the total earned for this project at \$7,000!

In total, Rotary Club of Willits, Rotary District

nursing homes, two of our local homeless shelters, one at Ukiah Animal Care, and one at a charter school."

"In Mendocino County as of May 16, our vaccination rates have slowed, but gradually are increasing in April and May," Coren said. "The Department of Public Health is also continuing to have special vaccine events and visiting care homes to ensure that all who want the vaccine can get one."

As of this week, 75 percent of eligible people in Mendocino County are fully vaccinated. "This does not include the federal vaccines that have gone to predominantly the Native American clinics," he said.

"Unvaccinated people in our community represent 17% of our population. 57.5% of eligible people have been boosted."

Coren doesn't expect to issue any new health orders, but his current recommendations, considering the substantial transmission rate in Mendocino County, include: "Stay up to date with your vaccines and boosters. Secondly, universal indoor masking is still required by the state in hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient health care facilities, corrections and congregate settings, and shelters.

"Indoor masks universally are strongly recommended for all in public indoor settings, including schools, and high-risk individuals and families may want to also wear a higher grade mask," Dr. Coren said.

"If you're gathering or hosting a gathering, keep it small, keep it outdoors, if indoors, open doors and windows to improve ventilation."

5130, and the generous members of this county, donated a total of \$11,800 to the Willits High School Music Program. Thank you to all who gave money to help get the needed instruments to these high school students! It really does take a village to do good things for your community.

Thank you to: the Harts, the Jamisons, the Richards, Matt & Tara Moratti, Patricia Collins, Jim & Jeanne King, Carlin & Jed Diamond, Tom Herman, John and Debi Vau, Pamela Robers, Metalix, Willits Furniture, SHN Consulting, Baechtel Creek Inn, Alfred Kerr, DDS, Ponderosa and Sun Realty, Barbara Lincoln-H&R Block, Moon Lady, SWOW, Willits Mini Storage, Mitchell Investments, KOZT FM, TNT Market, and Celtic Heritage Destinations

Thank you also to Willits High School Music instructor Daniel Cech for his enthusiasm for music and his students, to WHS principal Mike Colvig for helping facilitate the grant, and to Nikki Agenbroad and Jenni Wyatt for the excellent financial tracking and reporting they do for this grant. And a big thank you to Tamara Alaniz, Rotary Club of Willits treasurer, for her careful accounting that helps us do great things for this community.

Jenny Lyn Senter, district grant chair, Rotary of Club of Willits, and Rick Williams, president, Rotary Club of Willits

## Soccer for kids and adult league, too

To the Editor:

This summer and fall, Mendocino County Soccer Academy offers various programs to keep your kiddo active and engaged! As a non-profit 501c3, MCSA is committed to creating positive soccer experiences for local kids so they develop a life-long passion for the game while learning essential life skills!

Whether your child is just starting out or has been playing for several years, our total soccer program will meet the needs of your soccer-loving kid. Our one-week summer camp in Willits is from June 20 – 24 for 7- to 15-year-olds. Our professional staff, including our club Director of Coaching Shane Huff, runs this dynamic and fun summer program.

In addition, we're offering a special 2x week Grassroots Academy from June 27 - July 28 for 3- to 7-year-olds.

For fall soccer, registration for our Developmental Soccer League is open. The league is designed for kids 8-15 and kicks off August 15 and goes through October 29. All kids get to participate in a fun pre- and post-season tournament! We have two 6-week Grassroots Academy sessions for 3- to 7-year-olds this fall as well!

Finally, we're offering a summer 7v7 league for adults. We have men's, women's, coed, and high school divisions. The league is from June 6 - July 28. All games are played on weeknights at the brand-new state-of-the-art soccer field at Ukiah High School. You can put together a team or join as a free agent!

For more information about any of these programs, please visit [MendocinoSoccer.com/Summer-2022](http://MendocinoSoccer.com/Summer-2022). You can also find us on social media or email me directly at [lan@MendocinoSoccer.com](mailto:lan@MendocinoSoccer.com).

Thank you, and see you on the pitch!

