

# Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
Donations Accepted Edition No. 419 Thursday, September 9, 2021

## Art committee discusses possible sculpture park

Ree Slocum  
Features Writer  
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The first meeting of the Willits Public Art Ad Hoc Committee was well-attended and included nine interested community supporters as well as four members of the ad hoc committee. They met Friday, August 27 at the Willits City Council Chambers. WCA Curator and ad hoc chair Gary Martin heads the committee with WCA Secretary Judy Fisch, Willits City Manager Brian Bender, and sculpture donor Jane Camp.

Read the rest of  
**Sculpture**  
Over on Page 11

## Round Valley Tribes re-declares COVID emergency

By Round Valley Indian Tribes

September 2, 2021 – In mid-March 2020, the Round Valley Indian Tribes declared a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of an abundance of cautious, Tribal President James A Russ and Tribal Council made the decision to enact the emergency declaration in the interest of the health and well-being of our tribe and community members.

By authority, the Round Valley Indian Tribes is re-implementing the order to reduce the current COVID-19 positivity rate. Tribal Leadership continues to fully support this effort.

The Round Valley Indian Tribes is acutely aware that our community

Read the rest of  
**Emergency**  
Over on Page 11

## Code Enforcement News

In the months of July and August 2021, the Mendocino County Code Enforcement Division conducted investigations regarding non-permitted commercial cannabis cultivation at the listed locations below in Redwood Valley. Any cannabis cultivation over the medical or adult use exemption limit is considered commercial cultivation. Please see the Mendocino County Code (MCC) Section 10A.17 for additional information.

Code Enforcement investigations confirmed that commercial cannabis cultivation was occurring without either a county

Read the rest of  
**Enforcement**  
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Above, from left: Chicken and tofu kabobs were the main course of the Grab & Go Grill To-Go Dinner supporting Pam and Susan's North Pole Toy Express, Laytonville's Christmas toy drive. Jamya and Roland Spence handed out bags of prepped meals at Harwood Hall. A fruit crisp was also included as a tasty dessert. Below: The Spences, showcasin' those kabobs, before loading them into the cooler bags with the other tasty items included with the Grab & Go Grill To-Go Dinner.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

## Grab & Go

### Laytonville's North Pole Toy Express fundraising dinner a success

Submitted by the North Pole Toy Express

On Friday, September 3, Beth Hogan of the Farmhouse Kitchen in Laytonville and Jayma Shields Spence, chief elf, put together a "Grab & Go Grill" to-go dinner to raise funds for Laytonville's Pam & Susan's North Pole Toy Express Christmas drive. The dinner sold out, and feedback from patrons was the food was excellent and well-timed with the Labor Day holiday weekend!

Thanks to donations received during the event, the toy drive has \$1,000 to kick off the fundraising season. Last year, over 100 Laytonville kids' Christmas time was a little more merry and bright thanks to the efforts of Pam & Susan's North Pole Toy Express, their volunteers and donors. Pam and Susan's "NPTE" was founded by two long-time Laytonville friends, the late-great Pam Cornell and Susan Shields. The duo recruited friends and family to volunteer each Christmas to help those in need have a better Christmas. The "NPTE" has been around serving the Laytonville community for over 25 years.

To learn more about the Laytonville Toy Program, feel free to call Laytonville Healthy Start Community & Family Resource Center at 707-984-8089.

At right, above: Roland Spence holds some of the toys collected during the dinner pick-up time that will help kickstart the 2021 holiday collection efforts. At right: Cold items were packed into cooler bags for each customer.

Below, left: The dinner included a wonderful assortment of goodies: Chicken and tofu and veggie skewers, marinated with "Beth's Bitchin' Balsamic," a creamy lemon basil pasta salad, a mini watermelon, a mixed green salad (also dressed with Beth's balsamic), and a fruit crisp for dessert. Below, right: The kabobs came ready for you to grill at home, a task many barbecue aficionados enjoy.



Below: Cyprian, left, and Gracie, right, pick up their dinners from an excited Jayma and Roland Spence at the Grab & Go Grill To-Go Dinner at Harwood Hall last Friday in Laytonville.



It's  
Real Estate  
Section  
Thursday!

## School district dashboard reports weekly COVID cases

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
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Willits Unified School District, like other school districts in Mendocino County, is putting up a COVID "dashboard," that reports weekly COVID statistics by school week.

The most recent data, from the week of Monday, August 30 through Friday, September 3, shows a total of 5 "community based staff and student cases," and 0 "school-based staff and student cases."

COVID cases found at the schools are classified as "community based," the site explains, "if contact tracing determines that the positive COVID-19 case may have been contracted outside of school."

If contact tracing determines that COVID "may have been contracted at the school site," it will be reported as a suspected "school based" case. There is also an "undetermined" category, with 0 undetermined cases so far.

Of the 5 total cases found the week of August 30 through September 3, there

Read the rest of  
**Dashboard**  
Over on Page 11

## City of Willits water and other news

By Willits Mayor Madge Strong, reprinted from the WELL Newsletter

As many areas in our region are in dire straits for water during this drought, the City of Willits has – so far – been fortunate. As of mid-August, our two reservoirs were at 69% of capacity, which should normally be enough to last until winter rains come. We also have the Elias well (north of the wastewater treatment plant) that can supply supplemental potable water, although the treatment facility for that source is temporarily down. Nonetheless, the City of Willits has called on all customers to conserve water; if voluntary measures are not sufficient, mandatory measures may be instituted.

One as yet unresolved situation is that Fort Bragg and Mendocino village are seeking emergency water supplies. A countywide working group is trying to problem-solve, with the possibility of asking either Ukiah or Willits to sell water (and have it transported) to the coast.

Another potential concern is the City of Willits' sales of non-potable water (for use primarily for agriculture

Read the rest of  
**News**  
Over on Page 2



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters  
from our readers

### Time to speak up!

To the Editor:

Dear citizens, the People’s Referendum to return the cannabis expansion ordinance to the county board of supervisors has been successful. On September 14, the BOS will vote to either rescind this ordinance or squander about \$300,000 of our money to put it on the ballot.

Please call 707-234-6333 to record a message up to 3 minutes to be played during the hearing, or e-mail the supervisors at [bos@mendocinocoounty.org](mailto:bos@mendocinocoounty.org) and simply say “rescind the cannabis expansion ordinance.”

There must be no expansion until the current cannabis situation is brought under control and an environmental impact report is prepared for any future expansion.

We will not forget any board member who ignores our legitimate concerns and votes against the people a second time!

Dennis Slota, Willits

### Recall boondoggle

To the Editor:

I’m writing to encourage every registered voter to vote NO in the upcoming recall election.

We have a hard-working and successful governor, Gavin Newsom, in office right now. He’s been working to deal with the twin nightmares of wildfires and deadly pandemic that have hit our communities. His is not an enviable position. He’s handled his responsibilities well. He does not deserve to be removed from office.

If he were to lose this election, it would not be because he’s unpopular, but because we’re all too vote-weary to respond to the political grab posed by his opponents.

We all just voted in the 2020 elections, and now we’re expected to vote again. This is all too much. But we must get involved with this. His opponents are counting on ballot box weariness to keep people away from the polls. Don’t let this happen.

Vote No on this recall boondoggle.

Louis Rohlicek, Willits

The rest of News | From Page 1

and construction) from its Park well, at East Commercial Street. The city has just installed two monitoring wells in the vicinity of the Park well (a shallow well to a depth of 30 feet and one to a depth of 110 feet) to assess any impact such pumping may have on the aquifer or nearby wells.

A third issue is a proposal to develop another well, called the Long-20, near the Elias well, to serve as additional back-up to the city’s primary reliance on our surface-water reservoirs. An initial environmental analysis will be available for public review soon, prior to any decision by the Willits City Council to move forward.

The city council held a special meeting on September 1 at City Hall to provide information and seek public comment on all of these water issues.

The update on the reservoir capacity on September 1: We’re now at 63%. The Elias well treatment facility won’t be on line for at least another month. Councilmembers asked for some comparison projections of where that might put us if there’s no rain for many months.

Mendocino County Supervisors John Haschak and Glenn McGourty gave the council meeting an update on the current proposal for addressing emergency water supply to the coast – relying on Ukiah water being trucked to Fort Bragg. There are still unresolved issues about where the funds will come from, including what share, if any, the recipients of the expensive shipped water will pay.

Councilmembers voiced some concerns about the Park well water truckers – volume of use and also about its location affecting safety of park users. Staff will bring back some options at the council’s September 29 meeting.

Over 20 members of the public attended on September 1, with many questions and comments about these issues.

