

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 456

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Willits Weekly newspaper

Nearly 19,000 ballots still to count

Submitted by Mendocino County Elections Office

Mendocino County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie announced last week, that as with every election, there are ballots left to be processed as part of the official canvass of the June 7 statewide primary election.

As of end of day Thursday, June 9, a PR from the Elections Office reported, Mendocino County has 17,602 vote by mail ballots to process and count, and 347 provisional / conditional ballots to review, process and count.

By law, any ballot that is postmarked by Election Day (June 7), we are required to accept through Tuesday, June 14, 2022, which may increase the ballots to process.

Of the outstanding ballots left to count, the Third District Supervisor race has 3,097; the Fifth District Supervisor race has 4,389; and Measure M in Anderson Valley Unified School District has 605 ballots remaining to process and count.

We do plan to update our count (unofficial results) on our website within two weeks.

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

Arrests for meth in Willits

By Sgt. Mike Dygert for MCSO

On June 11, 2022 at about 10:30 pm, a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy observed a male subject in the driver's seat of a parked vehicle while patrolling the 100 block of Kawi Place in Willits.

The deputy recognized the subject as William Lee, 50, from Willits, and knew Lee had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for his arrest.

The deputy contacted Lee and arrested him for the misdemeanor arrest warrant. During a search of Lee's person, the deputy located several grams of methamphetamine.

After securing Lee in the patrol vehicle, the deputy noticed there was an adult female occupying the same vehicle Lee had occupied. The deputy contacted the adult female who was identified as Denesa Kay Cleek, 50, from Willits.

The deputy conducted a search of Cleek's purse and found a collapsible baton, a can of pepper spray, methamphetamine, and drug paraphernalia associated with the sale

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



Above, from left: Little Lake Fire Chief Bill Carter smiles with a bag of rolls in the station's new kitchen. Daniel hangs out the window of Engine 5480 during the open house. LLFD Engine Alyssa Alvarez holds a strip of raffle tickets. LLFD Board Member Tony Madrigal stands in the doorway of his office at the new firehouse and welcomes guests on the tour. Below: Little Lake firefighters and official colleagues pose together including back row, from left: Officer Ray Brady, board members Skip Lucier and Tony Madrigal, Chad Leshar, Ben Branscomb, Samantha Sundvold, Jeff Donaldson, Cody Bartholomew, Mike Cornwall, Manuel Orozco, Mike Ferguson, Aaron Branscomb, Bradley Johnson, Brian Bartholomew, and Chief Bill Carter. Front row, from left: Training Chief Eric Alvarez, Harry So, Dena Rutledge, Alyssa Alvarez, Tim Ward, "Storage" the dog, and Dion Beckman. Not pictured: Firefighter Ashley Roach and board member Nancy Stipes.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Fun at the Firehouse

Little Lake Fire Department hosts annual open house offering family fun and awareness for community

It was just the right level of toastiness outside on Saturday, June 11 for over 100 friends, family and community members to feel the summer vibes and come out to see the new Little Lake Fire Department's firehouse, play in the park, and take a ride on the antique fire engine.

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

The event was the 94th annual open house for the Little Lake Firefighters Association, who were forced to pause the event for the past two years due to the pandemic.

The station had its official grand opening on September 11, 2021 where some community members were able to see the new Station 54, located at 74 East Commercial Street, but this year's celebration allowed the public to come and view the fire apparatus and meet and interact with the firefighters and staff at the firehouse, too.

"This year the Open House consisted of a station tour, muster truck rides, meet and greets with volunteer firefighters and command staff, and raffling of prizes donated by local business," explained Little Lake Fire Association Secretary/Treasurer Harry So. "This year we

also included a Cornhole Tournament, two bounce houses, and food!"

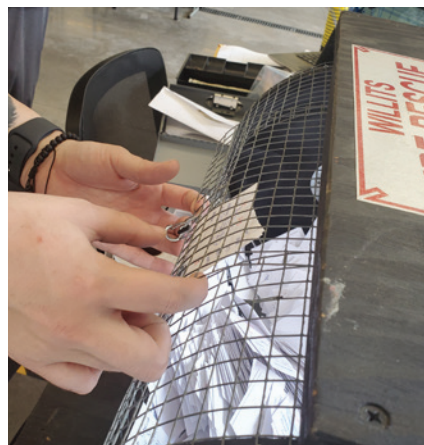
The group also held two raffles during the event on Saturday: the "general raffle" where they raffle off prizes donated by local businesses and the "50/50 raffle," where the winner wins half of the money from the 50/50 tickets.

"For this year's general raffle, prizes included: a generator and BBQ grill donated by Coast Hardware; a BW hitch receiver donated by 101 Trailer & RV Supply; two gift certificates from Serenity Salon; four gift certificates from Dahvi's Kitchen; four gift certificates from Golden Rule Gardens; a photoshoot with Jordan Eads; three photoshoots with Second Perspective Photography; a load of firewood from Sparetime Garden Center; and a gift certificate from John Ford Beef," said So. "We also hosted two separate silent auctions: one for a limited-edition, custom Little Lake Fire Cornhole Board set made and donated by Clint Wyant, and a tool box donated by Little Lake / Napa Auto."

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



Above, from left: Little Lake Fire Association Secretary/Treasurer Harry So does his best "Vanna White" impersonation showcasing of the items available for the raffle. Training Chief Eric Alvarez manned the grill, making hamburgers and hot dogs for the attendees. A view out of the past: The Van Hotel from inside the Muster Truck. At right: The station Dalmatian, "Storage," had no trouble posing perfectly for all four hours of Saturday's event - not even moving one stitch. Far right: Magnolia enjoyed pulling, pushing and poking all the chains and nozzles on the sides of the engines.



Below, from left: Captain Chad Leshar, with sandwich, and Captain Jeff Donaldson, with soda, enjoy refreshments from the open house. Harry So showcases tickets available for purchase at the front tent. Raffle tickets were carefully slid into the raffle ticket drum.

Supes fund museum in 2022/23 budget

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors had a pair of meetings last week focused on the budget for the upcoming 2022/23 fiscal year, and are hopeful that they found a way to balance a "very contracted budget," as one county staffer put it.

After the June 7 daylong discussion with a lot of input given by the board, they approved moving forward with the budget, and staff will bring it back for a final vote on June 21.

It appeared that the supervisor's plans will not include forcing the Mendocino County Museum in Willits to close to cut costs, an option which they had been considering.

Museum curator Karen Mattson gave a slide show presentation to the board where she emphasized the improvements the museum has had in the last few years - in the quality of the museum site as well as in things like community outreach and events.

Mattsen said that, among other benefits, the museum serves as a "county-wide education destination," and is "part of a tourism network."

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

CalFire awards fire safe council \$3.5 million in grants

Submitted by Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council has been awarded three new CalFire grants totaling over \$3.5 million over the next three years, for several projects reinforcing wildfire safety in key locations around the county. The fire safe council and CalFire have been working together to identify the highest priorities for safety treatments.

Nearly 90% of Mendocino County is in a high or very high fire-hazard severity zone, and the fire safe council's mission is to help county residents survive and thrive in our wildfire-prone environment. These grant projects address that mission through several strategies.

The largest of the CalFire grants, received through a competitive application process, provides \$2.5 million for safer evacuation and firefighter access in selected areas near Yorkville (Elkhorn Road), Laytonville (Cherry Creek), Lake Mendocino (Vista Del Lago), and Willits

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

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, June 16: French Dip w/Au Jus, Green Salad, Fruit

Friday, June 17: Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole, Veggie, Roll

Monday, June 20: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Tuesday, June 21: Hot Open-Faced Roast Beef Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Roll, Green Salad

Wednesday, June 22: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll

Thursday, June 23: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, June 24: Turkey w/Stuffing, Gravy, Veggie, Roll

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

County animal shelter is full

Posted by Mendocino County Animal Shelter

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter is full, and public assistance is needed, the shelter posted on its Facebook page on Tuesday, June 14.

"Animal Care Services is requesting that if you are wanting or looking to adopt a dog to please go to the below link and take a look at these dogs: www.mendocinanimalshelter.com

"Unfortunately, the Animal Shelter is at 100% occupancy at this time. We are looking at possibly having to euthanize dogs for kennel space at the end of the week.

"For over the last six months we have reduced our adoption prices in half in an effort to avoid us reaching 100% capacity. Coming out of COVID, our Animal Shelter and hundreds of other animal shelters have been overwhelmed with animals coming in for shelter."

If you see a dog you are interested in meeting, please contact our adoptions department at 707-467-6453. Meetings must be set up by appointment, prior to coming in to the shelter. The shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah.

Click here to submit an adoption application: www.cognitofrms.com/MendocinoCountyAnimalCareServices/animalcareservicespetadoptionapplication

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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A PROCLAMATION OF THE
WILLITS CITY COUNCIL
designating

WILLITS WESTERN WEAR DAYS
June 17th through July 4th 2022

WHEREAS, Willits Frontier Days is the oldest continuous rodeo in the state of California and this year's theme, "Western Heritage", marks the 95th anniversary of Willits Frontier Days, which still continues to draw people from all over to come and not only celebrate Independence Day, but to celebrate our community; and

WHEREAS, each year, this event is run solely by volunteers, with many hours dedicated to putting together this traditional event; and

WHEREAS, this annual community event instills great pride in all of us who call Willits home, past and present;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Saprina Rodriguez, Mayor of the City of Willits, along with Vice Mayor Greta Kanne, Council Members Madge Strong, Larry Stranske, and Gerardo Gonzalez, do hereby proclaim June 17th through July 4th, 2022, as

"WESTERN WEAR DAYS"

In the City of Willits and encourage all who enter our community to join us in the rodeo spirit by wearing western apparel.

