

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 478

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Willits teachers turn out again to ask for better pay

Margi Gomez Guhde
Features Writer
margie@willitsweekly.com

More than 60 teachers from the Willits Unified School District, many carrying "Save Our Schools" signs, made comments to the school board members during the Public Comment section of the board's November 9 meeting. Many noted that WUSD pays the lowest teacher salaries in Mendocino County, and requested "Professional Pay for Professional Services."

Read the rest of
Teachers
Over on page 16

More than half of county vote still to report

Submitted by Mendocino County Elections Office

November 11 – Mendocino County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie announced that, as with every election, there are ballots left to be processed and counted as part of the official canvass of the November 8, 2022 statewide General Election.

Mendocino County has 17,080 Vote By Mail ballots to process and count, and 617 Provisional / Conditional ballots to review, process and count.

[Editor's Note: The initial election results, updated as of November 9, totaled 12,597 ballots cast countywide, so well over half the vote countywide is still to report in final results.]

By law, any ballot that is postmarked by Election Day (November 8) will be accepted through Tuesday, November 15, 2022, which may increase the number of ballots to process.

Read the rest of
Count
Over on page 15

Willits Weekly publishes on Wednesday on Thanksgiving week

As usual Willits Weekly will be published on the Wednesday of Thanksgiving week, on November 23 this year. Newspapers will be in the boxes and delivered to home delivery subscribers on Wednesday morning. Mail subscribers should get their editions on the day they usually do.

The deadline for any submissions for the Wednesday, November 23 edition is still end of day Monday – or until we run out of room. Please send to willitsweekly@gmail.com.



Above, from left: Inmates from the California Department of Corrections help load the 36 frozen turkeys – along with many of the fixings for the rest of the Thanksgiving meal – into the truck bound back to the camp. Patricia Austin, public information officer for CAL FIRE, attended this year's Turkey Toss, videotaping the annual shenanigans. Many hands make light work of moving the boxes and bags of ingredients that will become next week's free Thanksgiving meal. Below: Turkey Tossers Johnson, left, Singh, center, and Galloway right, are flanked by supervisors Officer Cerini and Captain Shishkin at left and Division Chief Heyfron and Sergeant Thomason, at right.



Turkey Toss 2022

Frozen fowl fly for annual photo at Willits Community Services and Food Bank for the upcoming free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

It's back to in-person dining for the annual free Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Willits Senior Center on Thursday, November 24.

Free dinners including turkey, potatoes, yams, stuffing, green beans, salad, pies, cranberries and rolls from Emandal will be served from 11 am to 3 pm – or until the food runs out.

The dining room at the center will have tables available for seating, and additional seating will be available out on the patio on the center's back veranda.

"We're doing all we can to keep our first post-COVID event as safe as possible for all," explained Ruthanne Volz, executive director for Willits Community Services and Food Bank. "We are spacing people apart and having our volunteers and the food preparers masked. We are not requiring masks for diners, but ask that no one attend who is feeling ill or is sick."

The inmates from CAL FIRE's Parlin Fork Conservation Camp will be back helping serve on the day of, but also

helping cook the 36 birds, all of the potatoes, and the stuffing for the meal.

"Parlin Fork is excited about getting back into the swing of things, serving the community post-COVID," said officer Cerini. "The inmates were excited to participate in the toss, and are looking forward to Thursday, too."

The in-person meal will no longer offer the drive-through / pick up option to the general public, however people who are included on the food bank's elder food delivery program will be delivered meals along with the list of folks who receive Meals on Wheels deliveries from the center for the holiday.

"We want to thank the many generous donations that came in from the community to allow us to purchase the food to make this meal a reality this year," said Volz. "We want to welcome everyone to come in, sit together, enjoy a meal, and have a great holiday at the center."

If anyone is interested in volunteering or helping at the dinner, Volz encouraged them to contact her directly at 707-354-3960 or call the food bank at 707-459-3333 for more information.

**FREE
THANKSGIVING
DINNER**
at the Senior Center
(1501 Baechtel Road)
11 am to 3 pm
on Thursday,
November 24



Above, left: The officers try their hand at the Turkey Toss. Above, right: Crates of potatoes also were loaded into the trucks along with the turkeys. Below: Inmates and officers pose together with staff and volunteers of Willits Community Services and Food Bank before the start of the toss.



BOS hears more on budget troubles

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The county's budget troubles were once again a big topic at last week's Board of Supervisors meeting on November 8. A CEO report from Darcie Antle turned into a wide-ranging discussion on the topic, including exploring how a multi-million dollar health care deficit managed to arise in the budget over the last few years, how the county might fill hundreds of vacant positions, and whether the county could afford a cost of living

Read the rest of
Budget
Over on page 6

December 13 hearing on Brooktrails rate increases

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

All directors were present at the November 8 Brooktrails Township Community Services District board meeting: Ralph Santos, Ed Horrick, Tony Orth, Tina Tyler-O'Shea and Board President Rick Williams. Township Counsel Chris Neary was unable to attend due to a commitment that he'd informed the board of at the last meeting.

The meeting began with General Manager Tamara Alaniz's report. "The Lift Station pump was delivered and you can see the payment listed in the

Read the rest of
Increases
Over on page 15

Fatal accident on Sherwood Road

Submitted by CHP, Garberville

On Friday, November 11, at approximately 5:20 pm, Joshua James Pence, 36, of Willits, was driving a GMC Yukon northbound on Sherwood Road, south of Birch Street.