A Power Point presentation, “Update on City of Willits Water System,” can be viewed online at: <https://www.cityofwillits.org/DocumentCenter/View/1061/City-of-Willits-Water-System-20210901>

### Other City of Willits updates

These updates are as of the end of August.

Capital Improvements & Budget: The Willits City Council held a workshop on the draft Capital Improvements Plan on August 23, considering about 70 projects that the city hopes to accomplish over the next 10-year period. It’s a challenge to set priorities, being realistic about funds and how much our small staff can accomplish. The CIP includes transportation, parks, public works, water and wastewater systems, and community development. A revised CIP will come back for council approval, possibly in conjunction with the FY2021-22 budget (which has been delayed due to staff shortages in our Finance Department), probably in September or October.

Under new (since January 2021) City Manager Brian Bender, each department now provides a monthly summary of accomplishments, status, and projects for the upcoming month. These detailed reports are available at our website [www.cityofwillits.org](http://www.cityofwillits.org). Just a few highlights from the end of August:

Community Development Department is:

- Working with consultants, beginning the environmental review phase of the Willits Rail Trail project;
- Working with consultants to draft the Urban Forestry Management Plan (expected to be on the Council’s agenda on Sept. 8, with a final plan scheduled for adoption on Oct. 27);
- Developing the City Flood Emergency Response Plan;
- Working on code enforcement (especially to abate fire hazards);
- Implementing the vacant commercial building program (a public information workshop is anticipated for September);
- Developing a program, using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) loan funds, to support local businesses; and
- Working toward long-range plans for updating the City’s Sphere of Influence (for potential future annexations, to provide more housing opportunities), General Plan, and Zoning Code.

The Engineering Department is also working on the Rail Trail project; installing monitoring wells near the Park well to assess its potential impact; reviewing comments on the Dam Inundation Map; with LACO Associates, preparing a draft Emergency Action Plan; publishing a revised Draft Initial Study for the Groundwater Improvement (Long-20 well) Project expected to be out for public review in early September; and managing ongoing road improvement priorities and contracts as well as encroachment permits.

The Public Works Department continues to work on many projects, including: park and tennis court improvements; weed, roadside litter and homeless encampment abatement; removing graffiti; supporting the Redwood Food Bank with their bi-monthly food distributions; fire abatement; storm drain cleaning; and (always) pavement restoration and pothole patching.

The Utilities Department runs the water and wastewater treatment plants, as well as maintaining the water distribution and sewage collection systems. As such, they are always working to repair and improve water and sewage systems, and keep the plants operating and meeting all health and safety standards. They are also starting a Tesla battery backup project at the wastewater treatment plant.

Other department reports include work and improvements at the airport, and a summary of police activities and oversight. (Details for all departments available at the City of Willits website.)



Photos by Mathew Caine

## Claws for a Cause

### Lobster dinner and auction raises record amount for the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center

“Lobsters can live to be 100 years old,” auctioneer Tom Allman said, educating the crowd about the star of the Claws for a Cause fundraiser, which benefits the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center. “In the early days, lobsters were a poor person’s food,” he continued. Certainly not today. “They taste with their feet and their brain is in their throats.”

The extremely useful facts continued: “Lobsters grow up to as much as four feet long and can weigh as much as 40 pounds. Three point five ounces of lobster are only 96 calories and contain two grams of fat.” And the kicker: “lobsters are not red in nature. They are green, yellow or blue.”

This all was relayed as the 300-plus diners were tearing their way through the hapless, perfectly cooked crustaceans. Not that it made a difference to the enjoyment and fun of the evening’s meal, which started with individually packed healthy appetizers, to avoid too much human contact prior to distribution.

There were several extra precautions taken in order to be able to produce the event this year. People did not gather

indoors to pick from the array of appetizers as in the past. There were no underage servers and the diners were called up in small groups, table by table, to first get their filet mignon and then their lobster from two tents. The entire event was held outdoors amidst a gentle breeze.

As the attendees arrived, they were checked in by Willits High School Principal Michael Colvig, who conquered the use of the credit-card software, by donating \$20 of his own. They were given a decorative pin to remind them of the cause for which they were gathered, the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center, which has been improving the lives of many challenged youth and some adults for numerous years at their location on Ridgewood Ranch. The attendees could, at this point, purchase tickets for drinks and desserts and proceed to a table where they were assigned bidding paddles for the live auction and possibly win some early prizes.

Of the 40 tables, many were occupied by the “Diamond Sponsors” which were NC Financial, Adventist Health Howard

Read the rest of Claws | Over on Page 12



Above, from left: The life-size statue of Seabiscuit is the centerpiece of the dining area. Anna Judd stands next to a painting she created by collaborating with staff and clients. Attendee Blake Kennon wins the first drawing of the evening – an arrangement of flowers by Wil Gonzalez of Willits Flowers.



Above, left: Rotarian Shawna Handschug helps to prepare the lobsters prior to cooking. Above, right: Lucy Kramer and Cody Bartholomew bid on one of the final items.

At left: Appetizers are prepackaged this year for safety.

Below, left: A sweatshirt with a logo designed by Finn Okie, one of the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center students, is for sale. Below, right: Rotarians Kyle Brandon and Joe Bratt are in charge of cooking the crustaceans.



### Senior Center closes indoor dining, pick-up, delivery meals continue

Willits Senior Center has closed its indoor dining room, but is still serving drive-through and walk-up lunches, center Director Richard Baker said, Monday through Friday, from 12 to 1 p.m. “We are also providing home-delivered meals to anyone who wants a safe food delivery option via our Meals on Wheels Program, as the Delta variant makes its way through Willits.

“We have seen a 203% increase in demand for home delivered meals during the pandemic,” Baker said.

### Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

The Willits Senior Center will continue to provide drive-thru and walk-up meals, from 12 to 1 p.m, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$5 through December.

### Home Meal Delivery

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.

**Thursday, September 9:** Lemon Garlic Shrimp Pasta, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

**Friday, September 10:** Chili Cheeseburger, Coleslaw, Chips

**Monday, September 13:** Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll

**Tuesday, September 14:** Beef Fajitas, Rice & Beans, Green Salad

**Wednesday, September 15:** Tuna Salad Sandwich, Pasta Salad, Pickle

**Thursday, September 16:** Chicken Pasta Florentine, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

**Friday, September 17:** Spare Ribs, Baked Beans, Veggie, Cornbread

### 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.

## Willits Weekly

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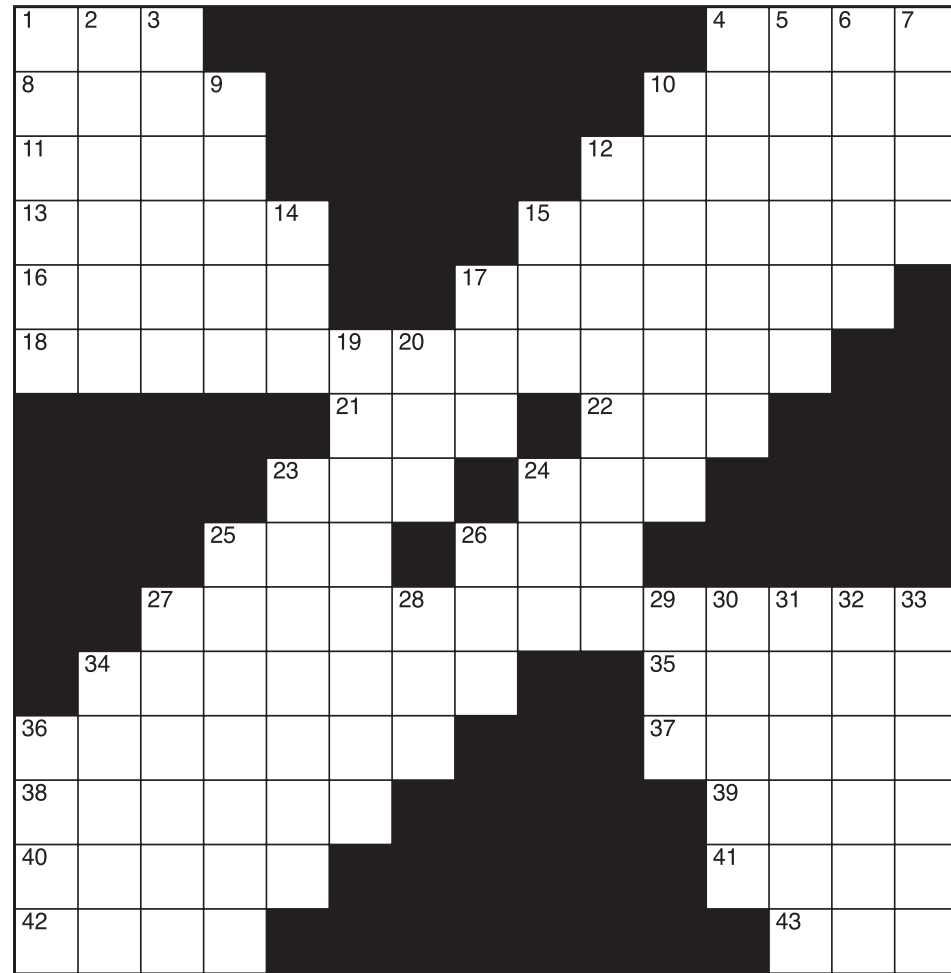


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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in 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!