Signed June 8, 2022

Celebration of Life
for Wayne Bashore

A Celebration of Life will be held to honor our dear friend, Wayne Bashore. It will be on Sunday, June 26, 2022 at 12 noon. It will be held at the Scout Hut in the Rec Grove Park.

Anyone who wishes to show their respect and honor this great man is welcome to attend. For more info, contact Robin Lucier at 707-315-5402.

Willits Summer Art Walks
start June 25

Submitted by Willits Center for the Arts

This summer, the Willits arts community will showcase the best of Willits! Our downtown is brimming with talented artists and creative activity. Plan to spend the evening exploring art, history, music and dance.

This event will be held on the fourth Saturday of each month from June 25 through October between the hours of 5 and 8 pm. Grab a friend or your family and stroll the streets of Willits to discover local artists, new venues, and eateries right here in our own backyard.

Summer Art Walk 2022 Dates: June 25, July 30, August 27, September 24 and October 22.

The following participants are sponsors of the Willits Summer Art Walk:

**Willits Center for the Arts,
71 East Commercial Street**

The WCA prepares monthly art exhibitions featuring local and regional artists. View the latest exhibit: "Native American Art," while mingling with the artists and enjoying refreshments.

**Mendocino County Museum,
400 East Commercial Street**

Experience the new traveling exhibit from Exhibit Envoy: "Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly." Open 5 to 7 pm, with general admission.

Mendocino College will have a pop-up exhibit at the Museum! Don't miss the chance to see drawings and watercolors generated by talented student artists taught by local instructor Ann Maglente.

**BACE, 109 North Main Street
(next to North Spur Brewery)**

This venue is one of Willits' best-kept secrets. The visionaries, David Blesse, Graham Considine, and manager Christy Lee Long bring a global perspective to our local art scene. A psychedelic art exhibit will mesmerize audiences of all ages. This unique venue will also feature musical talent in the later evening hours.

Read the rest of Art Over on page 6

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SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME: _____

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PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

In the mail: ☐ 1 year - \$75 ☐ Additional donation included \$ _____
Home delivery: ☐ 1 year - \$50 (Home Delivery only available in Willits, Brooktrails & local areas) (call for details)

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What do
YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you
letters from our readers

A Haehl Creek Trail champion

To the Editor:

A few months ago, while walking with my dog, I noticed that someone had weed-whacked the Haehl Creek Trail. Upon continuing, I discovered Dave Madrigal doing the job.

Then, Monday of this week, my dog and I discovered Dave doing it again. No one had asked him to do it. He didn't ask for any compensation. He was just doing it out of the goodness of his heart.

This isn't Dave's first contribution to the Haehl Creek Trail. He was a member of the committee that envisioned, raised money, and then actually built the trail.

Thank you, Dave. If you see him around town, please thank him yourself.

Larry Stropes, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

Willits Sober Grad would like to express our gratitude for the generous support we receive from our community, financially and through your gifts of time and energy. This is our 37th year of providing a safe and sober graduation party for Willits graduates. Together, we are preventing the tragic outcomes associated with driving under the influence and sending a clear message to our kids that their community cares about them and their future.

Thank you to: Willits Police Department, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Mendocino County District Attorney, Willits Unified School District, City of Willits, Mendocino Community Foundation, Willits High School, Sanhedrin High School, Willits Charter School, Sparetime Supply, Frank R. Howard Foundation, Mendocino Construction Services, Les Schwab Tires, METALfx, Scoops Deli, 101 Trailer & RV, Mariposa Market, Cat's Meow, Waters Construction, Loose Caboose, Coldwell Banker Realty, Mendocino Forest Products, Flowers by Annette, Monkey Wrench, Willits Chamber of Commerce, Bud Garman Construction, Willits Lion's Club, Coast Hardware, Willits Wild Bunch, Shusters Transportation, Slam Dunk Pizza, Moon Lady, Willits Mini Storage, Book Juggler, Willits Safeway, Selzer Realty/REMAX, Impressions Studio, Grocery Outlet, CARSTAR/Yokum's Body Shop, SHN Engineers, Lucky Deuce, Roundtree Glass, Little Lake Auto Parts, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Willits Subway, Summit Realty, Dahvi's Kitchen, Willits Furniture, Ponderosa & Sun Realty, Valley Paving, Diamond D Construction, Flying Dog Pizza, Cattlemen's Restaurant-Petaluma, Ukiah Paper Supply, Ace Copy & Shipping, Roots of Motive Power, Printing Plus, Dripworks, Willits Solid Waste, J.D. Redhouse, Next Level Gaming, Blue Zone Project, Mendocino County Youth Project, DJ Mike Tobin, U.S. Army Recruiter Sgt. Olmos, Friends Anonymous Band, Marian Lohne, Billy Hetherington, Christine Houdashelt, Jenn, Jack & Haily Drew, Kevin, Windi & Haley Kvasnicka, Shannon Germann, Peter Smith, Carol Orton, Tom Woodhouse, Lee & Evelyn Persico, Mike & Ruth Dell'Ara, Robin Goldner, Cynthia Carni, Dr. & Mrs. Tedd Dawson, Dr. Alfred Kerr, Peggy Randrup, Gerry Gonzalez, Sherrie Ebyam, Dorothy Daun, Jason & Sichel Cox, Bret & Kristin Frasier, Jenna Wells, Vicky & Angel Titus, Tami Casias, Jamie & Hannah Bouthillier, Merlene Saunders, Dave Sentak, Lucy Bartholomew, Jamie Whitelaw, Erin Fitzpatrick, Megan Hall, Jae Cash, Simba Souza, Jim Rook, Thomas Kemcy, Bridgette Lockhart, Alice Kroh Ford, Kari Rescina, Elida Leon, Saprina Rodriguez, Leta Garman, Nicole Lustig, and Aida Leo.

Davina Sentak, president, Willits Sober Grad, on behalf of Willits Sober Grad board members Carrie Lambert, Heidi Ahders, Rachel Cash, Gerry Gonzalez, Lisa Kvasnicka, and Joe Aldridge



Below: Kids enjoyed playing games in the Gaming Lounge at the Sober Grad event.

At bottom: Dominick Kvasnicka and Shelby Perez Bowen show off their henna tattoos.

Submitted photos

Below, right, from top: Gracie Bouthillier and Mattea Butler smile for the camera. Masks and photo accessories were available to enhance photos at the booth. Friends pose together on the Red Carpet-themed photo booth.

Photos by Shalee Hansen



Above, from left: Grads smile with their diplomas received at last Thursday's ceremony including, from left: Madison Carter, Michael Stevens, Jack Lebert, Kyler Burke, and Mattea Butler. At left: Decorations celebrate the Class of 2022.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

Above: The graduation procession wound around through the neighborhoods amidst the regular traffic. Below: Kids love to get their faces painted and become their own characters: back, Cristina and Cayeleigh, front, Oscar and Felix. At bottom: Alan Solis gets to ride in comfort.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Read the rest of Sober Grad Over on page 15



Above: Tiana Dalton rides alone and is greeted loudly by onlookers. At right: Eric Rodriguez strikes a pose atop the pickup truck. Below, left: This truck is a party within a procession. Below, right: Two seniors stream the procession on their phones.

GRADUATION PARADE

With horns honking, flags flying, balloons bobbing in the breeze, arms waving, and shouts of freedom, many of the Willits and Sanhedrin high school graduates participated in the third annual graduation procession following the graduation ceremonies on the football field at Willits High on Thursday, June 9.

Careful not to call it a "parade," which would have created a need to staunch the flow of regular traffic and a need for more police presence, the heavily decorated vehicles were festooned with banners of congratulations, photos of the graduates, and a great many balloons. Some of the graduates rode alone and some with family and friends. Some became a traveling party, stuffed with many revelers and much joy, music and happiness.

The schools had survived another year, with COVID restrictions being, for the most part, lifted, enabling the students to enjoy the social aspects of the high school experience. Seeing the faces of one's friends made communication easier and more appealing. Although there were still infections and some isolating, it seemed that the pandemic was becoming a manageable inconvenience.

It is events like these that emphasize the sense of community inherent in this small town of down-to-earth folks. This aspect of small-town life was expressed by a couple, Pat and Dave, escapees from the Paradise conflagration of three years ago. They waited on the street in comfortable folding chairs to watch the procession although they had no seniors in particular to cheer on.