Ian Fitzpatrick, MCSA director, Willits

# IT'S THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILLITS CAR AND BIKE SHOW

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
THE WILLITS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



**COME OUT & CELEBRATE**

**MAY 29, 2022**

**10 AM - 3 PM  
AT THE REC GROVE PARK**

**WILLITS LIONS CLUB BREAKFAST**

**7 AM - 10 AM AT THE BOY SCOUT HUT**



# PRE CAR SHOW

**SATURDAY MAY 28  
11 AM - 2 PM**

**AT LITTLE LAKE AUTO PARTS - 1571 S. MAIN STREET**



## 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  
707-303-5456  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Burton Jernigan  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive  
Willits, CA 95490  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
Sacrament Meeting  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

- Sound of Soul events
- Membership Discourses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?  
Call 530-224-8703  
www.eckankar.org

### Grace Community Church

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

### St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

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

### St. Francis Episcopal Church

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

### St. John Lutheran Church

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

### Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714  
Friendly, open worship  
Saturdays  
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
Zoom Transmission Available.  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting - 6:00 p.m.  
399 W. Mendocino Ave.  
All are welcome!

### Willits United Methodist

A Christ centered, progressive church  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
Worship Celebration  
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.  
459-2855

Facebook: www.facebook.com

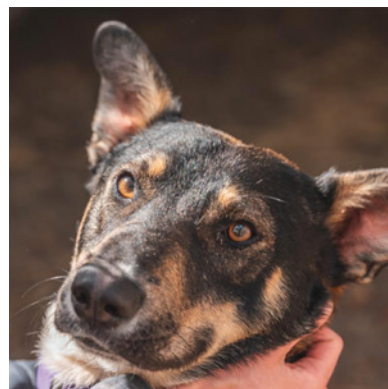
If you want to be included in  
this column please call:

**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
april@willitsweekly.com

# Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

## Stan the Man

Meet Stan the Man! Stan came to us in January as a transfer from Bones Rescue. Stan quickly became a volunteer favorite and enjoys long walks and playtime with other friendly dogs. Our boy has patiently been waiting for his turn at a forever family. He has gone to foster, who had all positives to say about this boy. Stan would love to find his forever home with you! Apply today at [www.mendohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com).



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



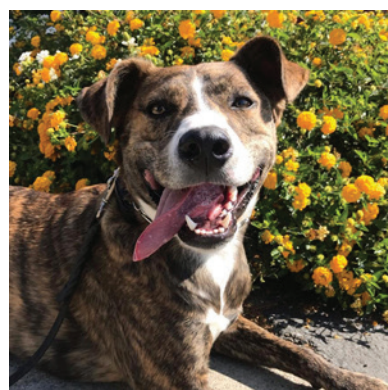
## Sleek Albert

This handsome guy is looking for a new lease on life! Originally coming in as a trapped feral, Albert is approximately 5 years old and a whopping 17 pounds. Due to being so overweight, Albert was unable to properly groom himself for a long time and his luxurious coat had become extremely matted. With the help of a haircut and a diet, we are hoping to turn Albert's luck around! Albert is a friendly guy and a big fan of head scratches. He is curious about his surroundings and likes to explore. Albert appears to get along well with other cats, but can be a bit nippy at times, so would likely do best in a home with no young children.

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

## Well- rounded Dobby

Dobby is a loving, sweet family dog who is high energy and loves to stay close to his humans. He loves to cuddle, take naps with you, and go on a run or walk with you. Dobby is housebroken, crate-trained and knows many commands, including "sit", "down", "walk", "run", "drop it" and "quiet." He is fully vaccinated and healthy. He loves to play tug-o-war, fetching his toys when you toss them across the room, and loves getting pets and belly rubs. A good home for Dobby is one with humans who can give him lots of love and walks during the day. He is good with children but should not be walked by them, because he is strong when he pulls and a child may not be able to control him appropriately with commands. If you have time to walk and exercise this affectionate dog, you will be so happy to have him in your life!



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

## SAVE THE DATE

WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS  
HOMETOWN  
CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH  
5P - 9P