S	R	A	G	U	S	V	M	O	B	I	D	H	K	F	L	V	K	S
O	W	H	E	L	L	O	R	D	I	N	N	E	R	N	R	K	S	Y
T	I	S	N	V	B	U	C	L	D	C	R	S	L	F	Y	R	D	T
H	E	D	I	L	D	H	H	C	V	B	O	I	E	C	N	I	U	L
E	N	Y	E	S	A	B	E	R	G	F	T	V	M	S	N	O	P	A
B	D	R	U	O	M	V	B	E	R	G	O	P	W	M	G	L	S	A
U	I	A	H	H	A	L	I	E	N	R	H	E	A	F	I	F	I	F
C	C	G	F	F	E	S	D	G	B	A	E	E	B	S	M	S	R	T
G	E	V	S	Y	R	B	V	W	K	T	R	T	K	Y	T	E	G	H
F	F	N	E	V	C	C	U	U	E	E	L	P	A	P	P	R	A	S
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R	I	E	H	U	B	G	I	V	L	T	R	E	S	S	E	D	C	L

BOIL	DICE	GREASE	SALTY
BROIL	DINNER	GRILL	SAUTE
CHILL	DOT	INGREDIENT	SIFTED
CHOP	DRAIN	KNEAD	SIMMER
COMBINE	FLOUR	MEAL	STOVETOP
CREAM	FOLD	PAN FRY	SUGAR
CUBE	FRYING	PASTRY	SWEETENED
CUT	GARNISH	PEELING	TOSS
DESSERT	GRATE	ROLL	WHIP



1. It governs Federer and Nadal's sport
4. Golden apple tree
8. Central Mexican river
10. Horn
11. Egg-shaped
12. With tooth
13. French modernist painter
15. Disprove
16. Painful intestinal obstruction
17. Baby shoes
18. Make the grade
21. Type of screen
22. Christian fraternal organization (abbr.)
23. Computer giant
24. When you hope to get there
25. Corporate executive title (abbr.)
26. Shout of welcome or farewell
27. Imaginary awards for good deeds

1. A type of bomb
2. Pacific island country
3. Earth is one
4. A place to gather around
5. Expressed opposite views
6. Group that lives near Siberia
7. Ore deposit
9. Language related to Eskimo
10. Narrative piece

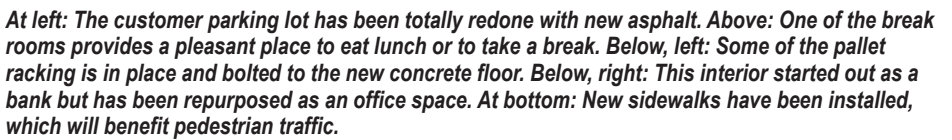
**August 28**  
12:46 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued a citation.  
11:21 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.  
12:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 800 block of South Main Street.  
4:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection



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***Below: This building, formerly the home of Little Lake Industries, is getting a fresh coat of red paint, beginning with a white base coat.***

*Photos by Mathew Caine*





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**Sat/Sun.:**  
1:30, 4:30 & 7:30pm  
**Mon.-Thurs.:**  
4:30 & 7:30pm

**PAW PATROL, The Movie**



(G)  
1 hr 26 mins  
**Fri.:**  
3:45, 5:45 & 7:45pm  
**Sat/Sun.:**  
1:45, 3:45 & 7:45pm  
**Mon.-Thurs.:**  
3:45, 5:45 & 7:45pm

**CANDYMAN**




(R)  
1 hr 31 mins  
**Fri.:**  
4:10, 6:20 & 8:30pm  
**Sat/Sun.:**  
2:00, 4:10, 6:20 & 8:30pm  
**Mon.-Thurs.:**  
4:10, 6:20 & 8:30pm

**Movie Times for September 10 thru September 16**


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Above: Capt. Harry So from the Brooktrails Township Fire Department poses with the Brooktrails water tender in front of the Sierra at Tahoe Mountain Resort sign. At right, above: Brooktrails Water Tender 5290 loads up a Husky water tub to distribute the load of water they've just shuttled to the fire front. At right: "Serving Our Community with Dedication & Pride," the Brooktrails Fire motto, is displayed on the side of Water Tender 5290.



Above: Dark black smoke could be seen clearly from Locust Street as the fire on Cropley Lane started Monday night. At right: Firefighters work to put out the flames quickly and safely.

## Fire on Cropley

### Responders get containment quickly

Calls about black smoke in the area of Cropley Lane and Blosser Lane in Willits started coming in right before 7 pm on Monday, September 6.

Little Lake Fire and Brooktrails Fire departments responded and made quick work of what turned out to be a couple of vehicles on fire, one of them an RV or trailer.

Willits Police Department and Mendocino County Sheriff's Office also responded. MCSO sent out Nixle alerts – Willits Weekly received email and text messages at 7:04 pm advising of a current fire in the area of Cropley Lane. "Fire and law enforcement personnel are on scene; please use situational awareness and stay out of the area," the Nixle alert read.

The 7:38 pm Nixle update reported: "The fire on Cropley Lane has been contained, and forward progress has been halted. Estimated time of 1 hour for fire department mop up."

To sign up for Nixle alerts, text your zip code to 888777

– Jennifer Poole



Photo courtesy Mendocino County Sheriff



## Local firefighters provide water support at Caldor Fire

Two area firefighters have been working at the Caldor Fire in Amador/El Dorado counties as part of the Contra Costa County Task Force XCC2025.

Capt. Harry So from the Brooktrails Township Fire Department and Engineer Mike Cornwall from Little Lake Fire left on August 30, with Brooktrails Fire's Water Tender 5290.

"Since Water Tender 5290 left for the Caldor last Monday," Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer posted on social media, "they have been on the frontline providing water support. They are transporting an average of 15,000 gallons a day, which means non-stop shuttles in 12-hour shifts. We are proud to be able to support the operations of this incident."

Noyer explained: "Typically we form up with other units from our county, however due to the need for resources, mixed teams are formed up from different counties to fill the slots.

Rest assured, we are covered and ready to respond in our own community!"

As of CalFire's Tuesday morning update, the Caldor Fire was reported to be 49 percent contained, after burning 216,646 acres. Caldor Fire started August 14, with the cause still under investigation.

– Jennifer Poole



Above: Alina Nuebel from Conservation Works teaches the jingle for identifying grasses from look-alikes, like these sedges, "Sedges have edges. Rushes are round. Grasses are hollow with feet on the ground." At right: A pile of bear scat is evidence of the predator in the area.



## September 11 Firehouse Dedication this weekend

The Grand Opening Dedication & Open House for the new Willits Fire Station 54 on East Commercial Street is set for Saturday, September 11, from 9 am to 2 pm.

The schedule for the event includes: 9 am: Flag Ceremony by the American Legion Post 174; 9:15 am: 9/11 Tribute; 10 am: Ribbon (Hose) Cutting; 10:15 am: Firehouse Dedication.

Tours of the new firehouse will be offered from 11 am to 2 pm, along with silent and live auctions, bounce houses, fire dancers, and face painting, and live music from The Basics. Tickets for a BBQ Lunch will be sold in advance: \$25 adult, \$10 child; tickets are available at Sparetime Supply, J.D. Redhouse, or the Willits Senior Center, or call 707-841-7758.

This event is sponsored by Little Lake Fire Protection District, along with Willits Rotary, Willits Lions Club, Soroptimist, American Legion Post 174, 4H, FFA, Boy/Girl Scouts, Willits Chamber of Commerce, and Willits Senior Center.

All proceeds will go toward furnishing the new firehouse.

Follow Willits Fire Protection District on Facebook at "Willits Fire Station 54"

– Little Lake Fire Protection District



Putting the sign up at the new Willits Fire Station 54.