"We are fairly new to Willits," explained Pat. "We've been here three years. We left Paradise in flames. One of the reasons we decided to move here is to have

Read the rest of Parade Over on page 9

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

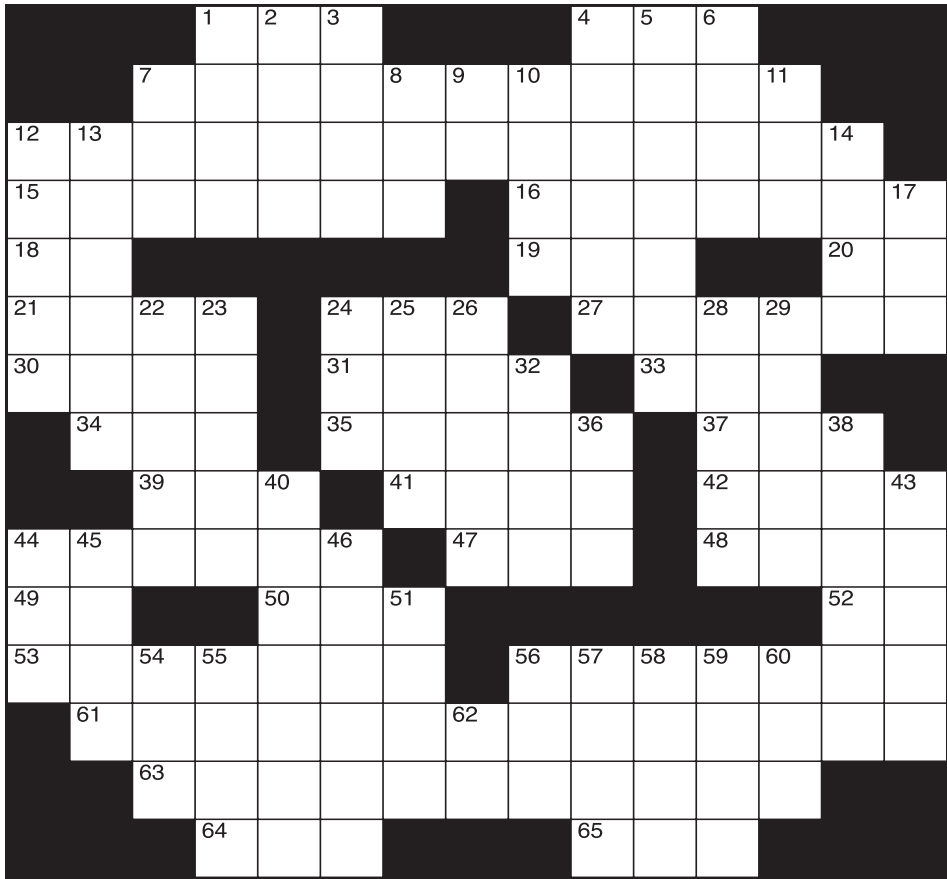
Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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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!



CLUES ACROSS

1. Moved quickly
4. Ocean temperature
7. Scholarly book series
12. Irregular
15. Hairstyle
16. Indigestion fixer
18. Special therapy
19. Mock
20. Partner to Pa
21. Strays
24. Swedish currency (abbr.)
27. Desired
30. Soap product
31. Traditional fishing boat
33. No (Scottish)
34. Spy organization
35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
37. Married woman
39. Blood relation
41. German river
42. Genus of clams
44. Parts of a movie
47. Residue
48. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand

49. Atomic #77
50. Where wrestlers work
52. Northeast
53. Type of lettuce
56. Abstain
61. Communication between two
63. One who administers medicine
64. Sun up in New York
65. Having eight
23. Murdered
24. Soviet Socialist Republic
25. Supreme ruler Genghis
26. Social media hand gesture
28. Semitic Sun god
29. Land
32. Database management system
36. Similar
38. Nice to look at
40. Covered with mud
43. Simple dry fruit
44. Title of respect
45. Type of footwear
46. Most lucid
51. Exam
54. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
55. 'Rule, Britannia' composer
56. Small Eurasian deer
57. 'Within'
58. Insures bank's depositors
59. A pause for relaxation
60. Social insect
62. Expresses acidity

CLUES DOWN

1. He played 'Milton'
2. Elsa's sister
3. Digital wallet
4. About backbone
5. Type of weapon
6. ___ Turner, rock singer
7. Microgram
8. Hair product
9. Health care pro
10. Holy fire
11. Military ID (abbr.)
12. ___ the ante
13. Containing nitrogen
14. Green citrus fruit
17. Male parent
22. Bring up

PARKS & REC WORD SEARCH																			
D	W	M	U	E	U	O	Q	E	J	V	J	B	J	Y	R	F	A	S	P
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ADVISORY	FITNESS	PRESERVATION
AMENITIES	HISTORIC	PUBLIC WORKS
AQUATIC	KAYAK	RECREATION
BICYCLE	LAUNCH	SERVICES
COASTAL	MAP	SPORTS CENTER
ENJOYMENT	NOTICE	SWIMMING
FACILITIES	OBSERVATION	TRAILHEAD
FIELD	PARK	VISITORS

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

May 29 to June 4

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 98 incidents in this 7 day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 29

1:20 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

9:37 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of School Street and issued a warning.

7:17 pm: RUSH, Jerry Arthur (55) of Rogue River, Oregon was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of carrying a concealed weapon in a vehicle, driving with a suspended license, and possession of a controlled substance.

May 30

1:10 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.

6:40 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Pine Street.

9:44 pm: CHATHAM, Darius Rose (27) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Hillside Drive following a report of an unwanted subject. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

May 31

3:00 pm: MILLER, Harold Joseph (38) of Willits was contacted in the 1600 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11350 H&S (Possession of a Controlled Substance) and 11364 H&S (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia).

9:14 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Marcela Drive and issued a warning.

11:34 pm: BRIGGS, Martin Christopher (51) of Laytonville was contacted near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Railroad Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole and misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

June 1

1:08 am: BURNS, Nicholas Matthew (35) of Hunsville, Alabama was contacted in the 200 block of East Valley Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly



Michael Newbolds of Ukiah.

to a disturbance near the intersection of Holly Street and Locust Street.

11:32 pm: CARLILE Jr., Bryce Randall (39) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Central Street and East San Francisco Street. He was arrested pursuant to 30305 (A) (1) PC (Felon in Possession of Ammunition).

June 2

11:08 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of School Street.

6:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Pine Street and North Street and issued a warning.

10:10 pm: POULIDES, Alexander Nicholas (45) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Central Street and East San Francisco Avenue. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended license, violation of probation, and failure to appear.

June 3

12:49 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

6:20 am: DAVIS, Christopher Douglas (44) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery).

9:40 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

conduct (alcohol).

10:56 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

12:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of North Main Street.

4:15 pm: WAKELAND, Michael Dean (59) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 182 PC (Criminal Conspiracy), 11378 H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale), and 11379 H&S (Transportation of Methamphetamine).

4:15 pm: NEWBOLDS, Michael James (46) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to felony charges of 182 PC (Criminal Conspiracy), 11378 H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale), 11379 H&S (Transportation of Methamphetamine), and violation of parole.

9:55 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Holly Street and Locust Street.

11:32 pm: CARLILE Jr., Bryce Randall (39) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Central Street and East San Francisco Street. He was arrested pursuant to 30305 (A) (1) PC (Felon in Possession of Ammunition).

June 4

11:08 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of School Street.

6:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Pine Street and North Street and issued a warning.

10:10 pm: POULIDES, Alexander Nicholas (45) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Central Street and East San Francisco Avenue. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended license, violation of probation, and failure to appear.

June 3

12:49 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

6:20 am: DAVIS, Christopher Douglas (44) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery).

9:40 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.



Shannon Phillips of Willits.

Willits Weekly

Online & In Print

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Frisky Hilda

Hilda, like all young kittens, likes to run around and explore. She is playful with both people and her siblings. She is very sweet and likes getting petted, and we think she would do well in a home with 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 Hilda or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendonanimalshelter.com.



Friendly Freddy

Freddy is the biggest little love bug there is! This 2-year-old loves to be cuddled with and stays by your side. He can be shy at first, though less so these days, once you let him warm up to you, he just wants to be a part of your adventure in life. He would be perfect in a home with someone who needs a companion everywhere they go.

Freddy will need someone who is able to take care of him and his urinary / fecal incontinence, which is usually when he is sleeping and relaxed, so a diaper at night or simply a bed with a pee pad or similar set up. It's fairly easy to deal with, and he is such a sweet, happy boy, he deserves a home and loving people!

Freddy loves small plush toys and carries them around, chase them when tossed. He is a great walking buddy and overall a delightful, affectionate companion.

To learn more about Freddy or view

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

Handsome Roger

Roger was found hanging out at the local feed store in Covelo, Bones Pet Rescue scooped him up so he wouldn't get hit by a car. No owners were found and he was transferred here to HSIMC. When a stray dog comes in, we don't get much of a history on them.

Roger enjoys his freedom and makes friends with the people who understand him. But shelter life is not where freedom rings. Roger longs to run in big fields, he enjoys dog friends and human companions once they earn his trust. Roger wants to be free of his kennel confinements and live a good life once again! We don't know much about Roger's past, but we have a chance to rewrite his future! Roger has many fans here that will put in a good word for this handsome boy.

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



OBITUARY |

Harland Bacci

Harland Bacci was born in Ukiah on August 5, 1936, and he died on February 23, 2022. He lived in Willits all his life. He graduated Willits High in 1954, where he played basketball all four years.

Harland and his friends went to all Wolverines home games, rain or shine. He loved sports of all kinds, but of course the 49ers were his favorite team. For a while he had season tickets, and would go down and watch the games.

Harland loved to go to the coast for abalone and surf fishing. He and his buds would go to Wyoming hunting every year for years.

Harland worked in the timber industry most all of his working years. He was a lumber grader for the last half of his career. He worked for WRP, Harwood, Louisiana Pacific and Redwood Coast.

Harland was preceded in death by his brother, Fritz, and wife, Duncan. He and Duncan never missed the Polenta Feed in Ukiah. Harland and Duncan are together again!

He is survived by son, Dennis (Trisha); granddaughters, Jackie (Chris) and Ali Kepple (Brian); and great-grandkids, Michael, Brie, Simon, Kinley, Colton and Braydon.

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21+ to participate. Please drink responsibly.

American Legion Post 174, P.O. Box 826 Willits, CA 95490
For further assistance, call one of the following phone numbers:
Roger: 707-456-9858, Bob: 707-272-1997

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

‘Jurassic World: Dominion’

The Story: They are back, the dinosaurs: part gigantic lizard, part radically oversize bird. Some are friendly, even huggable; some, maybe most, are terrifying and carnivorous.



Dan Essman
Columnist

The dinos are competing quite ably with Homo sapiens for control of the Earth.

Also back are Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Bryce Dallas Howard and Chris Pratt in a grand reunion of “Jurassic World” actors, all of whom reprise their characters in

a gigantic non-stop action, high-concept science-fiction extravaganza. Plus (and we’ve never seen these before) chittering hordes of voracious Chihuahua-size locusts. The mutant insects are devastating grain crops all around the world, threatening mass starvation for all of us humans – and ultimately the resurrected dinosaurs as well.

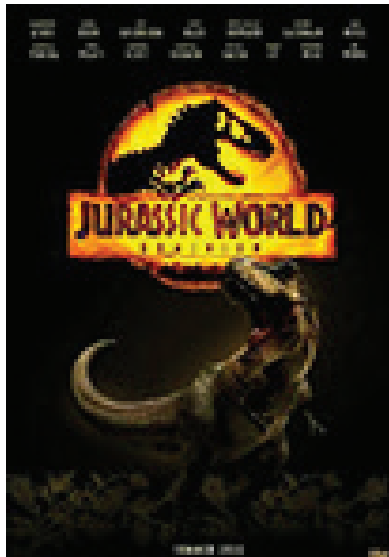
My Thoughts: The flick presents the novel idea that knowledge of DNA is the most precious commodity on Earth. The movie also shares the not-so-novel idea that certain nefarious corporations are willing to kidnap and kill to protect their proprietary control of that knowledge.

So, in this flick we have a tale of fabulous newly fashioned dinosaurs, and bad guys driven by old-fashioned greed and sociopathic lust for power.

Bad guys, good guys, dinosaurs: it’s a Hollywood crowd-pleaser. Special note from my wife Robin, daughter Christie, and Noyo manager Misty: Jeff Goldblum is back and “lookin’ good.”

Parents: The good guys win. If your kids want to see a suspenseful and scary dinosaur movie, this is a good bet. It’s almost certainly too scary for little children. When I was 10, I would have loved it.

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



Kyle Dennis Lovell



Kyle Lovell, son of Ron and Judy Lovell, was born in Santa Rosa, CA, on February 3, 1989. Kyle leaves behind his two sisters Alicia and Andrea, younger brother Seth, and Grandmother Margie Handley.

During this inspirational man's time with us, Kyle was not only a friend, but also a well-respected person to many.

Growing up in the Hearst Valley, Kyle attended Vineyard Grade School until the seventh grade. This, coupled with an amazing family, made this fine young boy into the man he became.

Kyle became quite the outdoorsman at a young age. At the age of 8-9, Kyle spent many nights running his hounds, hunting bears, cats and whatever came across his path. At no more than 80 pounds, Kyle took control and spent endless nights chasing varmints around the family ranch.

Kyle told the story many times of him riding his motorcycle up the hill, and crashing into a bear. Kyle had fur all over the motorcycle and spokes to prove the story.

Kyle lived a lifestyle of hard work, dedication to his job, and an admiration of love for his family and friends.

Kyle's passion for flying, hunting and the love for his family were unprecedented.

Kyle graduated high school in 2006 from Willits High School and had the desire to fly helicopters. On the night of his graduation, Kyle hopped in his truck and drove off to Hillsboro, Oregon where he would start his young career. In 2008 Kyle acquired his flight instructor license and his adventures began.

Kyle spent many years logging flight hours, flying for Air Shasta, Wilbur Ellis. After years of hard work and flying all over the country Kyle earned the reputation of an amazing pilot and his career at PJ's Helicopter began. While there Kyle found his passion flying the Blackhawk along with multiple other helicopter aircraft. Kyle had the drive and ambition to be the best pilot, while maintaining his love and friendship with everyone he came in contact with.

Kyle spent many hours flying the UH60 Utility Hawk, fighting fires around the central mid-west along with working countless hours setting power poles, pulling wire, and piloting electrical workers in high-stress situations.

Kyle once mentioned, no matter what happened, he would sacrifice his own life for the men and women who flew under his helicopters, this making him a man true to his word.

After many years of hard work, Kyle made the conscious decision to modify his work schedule and move back to the family ranch where he could spend more time with family and friends.

Kyle's unselfishness and kindness for all now lives in the body and souls of others. Kyle's last request was to donate his organs to others in need, which was successful.

Kyle's bright smile and amazing heart will always be flying above.

Kyle's passing is preceded by his brother, Avery Lovell, who passed on May 14, 2022.

Keep your powder dry and shoot straight, my son, brother & friend.

Celebration of Life will be held June 18 at 3 pm at the Family's Ranch at 16000 Hearst Road.

'Art of the Pomo Tribe' opens June 25 at WCA

Willits Center for the Arts presents Buffie Schmidt and the Art of the Pomo Tribe. Paintings, handmade basket weavings, and other crafts by Pomo artisans will be on view from June 25 through July 24. A reception for the artists will take place Saturday, June 25.

The show features Buffie Schmidt, known for being a traditional Pomo dancer, regalia maker, basket weaver, and Pomo language teacher at Ukiah High School. Schmidt is also vice-chairperson for her tribe, Sherwood Valley Rancheria, and the treasurer of the Inter-Tribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council.

This show is being co-curated by Schmidt. Her basket work is all made from indigenous California plants. The plants are gathered, cured, and processed. This is also how her ancestors did their weaving.

Also on display will be baskets made from native willow, hazel, and kelp, and recycled materials by Monique Sonoque.

Meet the Artists Saturday, June 25 between 6 and 9 pm. The gallery is located at 71 East Commercial Street (next door to the Noyo Theatre). Gallery hours are Friday to Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.

Driver hits CHP vehicle

Submitted by CHP, Ukiah

On Sunday, June 12, at approximately 10:27 am, California Highway Patrol officers from the Ukiah Area were on-scene of a non-injury traffic collision, northbound US-101 near MPM 41.40 south of Willits.

CHP officers were conducting traffic control in cloudy, raining and cool weather when a white Ford F-250, driven by Chad Hodge, 39, of Willits, was traveling northbound on US-101 in the #2 lane, at approximately 60 mph.

Hodge allowed his vehicle to travel through a flare pattern and strike the rear of a parked CHP patrol vehicle displaying its rear amber warning lights.

The CHP patrol vehicle was unoccupied at the time of the collision, CHP personnel were not injured as a result of the collision.

Hodge was treated on-scene by medical personnel and sustained minor injuries as a result of the collision, Alcohol and/or drugs are not considered to be a factor of this collision.

2 motorcyclists killed north of Myers Flat

Submitted by CHP, Garberville

On June 13, 2022, at approximately 4:29 pm, a silver Toyota 4-Runner with one occupant was traveling northbound on US-101, north of Myers Flat in Humboldt County. A group of five motorcycles was traveling southbound on US-101, north of Myers Flat, in cool, cloudy daylight weather.

For reasons still under investigation, the Toyota 4-Runner crossed over the center median and into the southbound lanes, directly into the path of the motorcycles. The 4-Runner collided with two of the motorcycles, a red Triumph Tiger and a blue BMW 1200. The collision caused both operators of the involved motorcycles to be ejected.

As a result of this collision, the driver of the Toyota 4-Runner and the operator of the Triumph Tiger motorcycle sustained fatal injuries. The identities of the two deceased are being withheld pending notification of next-of-kin.

The operator of the BMW 1200 motorcycle, Caleb Marquez of Portland, Oregon, sustained moderate injuries and was transported to St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka for medical care.

US-101 was closed in both directions for just under four hours for the scene investigation and vehicle recovery. It remains under investigation whether or not drugs or alcohol were a factor in this crash.

The California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, CalFire, Miranda Volunteer Fire, City Ambulance of Eureka, and California State Parks all responded to the scene. This collision remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol - Garberville Area.

2022

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WW

Willits Weekly

Funkacillin, Ozomatli for Father's Day

Posted by the City of Ukiah

Sundays in the Park kicks off on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19, at Todd Grove Park in Ukiah, with Funkacillin opening for Ozomatli, starting at 6 pm.

Sundays in the Park Free Concert Series is the largest and most recognized community event in Mendocino County. Since 1992, the series has thrilled the community with exceptional musical performances by artists from diverse genres including blues, classical, country, salsa, soul, rock, swing, reggae and more.

Each summer, taking center stage in beautiful Todd Grove Park, six free concerts featuring world-renowned artists as well as local talent, entertain more than 20,000 music fans.

"Funkacillin is back with fresh faces and new energy, ready to funk down the house with some old school and original funk music that will get you groovin' and boogieing on the dance floor! We look forward to seeing you!

We couldn't imagine a better way to mark our return to the stage than to open for Latin HipHop superstars Ozomatli! We start at 6 pm, so get your spot on the lawn early at Todd Grove Park in Ukiah!"

In addition to great entertainment, the series is a source of great civic pride and is cherished by locals and visitors as a summer tradition.

Sponsorships from local businesses are a vital component to the continued success of Sundays In The Park and without their support the free concerts wouldn't be possible. Pack a picnic or indulge in fabulous food prepared by vendors who are onsite with everything from pizza to shave ice!