Photo by Anita Elliott Wagenet



Above, left: Nancy MacFarlane shows a graphic illustrating root structures at progressive growth times of annual wheat on the left and perennial kernal grain on the right. Kernal wins the carbon sequestration prize with its deep root system. "This is why perennial native grasses are extremely important. They scrub CO2 out of the air," she stated. Above, right: The workshop presenters pose for a photo: from left, Marisela de Santa Anna, a biologist working with MCRCD on the Willits Bypass Mitigation Land; Katherine Gabor, an environmental educator from the Climate Action Corps; Nancy MacFarlane, a Climate Action Corps fellow; Oona Heacock, executive director of Conservation Works and organizer the workshop; and Alina Nuebel, a conservationist for Conservation Works.



Photos by Ree Slocum

# Grassland Ecosystems

## Willits is home to native perennial grasses, which sequester carbon and help mitigate climate change

On Saturday, August 24, nine people and five presenters met at the Centennial Reservoir to learn about the importance of grasslands on Earth, with boots-on-the-ground experiences in the Willits watershed. The workshop presenters were there to help people understand how native, perennial grasses serve in sequestering carbon, nutrients and water, while creating more biodiversity in an ecosystem and helping heal the effects of climate change.

The four-hour workshop was packed with interesting, fun, enlightening, sobering and hopeful facts. Topics were presented by five respected scientists / ecologists from different organizations and areas.

The following is a distillation of the richly packed collections of facts, ideas, discussions, and fascinating points made by those dedicated people who led the group.

"Today we're going to talk about and learn about grassland ecosystems and what they're doing for us when we're not paying attention," Alina Nuebel, a conservationist for the organization Conservation Works, told the group, setting the stage for a lively workshop.

The organizer of the workshop, Oona Heacock, explained that Conservation Works – which covers Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake counties – has been working on the Willits watershed for about 3 1/2 years. "We've been working on bringing all our programs to the Willits and Ukiah communities."

Conservation Works recently partnered with California's Climate Action Corps program. "Ours is one of the first projects that are being launched all over California to take action on climate change," Heacock explained. "Fires, smoke, drought are all affecting the environment and the health of our people. We and the State of California Action Corps believe that it is us, as a community, who can make a difference. By working together in our small ways, big ways, whatever ways, we can take action on climate change."

Later, after that hopeful message, she emphasized: "Just so you know, you folks in Willits have a pristine watershed here. There's no industry up above where your water's coming from. It's beautiful and special." She explained that Conservation Works has been bringing students up there to teach them what makes a pristine watershed and about the relationships formed with grasslands, wetlands, forests, living creatures,

fire, carbon sequestration, climate change, and others integral to ecosystem health.

The group made their first stop on the tour up the mountain. They visually explored a grassland / wetland area intersecting with forest.

During her talk about grasses, Nuebel, whose life priority is "helping people relieve themselves of their plant blindness," talked about how much we rely on grasses for food. She mentioned corn, millet, sorghum and rice seeds as worldwide sources of carbohydrate calories. "So, grasses are super, super, super important for us just staying alive," she added.

In her talk, which covered many specifics, Nuebel made the distinction between annual and perennial plants: "Does the plant have a one-year life cycle or many-year life cycle? In grasses this gets extremely relevant. An annual grass is a sprinter. On the other hand, our perennial friends have a different approach to life. They know to pace themselves."

Their extensive biomass is underground as roots, sometimes as deep as 9-to-20 feet. She also informed that the percentage of California native, perennial grasses has shrunk due to overgrazing, building on grasslands, and other stewardship practices unfavorable to their propagation. The loss of them has weakened ecosystem biodiversity. There's less underground carbon sequestration, less water retention, less animal and insect life.

According to Nuebel, "These are the things that grasslands are doing for us while we're not paying attention: sequestering carbon through the production of massive structures underground where we can't see them; allowing water infiltration for rejuvenation of the aquifer. This allows the landscape to retain water overall. They're an incredible reservoir of biodiversity: arthropod, bird, mammal, predator and herbivore, fungal, and soil microbe life. And when you have an intact old-growth grassland, good stuff is happening there," she beamed.

Marisela de Santa Anna, a biologist working with MCRCD on the Willits Bypass Mitigation Land, who specializes in the relationship between wildlife and plants in various ecosystems, brought the grasslands and forests more alive with stories about different wildlife like the endangered grasshopper sparrows:

Read the rest of **Grasslands** Over on Page 12



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## NEW WILLITS FIREHOUSE GRAND OPENING DEDICATION & OPEN HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 11, 2021  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



### FLAG CEREMONY

9:00 am

### 911 TRIBUTE

9:15 am

### RIBBON (HOSE) CUTTING

10:00 am

### FIREHOUSE DEDICATION

10:15 am

## FIREHOUSE TOURS

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

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This event is sponsored by Little Lake Fire Protection District along with Willits Rotary, Willits Lions Club, Soroptimist, American Legion Post 174, 4H, FFA, Boy/Girl Scouts, Willits Chamber of Commerce, and Willits Senior Center. All proceeds will go toward furnishing the new firehouse.



SPIRITUAL  
PATHWAYS

**Agape Bible Church**  
290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
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10:00 a.m. - Worship  
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.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  
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*ALL ARE WELCOME*  
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**Grace Community Church**  
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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 Bandamadani*  
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.  
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**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-272-0177  
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.  
In-person and on Zoom  
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The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Karl Bliese, Pastor  
Church Service:  
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00  
Bible Study / Sunday School  
following the service.  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
*ALL ARE WELCOME*

**Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
707-459-5714  
Saturdays: Meeting place  
at church located at  
399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
Bible Study - 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.  
https://willitsca.adventistchurch.org  
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BLUE ZONES PROJECT

Blue Zones Project in Mendocino County is launched

Submitted by the Blue Zones Project

Adventist Health and Blue Zones LLC announced the launch of Blue Zones Project last month to help residents of Mendocino County live longer, better lives.

Blue Zones Project Mendocino County joins the recently launched Blue Zones Project in Upper Napa Valley as Northern California areas where Adventist Health is introducing this unique community-driven well-being improvement initiative as part of its commitment to the populations it serves.

Mendocino County is supported by three Adventist Health campuses: Howard Memorial in Willits; Mendocino Coast in Fort Bragg; and Ukiah Valley in Ukiah, all of which will work in close collaboration with other local stakeholders to promote healthy choices and habits in the region.

Based on research on the world's longest-lived communities by National Geographic Fellow and best-selling author Dan Buettner, Blue Zones Project is the leading nationwide well-being improvement initiative. Blue Zones Project is a first-of-its-kind population health initiative that helps entire communities get healthier by optimizing public policy, social connections and the places and spaces where people spend the most time so that healthy choices are easy and accessible.

Participating communities have seen double-digit drops in obesity and smoking rates, economic investment in downtown corridors, grant funding awards to support policies and programs aimed at improving health equity, and measurable savings in healthcare costs.

"Our mission at Adventist Health to live God's love is part of our calling to care for communities. In many ways, the measures and sustainable practices of Blue Zones Project align closely with this responsibility to improve well-being for our community and our team," said Judson Howe, president of Adventist Health in Mendocino County.

"The decision to introduce Blue Zones Project to Mendocino County comes at a particularly critical time in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic," Howe continued, "and we see this initiative as an essential step in helping all community members recover in environments that support their health and sense of connection."

In May 2021, Blue Zones Project and Adventist Health initiated a site assessment of Mendocino County, meeting with community leaders from across the county to begin to understand readiness for and scope of a Blue Zones Project in Mendocino County.

The assessment covered areas that Blue Zones Projects engage, including the built environment, food and tobacco policy, websites, schools, faith-based organizations and civic and non-profit groups. The assessment team was impressed with the broad level of support demonstrated across all sectors, and the commitment of community leaders, local organizations and volunteers to bring Blue Zones Project to Mendocino County.

"Never before in our lifetimes has there been a greater focus on

Read the rest of Blue Zones Over on Page 9

SAVE THE DATE  
A Celebration  
of Life



For our dear friend David Knudsen who passed away on January 15, 2021.

The Celebration will be held at Rec Grove on September 10, 2021 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. We will honor Dave through personal memories, poems and songs. Please bring your own chairs and water.

Due to current COVID protocols, please don't bring any food or alcoholic beverages. For further information, contact Kathy Rippey at (707) 459-0983 or krippey@yahoo.com.

OBITUARY |

Ari Lacelle

Ari Lacelle: born Marie Ethel Fish, April 19, 1937, Danville, New York; passed, July 17, 2021, Willits, California. Born at home, the third of four children to Docia and Paul Fish; the family moved to California in 1948. Married to Lynn Stoller in 1954, Ari leaves three children; Rebecca, Rand and Brad, and one granddaughter, Sophia.



The couple traveled the world and spent two years in Australia with Lynn's job with IBM before returning to the states where they divorced in 1967. Marie trained as a Special Ed teacher, becoming "Ari" when writing her name on a blackboard in colored chalk and the M and E magically disappeared.