Bring a blanket and gather with your family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy top notch performers while being part of the greater Ukiah community. (Please, no pets and no smoking within the main event area, low-back chairs only, personal BBQs only allowed at the picnic table areas. Thank you.)

For more information please call 707-463-6231.

Feds say 'no' to North Coast coal train

Submitted by the Office of Sen. Mike McGuire

North Coast, California – Senator Mike McGuire issued the following statement regarding today's June 10 ruling by the Surface Transportation Board that prevents coal interests from acquiring the rail line on the North Coast:

"The North Coast has always known this dangerous project was dead on arrival, and today the Surface Transportation Board confirmed it.

"We're grateful to Congressman Jared Huffman, Senator Alex Padilla, and Congressman Mike Thompson for their strong efforts to fight the toxic coal train along with the thousands of neighbors who took action over the past many months.

"The best is yet to come with the Great Redwood Trail," McGuire continued. "We're beyond thrilled to kick off the Trail Master Plan in the coming few months, and we look forward to moving this once-in-a-generation project forward full steam ahead!"

COVID press conference Friday

Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren will host an online press conference Friday, June 17, at 2 pm. This the first COVID update from Dr. Coren since May 20.

To watch, visit Mendocino County's YouTube page at www.youtube.com/mendocinocountyvideo.

The last update on the county's COVID dashboard, from June 14, reports a total of 7 COVID-positive patients currently hospitalized in Mendocino County, with 1 patient in an intensive care unit.

As of June 13, the total confirmed cases of COVID in Mendocino County stands at 14,052, with 127 confirmed deaths.

Visit Mendocino County's COVID info page at www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus

– Jennifer Poole

The rest of Art |

From page 2

Kemmy's Pies, 299 East Commercial Street

Sip some wine and eat savory or sweet pie with a friend while viewing the latest crafts and art that adorn the walls of this community gem. While you are in the area, stop by the Willits Chamber of Commerce to discover events planned throughout the county.

Scoops, 110 North Main Street

Scoops is hosting the Willits Library Art Night in their courtyard. Bring your family and enjoy crafting tiny owl sculptures with library staff. Sign your whole family up for the summer reading program while enjoying the sweet taste of Scoops!

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

Enjoy well-curated brews while viewing the drawings of artist and educator Jazzminh Moore. Spend the evening listening to local talent during Singer Songwriter Night.

Art on the Plaza, 99 South Main Street

This gallery has something for everyone. Rex Morgan's metal art will be on display along with over 14 artisans from the community.

RE Evolution, 15 West Mendocino Avenue

This wonderful space is always spectacularly curated. Merchandise changes regularly. Come by to see what is new.



At left: Paul gives a talk about the vegetation in the chaparral.

Below: Donna d'Terra leads the group through her gardens.

At right: The group gathers at the reservoir for a talk on the plants growing in that location.

At right, below: A variety of herbs are for sale at Donna d'Terra's Motherland.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Motherland Tour

Naturalist Donna d'Terra invites visitors to her botanical sanctuary to view her gardens and learn about herbs

A few hundred years ago, Donna d'Terra could be considered a witch. It was a title given to women who had an innate connection to the earth and all living creatures, ones who felt the vibrations and the great powers of the soil, and could harness that power to create natural medicines, to nurture and understand the healing power of herbs.

These women often lived alone in the forest where they could be close to the plants utilized in their restorative practices. D'Terra lives in the String Creek area, high above Little Lake Valley in a piece of paradise known as the Motherland Botanical Sanctuary, a 160-acre property which has been rededicated to the lore and practice of green medicine and love of the treasures of the earth.

Last Saturday, as part of a series of garden tours, d'Terra invited and opened up her corner of the world to a group of mostly experienced gardeners and herbalists. The visitors wished to continue their education and gain a further perspective into the ancient art of working with the earth to create healing, restorative and prophylactic properties of that which grows all around them.

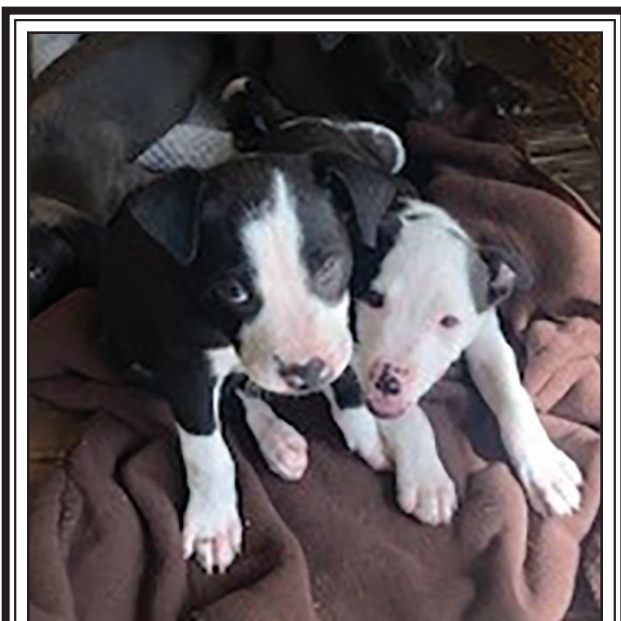
"Plants are beings unto themselves and have a purpose, and through their grace, they share their medicine with us," opined d'Terra. "All that medicine that is in these plants is for the plant itself. It's how it deals with challenging soil to grow in, pests, too much or not enough sun. This is how the plants relate to everything around them, with a chemical



Above right, from top: Donna d'Terra and herbalist Keoma "Kiohma" McCaffrey address the group of about 15 gardeners. Reza is a new occupant of Motherland and a hard worker. Local herbalist Claudia Wenning came to advance her knowledge on the subject.

At far left: Motherland owner Donna d'Terra invited the group to her property to see how her gardens worked with the environment.

At left: Iris, a recent occupant, spoke about the methods of creating good compost.



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herbalists I know. Reza just moved here to Motherland last week."

Iris gave a talk on how to create compost to save money and provide the richest nutrients to one's garden. Paul, with whom Iris moved to Motherland, spoke of the flora of the chaparral, one of the biomes inherent on the mountain. Kiohma gifted the students with a demonstration on how to distill a very multi-useful herb known as calendula.

"It's a plant that holds the energy of the sun," d'Terra said of calendula. "It's a supreme wound herb. For burns, for bruises."

D'Terra and her friends took the group on a tour of the paradise she created on the mountain, pointing out each plant, both the native ones and those that had been cultivated, their usefulness to humans, proper growing methods, in what manner they could be processed, and in what conditions they might thrive. There were also tales of the lore of the plants and their place in the environment.

D'Terra created Motherland several years ago, after two children and a divorce. "The opportunity to purchase this land just came and floated like a feather right down in front of me," said d'Terra. "You have to trust those moments when those feathers come.

"It was actually twice this big and I bought it with another family," she explained. "The land was really trashed. There was an old nasty shack on the property, filled with junk and smelled like rats. I was never going to build there. I wanted to build some place beautiful and clean.

"The land started to speak to me," she continued. "At the time, that was a very new experience for me. The spirits of the land told me where I was going to build the Valley House. I resisted it because it was pretty awful down there. At one point, I decided that I was going to listen. It was a very gentle and encouraging voice. The message was 'you are going to help heal this land and in the process, it's going to help heal you.' That is exactly what happened."

But still, there was a feeling of darkness on the land. She was considering not building due to the darkness. She asked the universe for a sign and was answered by the sight of two baby deer, barely old enough to walk.

"Animals know if the energy is dark and off," said d'Terra. "We built the foundation and the platform. I noticed something had shifted, just a little."

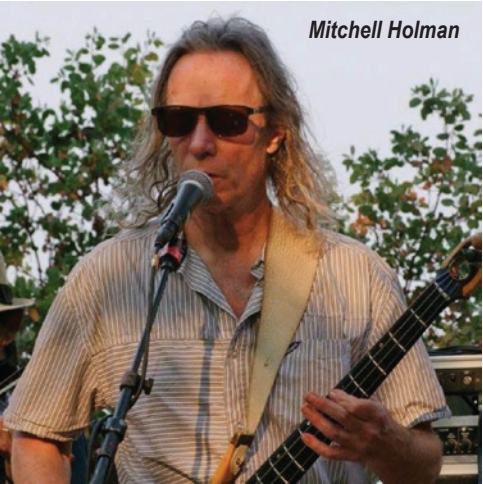
Later, she discovered that the property had been a place where animals were killed and slaughtered. Through her heart and efforts, the land began to transform into a place of life and growth.

The tour, which brought other appreciative gardeners together, began by d'Terra having everyone connect with the earth and giving a prayer of thankfulness.

"We give thanks for this beautiful part of the world where we live and for the love of this place that unites us," she intoned. "We give thanks for the peace that we feel this day and for the hope which we expect tomorrow. We give thanks for the food and the gardens and the spirit of community which make our life delightful."

The first tour in the series was led by herbalist Beth Reidel on May 15, following the Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale. Subsequent tours will be July 16 at Green Uprising Farm, August 13 at Ridgewood Ranch, and August 13 at Fortunate Farm in Caspar. For more information, visit: www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=2222566111223948&set=a.264831943664051.

For those who could not attend the Motherland Tour and wish to, please contact d'Terra at 707-400-8458 for information concerning a second tour of her property on June 25.



Upcoming at Shanachie Pub

Coming up at the Shanachie Pub, "the home for original music in Mendocino County," located at 50 South Main Street in Willits. More info: "Shanachie Pub" on Facebook or 1-707-459-9194.

Mitchell Holman – Thursday, June 16, 7 pm

Mitchell Holman, formerly of the San Francisco iconic band, It's A Beautiful Day (famous for the song "Whitebird") will be presenting this event every first and third Thursday of the month. Playing bass and singing, and often bringing in guest musicians...a fun night of local music!

The Gravities – Saturday, June 18, 8 pm

The Gravities are a powerhouse funk / soul collaboration from San Diego, offering an intimate show experience with music that ranges from soul / groove, funk, and alternative. Founders Isaac Guerra (lead singer / drummer) and Samuel Pierce (guitarist) both write songs with melodies that will leave you hooked and gut-bucket grooves that keep you dancing. Together they have written and arranged all original music and tunes.

Going on 12 years strong as a band unit, The Gravities are most certainly a force to be reckoned with, playing venues all over the West Coast, including The Whiskey A-Go-Go (Hollywood), House of Blues (San Diego), Real Art (Tacoma, WA), and many more.

3 Point Hitch – Friday, June 24, 8 pm

3 Point Hitch is a new Americana band fronted by Hopland singer-songwriter Katharine Cole. Cole is an award-winning songwriter with over 13 albums to her credit, ranging from classic country, rock and blues. Backed by the reverb-drenched twangy guitars of Jean Francios and swinging drum stylings of Yvonne Boyd, Cole's songs about rural life, love and heartache heal the soul.

Visit: www.3pointhitch.net and www.katharinecolemusic.com.

Carlos Selections featuring SpiderMonkey Beats, June 25, 8 pm

Carlos Abdiel Hernández Rivera, a trumpeter from Puerto Rico, offers diverse music groups with musicians that he has worked with since his first visit to Northern California back in 2016. Genres range from jazz to Latin, from reggae to funk, to music without labels.

SpiderMonkey Beats is a solo project by Angel Garcia based in Northern California that combines electronic and acoustic elements in a fusion of genres including reggae, cumbia, and breakbeat. As a performance artist originating out of the Los Angeles music scene, Garcia, AKA SpiderMonkey, delivers a new sound and an exhilarating performance which is infectious and inspires everyone to dance.

Visit www.facebook.com/mayequa and www.spidermonkeybeats.com.

"As our stewardship improves, the utilization of our collection grows," she said, "as does our ability to recoup a portion of the cost of stewardship of these precious artifacts that were entrusted to our care by the citizens of our county. Exhibits and programs bring our community together.

"My hope for today," Mattsen continued, "was to convey the efforts that have taken place to uphold the legacy of the Mendocino museum as a community and cultural treasure," she continued. "Shuttering the museum would be a major blow to the entire county.

"I also wanted to let you know that our staff recognizes the tough financial decisions that your board faces, and together we reexamined our budget and have identified ways to reduce our spending by 25%."

That reduction would save the county an estimated \$142,000 annually according to Mattsen, and would be accomplished with reductions in staff, salary and operational budget, as well with revenue boosts from new fees and endowment funds for special projects.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak spoke in support of keeping the museum open.

"The strategic plan that they're working on, I think that will reap benefits too and put them on a better track financially," he said. "And also better outreach to the community. And with the latest [board] proposal to cut the museum or close the doors, I received between 50 and 100 emails and comments and phone calls. And it certainly shows that there is interest in people wanting to keep it open, so I appreciate this concerted and collaborative effort to keep it open."

It appeared that three of the five supervisors officially ended up voting to "approve the presentation," though all had supportive words for Mattsen and the museum.

County workers protest

Not all in the public were happy with what they saw in the budget, and during the June 8 meeting county workers protested outside the board chambers. The protesters were upset that no cost of living adjustment, COLA, was included for them in contract discussions, despite some higher-up positions receiving raises.

The protest was organized by the Service Employees International Union Local 102, the union which represents the most county employees.

Balancing the budget

Principal Administrative Analyst Tim Hallman talked on June 7 at the board meeting about the struggles he and the county's fiscal team faced in trying to balance the budget.

One big issue was a decrease of around \$5 million in the projected cannabis tax money compared to what they had predicted in 2021/22.

"As you can see, last year we were at \$85,500,000 for our budget; this year we're at \$84,359,000 which is a decrease in revenue from the prior year of \$1 million," said Hallman. "That is our discretionary revenue that we have available for us in the general fund."

He said that after an April 19 budget workshop, "we were directed to come back and work with all the departments in an attempt to reduce contracts by 5%. Again the ad hoc committee was very involved. And unfortunately we weren't capable of getting very much money out of that particular exercise, but it definitely was good to work with each individual department. And I think it continued to allow all of us to understand every department's needs."

He noted that "there were several departments that came in and did some voluntary departmental spending reductions." These included the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office, the museum, Planning & Building, and Human Resources, according to Hallman.

"They worked very hard to review their budgets," he said. "They worked hard to review their contracts, and several of them have thought outside the box in order to keep their costs contained, and find alternate sources of revenue."

Hallman said that the loss in cannabis tax revenue was a big reason why they needed to look for cuts in the budget.

"As supervisor [Ted] Williams had mentioned earlier we had allocated that [\$5 million] to several departments already as operating revenues," he said, "And so that is one of the things that has probably been the most painful as far as moving forward with our budget this year."

Positive revenue

Some of the positives mentioned by Hallman included increases in property and transient occupancy tax revenue.

"TOT continues to see a little bit of growth, and that has probably been what has saved our budget this particular year," he noted. "In the case of the property taxes, we're seeing predictable growth there."

Hallman also talked about the \$16.8 million the county is receiving from the federal government through the American Rescue Plan Act. They've currently received about half of the funds, and are expecting to get the rest in August.

According to the budget report, the fiscal team is recommending that \$4.6 million of the federal ARPA money go towards helping to fill a large deficit in the county health fund due to rising costs, and \$1.7 million go to "bring department staffing back to pre-COVID-19 levels."

About \$4.8 million of the ARPA money "has been obligated to projects which support public health, COVID-19 response, address negative economic impacts, and water and sewer infrastructure."

The remaining money was previously directed by the board "to be designated for County core services, infrastructure projects, and emergency funding before other considerations."

Cannabis enforcement

Some notable directions the board gave during the June 7 meeting were to set aside \$250,000 of PG&E settlement money to be put towards a new county water agency they may create, and to have staff revise the county's "enhanced cannabis enforcement plan."

Three of the five supervisors supported moving forward with the enhanced enforcement, but based on the discussion, it seems unlikely the county will be able to find the money to implement the ambitious plan as laid out last year, which sought to add more than a dozen staff positions in multiple departments.

However, it appears there is \$1.1 million in one-time state money set aside that the county may be able to use for things like overtime, per diem pay, and equipment.

Code Enforcement Manager John Bix said that his department has already started using some of that money, and has also begun utilizing satellite imagery for enforcement as was planned.

"I do believe that [the cannabis department is] in contract negotiations with the imagery providers and securing the staff needed to be able to then utilize that tool which would be available to us as well," he said. "In the way of an experiment, we secured a less expensive imagery contract to see how it would benefit our unit and in fact it certainly has...."

"So we've got a very good understanding of what is happening in the county," he said. "We can see any number of images from last year, and the newer images for this year are starting to come online."

Bix said that the Planning and Building department had not yet really transitioned from the complaint-driven enforcement model to a more "proactive model" as planned just yet.

"Where we are right now is we've created the joint communication hub between all of the departments so that we have a way to centralize all the complaints and our enforcement activities which we were successful at," he said. "At this point it really boils down to gaining more resources so it's not just necessarily staff."

"So I think the next round of resources that are given to code enforcement specifically – I can't

speak for the other departments – would then in effect open up a pathway that we would be able to do the directed enforcement component," he added.

Haschak believed the board should strive to increase cannabis enforcement as they had previously said they would.

"If we're talking about the quality of life in our county, then I think this enhanced code enforcement was the direction that the board wanted to go," he said.

Board Chair Ted Williams was more skeptical and worried about the optics of adding such an expense given the current budget issues.

"I'm concerned that at a time when we can't offer our existing employees fair wages to account for inflation, we're talking about expanding," said Williams. "I'm worried about how that'll look from their perspective. If they're saying higher fuel prices, higher grocery costs, and we're talking about 3/4 of a million dollars allocated to a new project ... not that it's not important. I know there are people calling in with complaints, and we don't have enough code enforcement officers. But it doesn't sit well with me that we're not taking care of the employees that we have first."

Fewer grows but larger

Sheriff Matt Kendall said that based on his observation there are now less illegal grows than in previous years due to the changing market, but the average size of the grows is larger.

"The thing that we're seeing right now is we're seeing a dip in the market, and the market itself is beginning to regulate itself out of business," he said.

Still, Kendall felt adding more enforcement was important.

"We have a lot of plans going forward this year for some large-scale operations," he said. " And I think that the code enforcement model is extremely helpful. They've gone with us on search warrants. And we're working together on these things to be able to implement the fines and fees and things like that.... So my best answer on this is I do think it's valuable and the question for you is can we afford this."

After the discussion, County CEO Darcie Antle took direction "that enhanced code enforcement is a priority of this board and to bring back a revised plan in the future as we watch trends in the complaints of cannabis as well as hiring."

Employees need help

During Public Comments, a couple of county workers voiced their complaints about the budget and its lack of financial help for the employees.