Ari married Loren Lacelle in 1971 in LA, and they moved to Willits in January of 1977 to join the New Dawn Commune on Hollands Lane. That summer they built their home without power tools out Sherwood Road and began a mail order business, "Down Home Comforters." Following them to Willits from LA and Tahoe were the Goods, Warburtons, Grahams, Hinckers

and Ari's brother Taran Fish. Eventually Loren moved to Guatemala. working with a Quaker Scholarship program for indigenous women. They ultimately divorced. and Loren passed on in 2016. Ari partnered with Jon Filarski for the past 29 years, until his recent passing.

Active in community projects, including AAUW where she portrayed Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ari also cooked meals for "Our Daily Bread" for several years. An active member of swim groups and the library Book Lovers, she enjoyed her friends, cooking, sewing, reading and gardening.

Ari will be remembered for her laugh, her blunt, honest way and her colorful long skirts. She tolerated little guile and was known for her frankness and charm. Ready to move on when life wasn't fun anymore, she had the courage to end it herself. She will be missed and held with love by those left behind.

The Celebration of Life planned for the Art Center has been cancelled because of COVID. In its place, a scattering of her ashes with family and closest friends only, will be held on her land October 2, at 2 pm.

MEMORIAL |

Sally Gearhart

Everyone is welcome to a Public Memorial Celebration for Sally Miller Gearhart (1931 - 2021), on Sunday, September 19, at noon, at Willits Recreation Grove Park, East Commercial Street. Masks required.



Art Talk: 'The Beginning of Modern Art in America: The Armory Show of 1913'

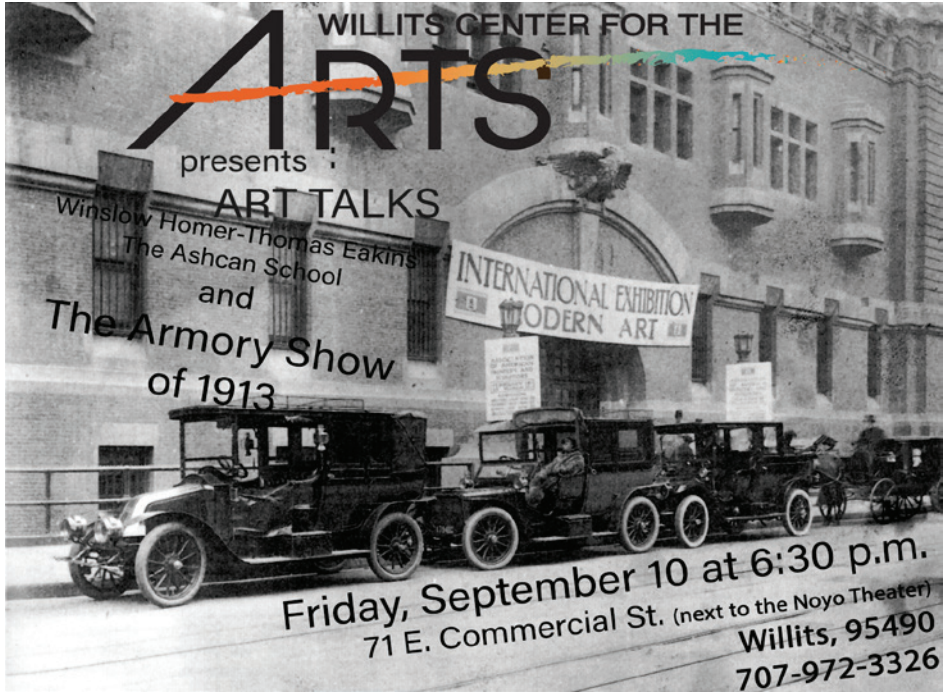
Submitted by WCA

Willits Center for the Arts presents, "The Beginning of Modern Art in America: The Armory Show of 1913." Art Historian Gary Martin will show and talk about how America became the art capital of the world. The Armory Show was the first International show of art in America and, despite its reception, this was an epoch-making show for the arts in America.

This presentation will happen Friday, September 10 at 6:30 pm; on the big screen in the Great Room at the art center.

Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 Commercial Street (next to the Noyo Theatre) in Willits. Masks and social distancing are mandatory.

For more information, see www.willitscenterforthearts.org



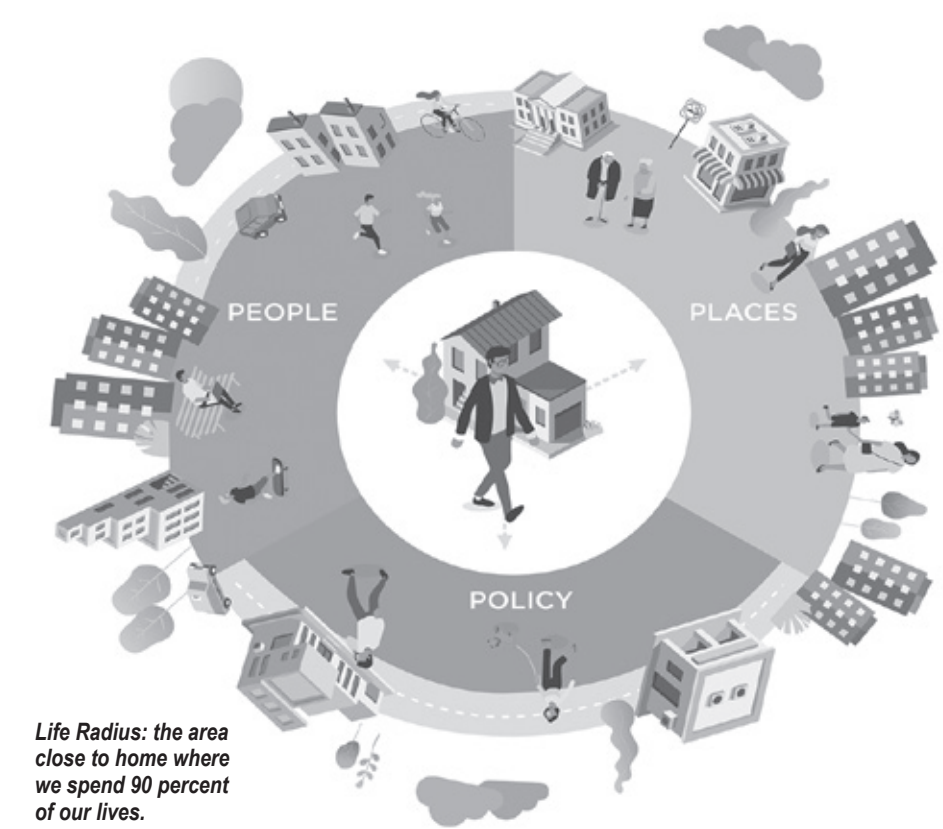
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- Corrections Deputy
- COVID – Emergency Response Unit
- Extra-Help Temporary Work
- Deputy Public Defender I
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner In Training
- Environmental Health Specialist I/II
- Human Resources Manager
- Program Specialist I/II
- Screeners
- Senior Program Specialist
- Sheriff's Evidence Technician
- Staff Assistant I/II
- Staff Services Manager II
- Substance Abuse Counselor I/II – Fort Bragg
- Supervising Deputy Probation Officer

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
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*I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.*

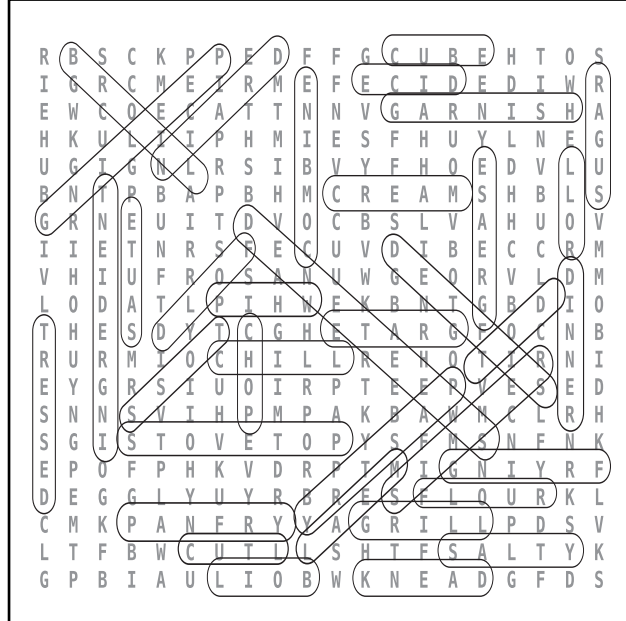
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The rest of Blue Zones

From Page 8

the behaviors that keep us well, and the Blue Zones model lifts well-being at the community level by making healthy choices easier in all the places people live, work, learn and play," said Ben Leadle, CEO of Blue Zones and co-founder of Blue Zones Project.