"I would like to let you know that if we do not as members of the union get some kind of a financial package with our new contract, I'm sure you're going to find out a very negative impact will happen," said county worker Suzanne Warner. "I don't know how you expect your county staff to be able to survive when there is an 8% inflation rate currently going on. And if you doubt what I'm saying, maybe you need to go to the gas station, or try to buy a gallon of milk. Try to pay for it what you paid for it six months ago because you're going to find that that's not at all how it is."

Jacqueline Otis is a social worker, and said she has been working for the county for 22 years.

"We should know that our work which is to serve the public is rewarded not only with what we do, but a salary that can sustain our lives," said Otis. "I'm a widow, a young widow who had to do this on my own. Believe me, this has not been easy. The price of rent, insurance, utilities, garbage, food, gasoline and many other items has increased over the last 10 years.... It is ludicrous that even though we work full-time, we can barely make ends meet in our overpriced community."

"I work in Social Services, we have over 100 vacant positions," she continued. "They can't keep these positions filled because they don't pay enough, and because the employees who are here are in units that are so short-staffed they burn out and leave... We cannot let this continue."

(Ridgewood). Roadside clearing will remove branches and brush that encroach on key access roads, making those roads safer in an emergency for both residents and responders, and also creating a fuel break to stop advancing fires.

Nearly two thousand residents and daytime workers will receive enhanced protection from this particular fuel-reduction project. Planning will be done in coordination with residents, Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils, and local fire departments in each area, to be sure that local risks and needs are appropriately addressed. Environmental clearance from the State of California will also be obtained before work is begun.

This grant also involves an educational outreach component in which interested community members will be invited to witness 300 home inspections (with landowner permission) for real-life demonstrations of what home conditions are the most dangerous, and what can be done to make them safer. Attendees of these "field trips" will learn about the basic principles of hardening a home against wildfire and creating defensible spaces around their own residences. A recent study demonstrated that a home is up to 75% more likely to survive a wildfire if it has been adequately prepared in advance.

The other two CalFire grants were direct, non-competitive awards, reflecting the confidence CalFire places in the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council's ability to help them achieve their mutual goals in severely high-risk areas. One of these grants provides \$600,000 mainly for scientific studies to obtain environmental clearance for future prescribed-burn and road-clearing projects CalFire plans to implement covering over 10,000 acres in the county.

The third award, for \$435,000, will focus on the Ukiah Valley and Orr Springs Road east of Comptche. Environmental clearance and fuel breaks, as well as environmental studies to prepare for prescribed burns, will be done in the very high-risk areas of both the East and West Hills of the Ukiah Valley. These will help protect the entire valley's population of 13,000, as well as critical infrastructure and essential services, by slowing or preventing wildfires that might otherwise reach into the city itself.

This third project also includes roadside clearing along a portion of Orr Springs Road, a primary access route serving several population centers. Orr Springs Road is one of the few available options for a significant east-west fire break across Mendocino County without creating a substantially more expensive and environmentally disruptive off-road fuel break.

This multifaceted cooperative support from CalFire will help make thousands of residents in many Mendocino County locations safer from potential future wildfires.

For more information about the work and services of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, visit firesafemendocino.org or contact the council at 707-462-3662 or firesafe@pacific.net.

Per state law, we have 30 days to complete the canvass and certify the election. The Statement of Vote, which breaks down results by precinct, will be available at that time.

If you have any additional questions, please call our office at 707-234-6819.

Editor's Note: Initial results Willits Weekly published last week – with a total of 3,864 votes reported in final election night results – have not yet been updated with more ballots.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak, in initial results, received 73.94%, and challenger Clay Romero received 26.06%.

Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall received 93.24% and write-in challenger Trent James received 6.76%.

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams received 84.09% and challenger John Redding won 15.91%.

Assessor-Clerk-Recorder Bartolomie, Auditor-Controller / Treasurer-Tax Collector Chamise Cubbison, and District Attorney David Eyster were all reelected unopposed.

In the race for Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools, challenger Nicole Glentzer received 1,777 votes, and incumbent Michelle Hutchins received 1,625 votes in initial results.

Mendocino County's state and federal representatives were supported by county voters in initial results in this June primary. Not counting other voters in their districts. Rep. Jared Huffman received 65.53%, State Senator Mike McGuire received 72.48%, and California Assemblymember Jim Wood received 72.52%.

of methamphetamine. The deputy conducted a records check and learned she was prohibited from possessing a baton and pepper spray. Cleek was arrested and placed in the back of another patrol vehicle.

While the deputy was conducting a search of the vehicle both Cleek and Lee occupied, the deputy heard glass hitting the ground at the patrol vehicle Cleek was seated in. The deputy noticed a glass methamphetamine pipe and two plastic bags containing methamphetamine on the ground just below the patrol vehicle's open window.

Cleek and Lee were booked into the Mendocino County Jail. Cleek was booked on 11378 H&S (Possession of Controlled Substance for Sale); 182(a)(1) PC (Conspiracy); 22210 PC (Possession of Billy Club); 22810(A) (Possession of Pepper Spray); and 135 PC (Destroying or Concealing Evidence) and was to be held in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Lee was booked on 11378 H&S (Possession of Controlled Substance for Sale); 182(a)(1) PC (Conspiracy); Forge/Alter Vehicle Registration, etc., and Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor Charge, and was to be held in lieu of \$55,000 bail.

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**Jesse Pitman 5K Run / Walk
held in Willits this Saturday**

The 11th annual Jesse D. Pittman Fund 5K Race is set for June 18. This is the first year the race will be held in Willits.

The race honoring Army SEAL Jesse Pittman of Willits, who died serving in Afghanistan on August 6, 2011, has previously taken place at Lake Mendocino.

The starting place for both the 5K Run and the 5K Walk is Recreation Grove Park, at the corner of East Commercial and South Lenore, at 9 am sharp. Please plan to arrive early to check in and warm up.

Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome – kids and strollers, too. There will be a separate 1K Kids Fun Run.

The course is all on flat, paved roads, with two laps making the race a full 5K. Runners and walkers will do the laps in a clockwise direction, turning right down East Commercial, then right on Bray Road, right again on East Valley / Center Valley, and then making a final right to get back to the finish line.

The course goes under the mile-long viaduct segment of the Willits bypass, officially named in honor of Pittman, the “Jesse D. Pittman SO1 Navy SEAL Memorial Bridge.”

On site food vendors will include Slam Dunk Pizza and Big Earl’s BBQ.

Entry fees go to support the Jesse D. Pittman Fund, which offers college scholarships for Mendocino County high school students. \$40 for adults; \$10 for the 1K Kids Fun Run.

If you’d like to avoid the lines on race day, early pickup of T-shirts and race bibs will be at the Mendocino County Museum, at 400 East Commercial Street on Friday, June 17 from noon to 3 pm.

For more Information, to donate, or to register, visit www.jessepittman.run or www.jessepittmanfund.org.

Timeline of events:

7:30 am Race-day Registration Begins
8:30 am Welcome & Scholarship Announcements
8:55 am Moment of Silence & National Anthem
9:00 am 5K Run/Walk Begins
10:00 am 1K Kids Fun Run Begins
10:15 am Award Ceremony, Raffle, & Pull-up Competition
10:45 am Auction closes
11:00 am Event closes

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The rest of
Sober Grad | From page 3

SOBER GRAD

Submitted by Davina Sentak

The Class of 2022 Willits Sober Grad “Red Carpet” Party was a night to remember with \$25,000 in cash and prizes won and lots of fun for graduates and their guests.

As party-goers arrived they were greeted by Red Carpet hosts Marian Lohne and Billy Hetherington, highlighting the graduates accomplishments and building the excitement for the night ahead.

On the indoor stage, ‘Friends Anonymous,’ a talented young band from Ukiah, opened the party, while gamers enjoyed the video gaming lounge provided by Next Level Gaming of Ukiah. Henna tattoo artist Devina Cash and tooth gem artist Tatiyana Viale were a hit! Photographer Shalee Hansen of Impressions Studio captured some of the fun and excitement at the party on the Red Carpet.

Outdoors offered lots of fun activities, including carnival games and prizes, corn hole tournament, and a Blue Zone Smoothie Bike. Fire Dancers Marian Lohne and Aurelie Clivaz were a highlight of the party.

DJ Mike Tobin kept the party rockin’ through the night, while Lisa and Haley from Scoops Deli kept the food and coffee bar running, serving up pizza, nachos, ice cream sundaes and breakfast burritos at 3 am.

Announcer Rachel Cash and the Prize Crew kept the excitement going from Midnight to 4 am with drawings for cash and prizes. Every graduate won at least one prize and received \$100 if they stayed until the end of the party.

A few of the thank you notes written by the graduates:

“Dear Sober Grad Supporters, Thank you for your kindness and time. We appreciate everything you’ve done for us.” – Jarred Thurman

“Thank you so much for caring about seniors. We need help more than people think. Thank you for helping with sober grad!” – Tokyo Jordan

“Dear Sober Grad Supporter! Thank you for all you do for the community. It means a lot to us all, you all help Willits become a better place.” - Justin

“Thank you to everyone who made this event possible. I thought I would have trouble staying awake for this but there’s so many activities, this is really a highlight of my graduation process.” - Andrew Moratti

“Sober Grad thank you for all of the support and fun thru my senior year. It couldn’t have been better. Also thank you to all the businesses that supported and donated all of this awesome stuff.” Mike Stevens

“Thank you so much! This was a very fun experience! Grateful for events like this to keep everyone safe! Fun memory!” – Kaira

“Thank you for supporting us and putting our safety and future first. It means so much. You are wonderful!” – Ariel Herz O’Brien

“Dear Sober Grad and Community, Thank you for all the work you have put into making this night special. I appreciate all the thoughtfulness put into making tonight memorable.” – Nakola Anderson

“Thank you Sober Grad for the amazing unforgettable experience, fun & prizes. We all appreciate everything so much” – Carlos Leon

Aurelie Clivaz, at top, and Marian Lohne perform fire dancing routines in the dark hours at the Sober Grad party.

Below: “Friends Anonymous,” a talented young band from Ukiah, opened the party.

Photos by Shalee Hansen



The rest of
LLFD | From page 1

The Cornhole Tournament was held at the City Park where teams that participated in the bean-bag toss game and “received points and rankings on a legitimate league scale,” explained So. He also noted that the winners of the tournament donated their winnings back to the Firefighters Association.

Kids and adults alike enjoyed riding on the muster truck, and the two bounce houses were filled with laughter and giggles. If all the bouncing worked up an appetite, Training Chief Eric Alvarez and Captain Chad Leshner were manning the grill to cook up burgers and hot dogs. Meals were \$5 each and included chips and a drink alongside the meaty mains.

“Mendocino County’s Second District Supervisor Mo Mulheren and Mendocino County’s Third District Supervisor John Haschak made appearances to show their support for the local fire department,” said So. “Our event was also brought other first responders to attend including members of the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office, the Willits Police Department, and Medstar ambulance crews who had lunch and simply enjoyed the happy atmosphere.

So also noted that Theresa Gowan, supervisor of Medstar, stopped in for a visit and presented Little Lake Firefighters Association with a check for \$500.

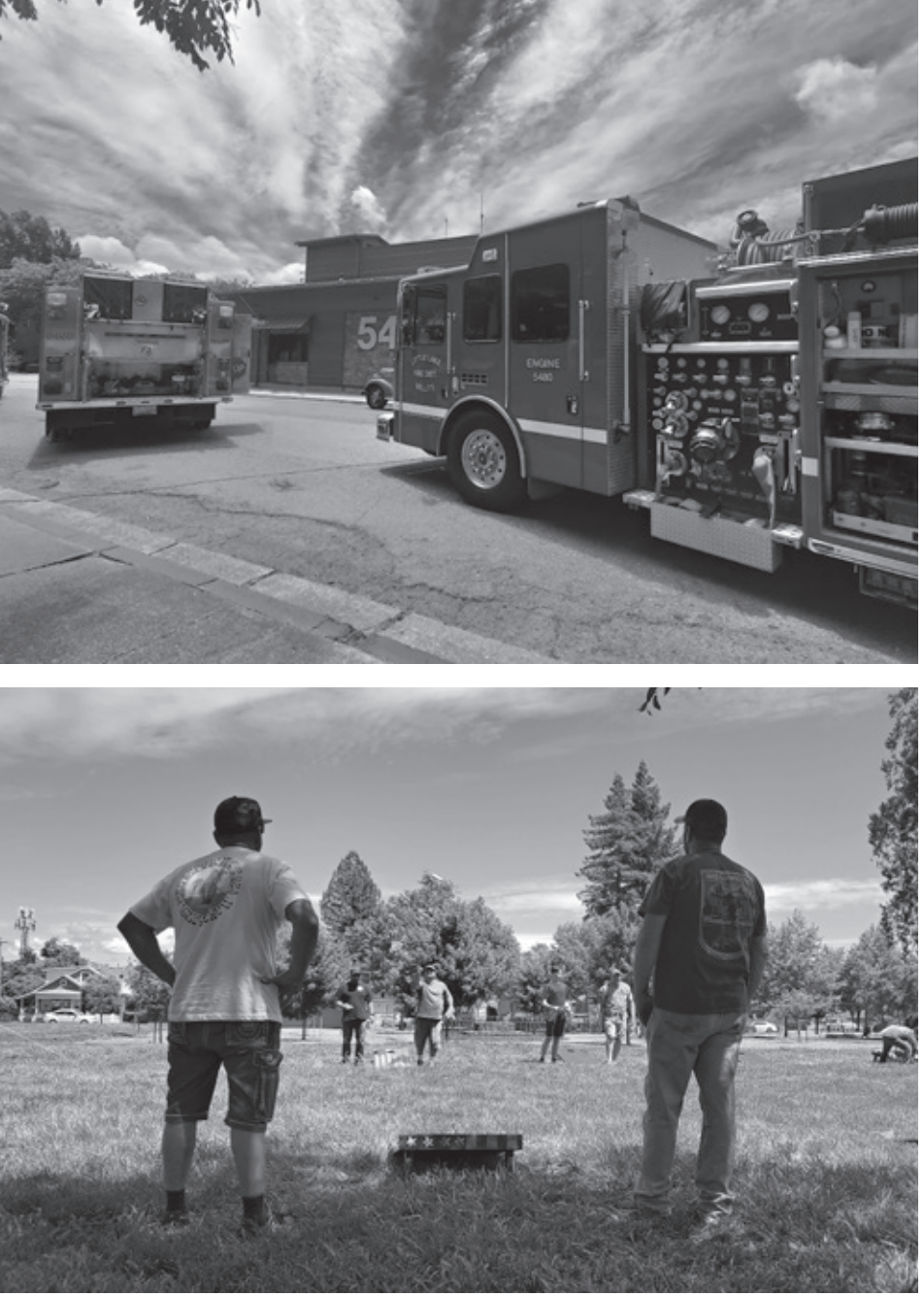
“We ended the event on a positive note as members of the community were able to see the firehouse that the community deserved and needed for a long time,” continued So. “Folks were able to see a full spectrum of equipment and apparatus that the community funds!”

So noted that while the Little Lake Firefighters Association officially only hosts one event of their own, the department frequently helps staff community events such

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above, left: Excited community members are loaded onto the muster truck and are ready for a ride around town. Above, right: Mendocino Second District Supervisor Maureen “Mo” Mulheren gets a tour of the new offices. Below: The clouds were dramatic and pointed people right over to the new Little Lake Fire station. At bottom: Players in the Cornhole Tournament focused on their game in the City Park.



as: youth sporting events; Willits Frontier Days; Junior Horsemen’s Rodeo; and the Bike Monkey at Camp Wente (a new event!).

Anyone wishing to see the firehouse, make donations, or get involved with the department is welcome to come to the station and say hello. Applications for volunteers are available at the station, and there are also T-shirts available for sale as an ongoing fundraiser.

“I felt that the community enjoyed being able to see the members of Little Lake Fire outside of running emergencies, and see what tools and equipment they are helping fund,” said So. “The City of Willits overall is a very well taken care of community. The community has Little Lake Fire Protection District, Ridgewood Ranch Fire, Brooktrails Fire, Medstar, Willits PD, MCSO, Reach Air Ambulance, and CalFire at Howard Forest all under the 95490 umbrella.”

So explained that the Little Lake Fire Protection District’s response boundaries extended east to west, from the Pine Mountain and Hearst Willits / Tomki area to Chamberlain Creek on Highway 20, and north to south from Highway 101 / Highway 162 intersection to Mile Marker 37 on South Highway 101.

Little Lake Fire covers a whopping 300-plus square miles with a roster consisting of 46 members: 40 from Willits and six from Ridgewood Ranch. Little Lake Fire consists of the main firehouse, Station 54, located on Commercial Street and the sub-station located on Baechtel Road. The Little Lake Fire Fleet consists of Rescue 5430 which is a dedicated Heavy Rescue (does not carry water), Engine 5480 and 5485 which are Type 1 apparatus for structure and automotive fires, Engine 5468 and 5469 which are Type 3 wildland apparatus, a 4,000 gallon water tender, a 2,000 gallon tactical tender, and multiple duty pickup trucks and the chief’s SUV. Little Lake is also equipped with a water rescue trailer and a multiple casualty incident trailer.

Editor’s Note: Thanks to Little Lake Fire Association Secretary/Treasurer Harry So for contributing to this report.

At left: In the bays, tickets were being sold for the raffle, and folks were enjoying a tasty meal. Below: Excited patrons get ready to board the muster truck for a ride down Commercial to Main to East Valley and back up Commercial Street.





Above, from left: Winnie the Pooh and his "hunny pot" with a Ballerina climber rose. The Rose Garden at the planned for Ruthie's Doll Museum & Teahouse. Mon Cheri roses. Left and right: Cat Lober hosted a tea in the Ruthie's Doll House rose garden for her friends Kathy Gassen and Dave Parmenter.

A Moment of Roses

Ruthie's Doll Museum still planning for future opening

The rose garden at the future Ruthie's Doll Museum & Teahouse "is astounding this year," says Cat Lober, who was pleased to host a June tea in the garden for her friends Kathy Gassen and Dave Parmenter.

"We have over 100 roses and iris," Lober said. "Dave planted them all."

The Rose Garden will be "part of Ruthie's Doll Museum & Teahouse when we open in the future," she said, "and people can wander the grounds, then sit and eat in the garden."

"COVID has made us postpone things and we are playing catch-up! But we are working on it."

The museum is planned to house Ruth Boyd's doll collection, which included German and French bisque dolls, historical dolls (portraying true-to-life scenes), international dolls, handmade artisan dolls, and Native American dolls.

For more information about the doll museum, call Cat Lober at 510-472-4948.

- Jennifer Poole



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