"We look forward to collaborating with community leaders and stakeholders in empowering all residents of Mendocino County to live longer, better lives."

The launch of Blue Zones Project Mendocino County represents the beginning of a multi-year collaborative effort that involves the entire community working together towards one common goal – to support and inspire community health and well-being.

All residents of Mendocino County are welcome and encouraged to take part in Blue Zones Project programs and offerings, starting with the RealAge Test – a scientifically based survey that provides an estimate of the body's "Real Age" compared to biological, and offers helpful tools on how to implement positive changes that benefit both the individual, and community.

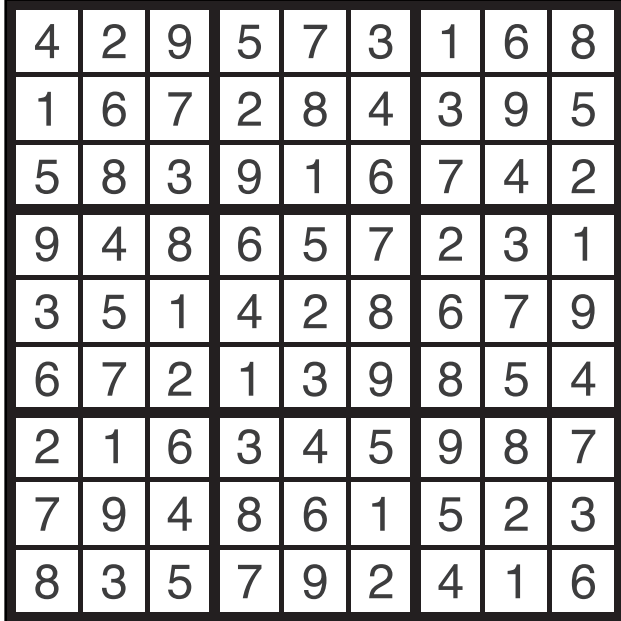
"We want to encourage all residents of Mendocino County to take the RealAge Test to join us in our community's journey to better health," added Tina Tyler-O'Shea, executive director of Blue Zones Project Mendocino County.

"Aggregate community data from the results will be used to help identify focus areas for the Blue Zones Project initiative, so it's essential that all community voices participate as we work together to make our county happier, and healthier. The test is free, and individual results are confidential."

The local implementation team will begin the leadership planning phase this month, with a kickoff event to follow early next year.

More information about Blue Zones Project Mendocino County is available at Mendocinocounty. bluezonesproject.com.

Blue Zones Project is brought to Mendocino County through an innovative sponsorship with Adventist Health and in partnership with Blue Zones, LLC. Adventist Health is a faith-based, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii, as well as others across the U.S. through its Blue Zones organization, a pioneer in taking a systemic and environmental approach to improving the health of entire cities and communities. Through this work and other initiatives, Adventist Health is leading a 21st century well-being transformation movement.



CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Office Assistant III: City of Willits: Salary: \$39,73.16 to 53,433.84 annually DOQ/DOE. Performs specified clerical and analytical duties in support of City Departments, with an emphasis on Community Development (Planning, Building and Code Enforcement functions). Under close supervision, incumbents perform the more routine office administrative duties while learning planning, building, and code enforcement concepts and City policies and procedures. Incumbents' work is observed and reviewed during performance and upon completion. As experience is gained, there is more diversity in assignments and greater independence of action within established guidelines. Tasks include, but are not limited to: responds to telephone inquiries, greets customers and visitors of the departments; maintains communications with customers regarding permits; customer service, both in person and on the phone; word processing and other office machines/ computer equipment, and other duties as assigned. Application Deadline: Thursday, Friday Sept 20, 2021, by 4:00 P.M. Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org

Help Wanted

Merchandise Processor /Stocker. \$14.50 Hour. Part Time (24 hours weekly) Send resume to wsidirector@willitsseiorcenter.com. Please include 3 references or pick up application at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd. or call Richard Baker at 459-6826 for more information.

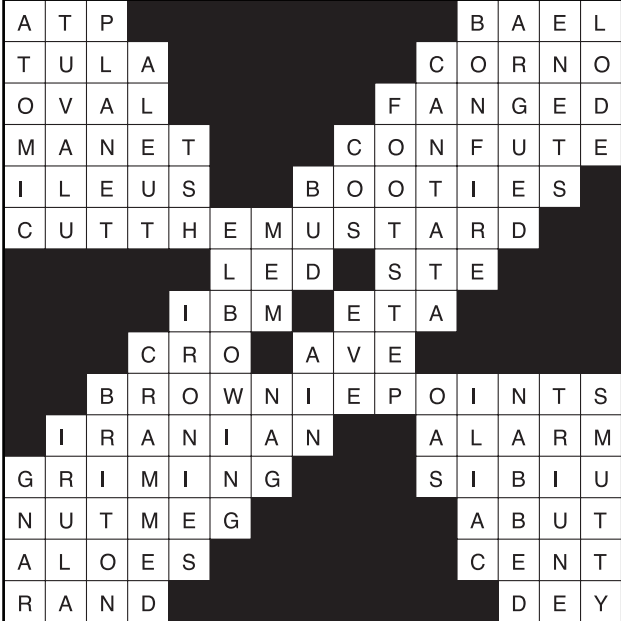
Help Wanted

Outreach Worker. Earn as you learn. \$15/Hour. 32 Hours Weekly. Send resume to wsidirector@willitsseiorcenter.com (please include 3 references) or pick up job application at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, or call Richard Baker at 459-6826 for more information

Volunteers needed

Volunteers needed at Willits Food Bank! Office help and Warehouse help. Must be compassionate about hungry and underprivileged people. Must be vaccinated against COVID and follow County guidelines. Call 707 459-3333 or visit 229 East San Francisco Street, across from Sparetime Supply.

**Classified ads are just \$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks! Deadline is every Monday!**





# 'Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings'

The Story: Marvel Comics origin story of Shang-Chi, master of kung fu. Shaun (Simu Liu) works parking cars in San Francisco and hangs loose with his best party buddy Katy (Awkwafina). But there's no escaping

Destiny: Shaun's real name is Shang-Chi. He's hiding from his 1,000-year-old warlord father Xu Wen (Tony Leung), ruthless possessor of the legendary Ten Rings – terrifying weapons of sorcerous power. Xu Wen's thugs kidnap Shang-Chi and Katy who learn that the world is threatened by a soul-devouring horror from an alien dimension.

My Thoughts: Magical dragons do battle. This flick makes a clear statement about men and women: Men want force and control, women want harmony and embrace. Leiko, Shang's mother, taught her husband, Xu Wen, and her young son to embrace harmony, and that dominance and coercion are deceptive, even self-destructive. When Shang's gentle and mysteriously powerful mother Leiko is murdered, young Shang falls under his father's unchecked influence; Shang becomes an assassin.

I enjoyed the movie, the dragons and other fantasy creatures, the humor, the martial arts. I loved the actors, especially Tony Leung. He plays Shang's father Xu Wen as ruthless, and as vulnerable. He has to be noted! Mr. Leung is a brilliant screen presence.

Parents: Young children believe what they see. They are affected deeply by the death of a parent in a movie, especially the mother. You all know your kids. Because Shang's mother dies, I think children under 10 would find this action flick upsetting, even scary.

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

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calm dogs they were, especially Brutus who seemed incredibly mellow for a young large dog.

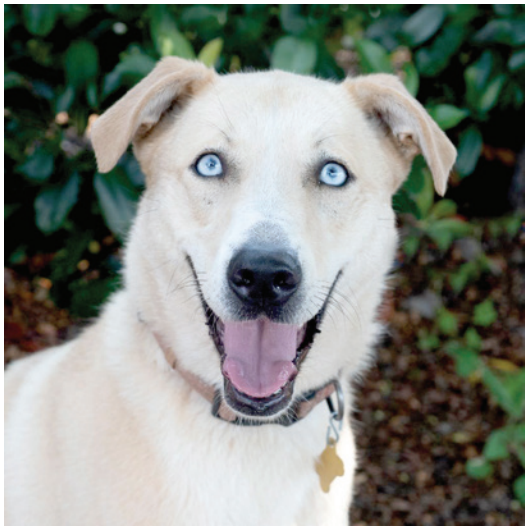
Unfortunately we soon found out that what appeared to be laidback was actually an injury. Brutus was lame in his back area, he hobbled and limped and had a very wonky gait. Off to the vet he went for X-rays, where we soon found out he had a cruciate tear to his left knee and a partial tear to his right knee.

Injuries like this are very painful and when we get his results back from Wasson, we would love to schedule his TPLO surgery as soon as possible to help Brutus live a pain-free life again.

Because this is a big dog, it will likely be a big bill. We are hoping to get fundraising started, and our goal at this time is \$4,000. When we get an estimate, we will update you guys. Even just a few dollars goes a long way in keeping our doors open. Our Humane Society runs entirely on the donations of our community. Thank you for helping us say "yes" to a dog like Brutus who comes with a huge and unexpected medical bill.

We are also looking for a foster-to-adopt home for big-boy Brutus. His foster family reports he is such a love, gives lots of kisses, and is a joy to have in their home. He is so good with the children and will make a great family dog. He is gentle and responsive, enjoys being with people, and has adapted easily to their life. You can apply to add Brutus to your family at [www.mendohumaneociety.com](http://www.mendohumaneociety.com).

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Currently we are open by appointment only on Wednesday through Friday, and open to the public Saturday through Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, no appointment needed on the weekends! You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: [www.mendohumaneociety.com](http://www.mendohumaneociety.com), our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



Blissful Bailey Bailey is a happy young kitten who loves attention and getting pets. She is 6 months old with medium black and white fur.

For more info about Bailey or to see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, events and updates about COVID-19 and the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com). For information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

## Helping Brutus

Brutus is here today asking for your support to help him live a pain-free life!

A year and a half ago we received a litter of American bulldog-mix pups, the owners decided they wanted to keep a few pups from the litter. But sadly, two weeks ago they had to surrender Brutus and his brother, Sampson, to our shelter. We were so impressed by what nice,

calm dogs they were, especially Brutus who seemed incredibly mellow for a young large dog.

Unfortunately we soon found out that what appeared to be laidback was actually an injury. Brutus was lame in his back area, he hobbled and limped and had a very wonky gait. Off to the vet he went for X-rays, where we soon found out he had a cruciate tear to his left knee and a partial tear to his right knee.

Injuries like this are very painful and when we get his results back from Wasson, we would love to schedule his TPLO surgery as soon as possible to help Brutus live a pain-free life again.

Because this is a big dog, it will likely be a big bill. We are hoping to get fundraising started, and our goal at this time is \$4,000. When we get an estimate, we will update you guys. Even just a few dollars goes a long way in keeping our doors open. Our Humane Society runs entirely on the donations of our community. Thank you for helping us say "yes" to a dog like Brutus who comes with a huge and unexpected medical bill.

We are also looking for a foster-to-adopt home for big-boy Brutus. His foster family reports he is such a love, gives lots of kisses, and is a joy to have in their home. He is so good with the children and will make a great family dog. He is gentle and responsive, enjoys being with people, and has adapted easily to their life. You can apply to add Brutus to your family at [www.mendohumaneociety.com](http://www.mendohumaneociety.com).

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Currently we are open by appointment only on Wednesday through Friday, and open to the public Saturday through Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, no appointment needed on the weekends! You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: [www.mendohumaneociety.com](http://www.mendohumaneociety.com), our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).

## Ziva Blue Eyes

Ziva is a beautiful Anatolian shepherd / Siberian husky mix-breed dog, who is a bit shy and aloof until she knows you. She weighs 52 pounds and is 5 years old. Her personality shines here at Milo. She prefers to hang out in the backyard with her human instead of taking a stroll, and would do wonderfully in a home where she can run around. Ziva Blue Eyes is wary of strangers initially, but loves her friends and is loyal and affectionate with those she knows and loves. She is protective and on the alpha-side with other dogs. She does have her dog friends but is selective. She is best as an only dog in an adult-only home. Experienced dog owners only!

If you would like more info about Ziva, 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.

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## The rest of Emergency

is currently experiencing the most severe outbreak since the beginning of the pandemic. There are 87 "active positive cases" of COVID-19 in Round Valley. All are in isolation and family members/close contacts are in quarantine. There have been two deaths in the past two weeks due to COVID and there are currently 7 individuals in the hospitals within Mendocino County. (Editor's Note: Mendocino County announced an additional Covelo death on Wednesday, a TK )

The State of California announced a re-opening process on June 15, and more businesses started opening up. With the current spike RVIT has tightened back up on our precautionary measures. Depending on our positivity rate we may move back to full closures and sheltering in place for all Tribal offices.

RVIT continues to work closely with the health care community in Mendocino County, the California Department of Public Health, Tribal Epidemiology Center out of Sacramento, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prevent the risk of exposure and spread of the virus.

As a reminder: The best way to reduce your risk of becoming infected with, or spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus, is to practice Basic Precautions. We encourage everyone to:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available
- Avoid eating, or touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Stay away from people who are visibly sick
- Always cover your coughs and sneezes using a tissue, or the crook of your elbow
- People who are sick should stay home from work, schools or public places until they are well

If you have any of the following symptoms, please contact your regular primary care provider, and let them know if you have been around someone who had COVID-19 coronavirus:

- Fever

## The rest of WPD

10:35 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

September 3 2:40 am: LOCKWOOD, Bryan Christian (30) of Santa Rosa was contacted I the 300 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on felony charges of failure to appear.

2:40 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 700 block of Coast Street.

6:59 pm: COLLIER, Arthur Simon (31) of McKinleyville was contacted in the 400 block of North Lenore Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 11377 H&S (Possession of a Controlled Substance), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on felony charges of violation of parole.

September 4 12:28 am: ACEVESLIZARRAGA, Javier Jahir (29) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order) and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

6:08 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

7:17 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

7:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

8:10 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:28 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

September 5 No reportable incidents.

## The rest of Sculpture

The current proposal for Camp's generous donation is to install the piece – conceived of as three tall, black and silver pinwheels that spin in the breeze – on a strip of the city's property located behind the Arco gas station along Highway 20. At the meeting people discussed the plan and voiced their concerns and excitement, helping the project move forward.

There was discussion around the placement of the pinwheels. Fisch, WCA Manager Sasha Thomas, and others liked that it would be placed on Highway 20. The vision is that tourist traffic from inland would pass by the art and people would be more curious about Willits. Some would want to stop and view the piece of art. "They might be curious, want to spend more time here and spend some money," someone expressed.

Bender informed that, "One of the things, from the city's perspective, that we would like to see – and we touched on that at the last meeting of this committee – is that we don't want to see artwork being indiscriminately placed. We want to see an overall concept. If we need to make some type of internal features: paths, parking spaces, access. We would like to see that."

This brought up concerns: the height of the sculpture and its visibility; parking since the only viable place now is the gas station; installation concerns; maintenance; more sculptures, inspired by Camp's vision of a sculpture garden.

After the last meeting, Martin had a call-out for more community input. Of the nine people from the area who showed up at Friday's meeting, some were there to listen and others had ideas and concerns to add to the discussion.

Of note was input from Phillip Stewart, an accomplished artist and public art sculptor with years of experience planning, navigating bureaucracies, and fabricating large sculptures. He has had many installation experiences with knowledge of the intricacies that need thought when placing municipal sculptures.

Interest in making the Highway 20 strip of green an official sculpture garden ensued.

Based on experience, Stewart expressed some of his concerns: "There's a whole sphere of things that should be addressed at the very

## The rest of Dashboard

were 2 cases at Brookside Elementary (out of 387 total number of students and staff), 1 case at Sherwood School (out of 109 total), 1 case at Baechtel Grove Middle School (out of 305 total), and 1 case at Willits High School (out of 466 total).

Data from the first week of school, Tuesday, August 24 through Friday, August 27, shows a total of 6 "community based staff and student cases," and 0 "school-based staff and student cases."

Of those 6 cases, 4 cases were at Brookside Elementary, 1 case was at Sherwood School, and 1 case was at Baechtel Grove Middle School.

School sites on the chart without any COVID cases reported so far include: Blosser Lane Elementary (out of 348 total students and staff) and Sanhedrin High School (out of 88 total).

The WUSD dashboard site explains: "All confirmed positive COVID-19 incidents related to Willits Unified school sites and offices will be posted to this page. For the purposes of this dashboard, Willits Unified is distinguishing between school-based cases and community-based cases. Each positive case of students or staff members that have been on campus 48 hours prior to testing positive for COVID-19 will be reported weekly in this dashboard. Contact tracing will be conducted and each case will be classified as described."

Mendocino County Public Health Officer Andy Coren, MD, has been answering questions during his COVID updates about the safety of sending children back to school amidst the surge in cases attributed to the Delta variant. This quote from early August reflects his answers: "We should definitely be looking forward to 100 percent of our children being in school this fall. I believe that it's safe, and safer than keeping them home and outside of school."

During Coren's most recent public update, to the board of supervisors on August 31, he reported: "In the schools we've had many cases identified with testing, and modified quarantine of close contacts appear to be controlling these with minimal time lost from the school. One school decided to close an entire class and provide independent study but in general we are not seeing increased transmission in schools here in Mendocino County."

The WUSD dashboard is updated weekly and can be found at: <https://www.willitsunified.com/o/wusd/page/wusd-covid-dashboard>

beginning which will ensure smooth sailing down the line. This is one of the hurdles in the public-art arena: How do you contextualize a group of works into the built environment that doesn't create traffic nuisances and has enough tooth with their location that they don't become passé?

"One of the largest problems," he continued, "for cities is accepting works onto a municipal collection which they're then obligated to maintain and, in many cases, it can't be accessioned."

He talked further about sculptures that have broken where the municipality doesn't have the funds to fix it, and it can't be taken down because it's public art. It's definitely something the planning group will look into.

Excitement around having the sculpture garden continued. "In my own vision, down the road, I'd like to see a meander through the sculptures with seats and some sort of parking that would be safe," Camp described.

"Say there's a gravel path with benches and X-amount of different site locations. There could be wide spots in the trail, which is classic, with an occasional 14-foot circle where sculptures would sit," envisioned Stewart.

He later added the idea of having concrete plinths inserted in the circles, ready for installations. "It's a cool way of doing it. You don't have to commit to permanency of the work. It's a good way to get the community more involved where there's a place with revolving works."

Martin replied, "The problem, Stu, is coming up with artists who want to do that." Stewart replied that they could become temporary storage places for various artists if you could convince them to show their piece in a spot for a while.

The group talked about the mission statement Martin presented. They saw the importance of representing all the cultural and historical elements in Little Lake Valley's public art.

Other sculptural pieces are in the works. Chris Baldo from Roots of Motive Power has offered a small steam engine. Martin mentioned the offering of redwood pieces from a redwood removed from City Park that are available.

Fisch asked the planning committee to brainstorm their ideas for the vision of the project, existing resources, any

## The rest of Enforcement

cultivation permit or a state cultivation license, and/or cannabis was being cultivated in violation of MCC Sec. 10A.17 requirements. It was determined that there were significant community quality of life concerns in these neighborhoods. The responsible parties abated the cannabis plants being cultivated after Code Enforcement engagement.

7/20/21 – 10500 Block of West Road - 287 cannabis plants abated

07/22/21 – 10700 Block of West Road - 214 cannabis plants abated

07/23/21 – 2000 Block of Pepperwood Court - 60 cannabis plants abated

08/10/21 – 1400 Block of Road D – 11 cannabis plants abated

08/18/21 – 700 Block of Conrad Road - 98 cannabis plants abated

08/18/21 – 2300 Block of Rancheria Road – 9 cannabis plants abated

08/19/21 – 2900 Block of Road I - 93 cannabis plants abated

08/26/21 – 6200 Block of Walnut Lane - 5 cannabis plants abated

Code Enforcement intends to take additional action as needed to achieve compliance with any non-permitted structures at these locations.

The Code Enforcement Division receives all cannabis and general code violation complaints in the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County. Complaints can be made in person at our offices or by visiting our website at: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/code-enforcement> to file an online complaint. Cannabis specific complaints can also be filed by calling the Cannabis Complaint Hotline at: 844-421-WEED (9333).

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Memorial Hospital, Sparetime Supply, and Mendocino Cannabis Distribution. The band, consisting of Indiana Slim on guitar, Ed Reinhart on keyboards, Bear Kamaroff on bass, and a guy named Bruce (no last name) on percussion, played favorites (including some Grateful Dead tunes) throughout dinner.

Donated silent-auction items were available for perusal and bidding prior to dinner. Such gifts as: 5-pounds of walnuts; three bottles of McNabb wine; an antique pulley off a ship; a framed picture of Seabiscuit; a photo session; a coffee set; three bottles of Rivino wine with a signed calendar; two rounds of disc golf; a Marjo Wilson print; five pounds of organic almonds and a bottle of Testa wine; three bottles of Charbay vodka; three pairs of hand-dyed adult socks; a Craftsman Combo; an alpaca-blend neck scarf; a trip to the San Francisco Botanical Gardens; a hemp-pendant necklace; two tickets to see the Beach Boys, and much more.

The auction, deftly handled by Allman and master auctioneer Rachel Britten, evinced the generosity and community spirit of the attendees. Allman and Britten took turns auctioning the donated items, trying to best each other in encouraging top-dollar for the items.

One of the more interesting and creative art objects was a 3-foot-by-5-foot cooperative painting of Seabiscuit's victory over War Admiral. It was designed and coordinated by Willits artist Anna Judd, who utilized the visions of 70 clients, staff and volunteers of the Seabiscuit Center. She first did a gray-scale under-painting as a map. She then asked her associate artists to visualize a color that depicted their idea of what victory looked like to them and directed them to color an area with that color. What evolved was a dynamic visualization of triumph over adversity. The painting went, rightly, to Howard Hospital for the amazing

amount of \$7,700. Eventually it will be displayed prominently at the hospital.

Other items included a party with the Ice Box travelling-gelato truck of Laura Toomey and Nicole Flamer, which went for \$1,600; a pie a month for a year from Kemmy's Pies for \$700; two nights in Mendocino at the Sweetwater Inn (with massages and dinner) for \$2,100; a free-standing 25-bottle wine refrigerator (with wine from Willits Rotary) for \$3,600; a handcrafted bar by Cody Bartholomew, made from wood from an old blacksmith shop for \$3,700; a two-night stay at Holly Madrigal's casita in Mendocino for \$700, and several other great items.

In the middle of the live auction, a timeout was taken to introduce the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center to the attendees, most of whom were already familiar with the fine work done at the facility. One of the client parents, Emily Okie, told the crowd, with humor and warmth, of how her son, Finn, had benefitted from the program over his 10 years with them. Finn is noted for his design of the STRC logo.

Britten then ran her Cascade of Giving, in which the attendees could offer specific amounts of donations in \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100 and \$50 increments, at the end of which she stated that the last bid of the evening would receive a prize – a 150-year-old mystery chest, filled with an array of gifts. For about 15 minutes, bidders offered additional \$50 pledges in order to be the final bid and win the prize. Britten finally had to call the final bid as it would have gone on much longer into the night.

After a year hiatus, this event was held to a spectacular degree of success, beating all expectations and past receipts. Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center Copresident Lydia Senter Colvig said, "You can say we broke a record and that we cannot wait to announce the final numbers later this week."



Above: The workshop leaders take the group to a favorite lookout to view the pristine Willits watershed where a few of the reservoirs can be seen.

At left: Heather, a forester in the Mendocino National Forest, was part of the group and shows a pretty, yet invasive, non-native grass called Rabbit's Foot or Polypogon.

At right: This example of a grass shows the "feet on the ground" hook at the bottom of the grass just before its roots.

Photos by Ree Slocum

"We have those in the Willits valley and they absolutely need grassland. Meadowlarks breed and live in grasslands and need them, too," she said, and later told the group: "Meadow voles are the primary source of food for animals like the white-tailed kite, kestrels, coyote and foxes. So are the moles. They also tunnel, which aerates the soil and are nutrient cyclers."

Katherine Gabor, from Climate Action Corps, explained carbon sequestration in detail. For brevity's sake, here's the big deal about carbon sequestration as defined by USGS: "Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. It is one method of reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere with the goal of reducing global climate change." And, according to Gabor and the other presenters, native, perennial grasses sequester more carbon than most forests.

Gabor also described fire behavior and the role of fire in California. "Our premise for this discussion is that periodic fires are a natural and necessary process for the grass' vigorous health."

She read the California Native Grasslands

Association's statement: "When a grassland burns, more of the carbon is stored safely below ground in the roots and accumulated organic matter where it's less likely to be burned and released into the atmosphere." Which cycles around to climate change and this from the National Park Service: "Without fires, shrubs and trees will take over grasslands, effectively converting it to forest and non-native vegetation would spread." Thus, crowding out perennials that sequester large amounts of carbon.

Many things can be done to mitigate climate change. The workshop ended with participants making native perennial grass "seed bombs." It was a jovial time for them to discuss what they'd learned, ask final questions, and talk amongst themselves.

Everyone left more hopeful about the future health of the Little Lake watershed and the planet in general.

For more information about Conservation Works and upcoming workshops, visit [www.conservationworksnc.org](http://www.conservationworksnc.org). To find out more about the Willits Bypass Mitigation Land, visit [www.rcdprojects.org](http://www.rcdprojects.org).

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