For reasons still under investigation, while Pence negotiated a turn in the road, the Yukon crossed over the double-yellow lines into the southbound lanes and then left the roadway.

The GMC turned in a counterclockwise direction, which caused the GMC to overturn to its right and collide with a tree, resulting in the death of the driver. Pence was alone in the vehicle.

The California Highway

Read the rest of
Fatal
Over on page 15

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, November 17, Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Chips, Green Salad

Friday, November 18: Turkey, Stuffing w/Gravy, Cranberry, Veggie, Roll

Monday, November 21: Turkey Pot Pie Bake, Veggie, Roll

Tuesday, November 22: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Green Salad, Garlic Bread

Wednesday, November 23: Chicken Philly Sandwich, Potato Salad

Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25: Center closed for Thanksgiving

Community Thanksgiving Dinner, November 24: The Willits Food Bank will sponsor its annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner again this year, to be held at the Willits Senior Center on Baechtel Road on Thursday, November 24, from 11 am until 3 pm. Sit-down dinner. Free but donations accepted.

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm; Pancake Breakfast on the second Sunday of each month, 8 to 11 am, and exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.

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

THIRD DISTRICT
SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

November 2022
update

By Supervisor John Haschak

I am thankful that both Measure O and P seem to be headed towards victory. Measure O will fund the libraries for both operational and capital improvements. This is an important investment in our communities.

Measure P will provide additional funding to our fire departments and provide funding for fire prevention efforts. The passage of these measures will not increase the sales tax, but rather redirect the Measure B Mental Health tax.

I am also thankful for the people who run for office, win or lose. To have eight people running for three seats on the Willits Unified School Board is beautiful. I am also thankful that I won in the primary election, so my second term will start in January. It is an honor to serve Mendocino County's Third District.

The tree mortality declaration of emergency I sponsored passed. This will help bring attention, resources, and grant possibilities to our region as Lake, Napa, Sonoma have passed similar resolutions. We need to be proactive in dealing with this problem.

I have been working with the Fish and Game Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Planning and Building to introduce an item to protect streams, riparian, and wetlands. Currently Mendocino County has no protections, but the county General Plan says that we need to be protecting these resources.

The county is working on a grant for home hardening, defensible spaces, and fuel reduction in the Brooktrails area. The grant is through FEMA. It is an ambitious endeavor, and we will keep our fingers crossed.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Please reach out to me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.

Vegan Thanksgiving Potluck
in Laytonville

Submitted by L.O.V.E., Laytonville Organic Vegan Experience

Back by popular demand, the Fall in L.O.V.E. Vegan Thanksgiving Potluck celebration has returned from its COVID induced hiatus, and will be held this coming Sunday, November 20, from 4 to 6 pm at the Long Valley Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road, in Laytonville.

Sponsored by the Laytonville Organic Vegan Experience, this event is a real crowd-pleaser, featuring many traditional Thanksgiving favorites such as sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie, as well as many new and exotic plant-based dishes that will tantalize your taste buds and satiate your salivary.

Come join us in thanks to Mother Earth for providing us with an abundance of delicious and nutritious plant foods.

This is a vegan potluck, so please bring a dish that contains no meat, dairy, eggs, gelatin, bone broth or honey, and label if containing the common allergens – gluten, nuts or soy.

All are welcome to attend this vegan Thanksgiving celebration, but if you are feeling ill, as a courtesy to others, please stay at home. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Mendocino County Animal Shelter
Thanksgiving holiday hours

The Animal Shelter will be closed on November 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28.

The Animal Shelter will be monitoring the phone messages and Facebook pages for animal owners wanting to reclaim their lost animal. Arrangements can be made with staff to get owned animals returned.

Ukiah Animal Shelter Phone Number / 707-463-4427

Fort Bragg Animal Shelter Number / 707-961-2491

Annual Thanksgiving Community
Dinner, November 24

The Willits Food Bank will sponsor its annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner again this year, to be held at the Willits Senior Center on Baechtel Road on Thursday, November 24, from 11 am until 3 pm – or when we run out of food.

Sit-down dinner. Free but donations accepted.

– Willits Community Services & Food Bank

Calling all Mendocino County
photographers

As a resident and business owner in Mendocino County, I so appreciate the beauty around us. I'd like to assemble a "coffee table" book showcasing our surroundings and the vision of its residents.

This book will be underwritten by NC Financial Group and distributed to select clients, neighbors and businesses.

Submission Guidelines:

Free to enter for anyone living in Mendocino County – up to three submissions per photographer. Photographs are the property of the photographer and can be used for other purposes. Genre: flora, fauna, landscapes, people

Submit jpegs up to 5MB by Monday, December 19 to: pamelaa@ncfinancialgroup.com

Via email please provide a few sentences as to your insight and inspiration.

Aspect ratio: landscape, 16:9

Criteria: Uniqueness, take-your-breath-away-ness. Judging will be by a panel of three.

Decisions will be emailed by: Tuesday, January 9, 2023. Complimentary book for the featured photographers!

NC Financial Group is a boutique wealth management firm guiding individuals, families and businesses with integrated wealth planning.

We enthusiastically support the Willits Center for the Arts, Willits Rotary Club, Willits Community Theatre, the Greater Ukiah Business and Tourism Alliance, Frontier Days, and Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation, Looking forward to your participation! In advance, thank you.

– Nick Casagrande, NC Financial

WVW

Mendocino County Library Survey

Tell us what you think!

Contribute towards the long-term Mendocino County Library plan by participating in this online survey by the Mendocino County Library Strategic Planning Committee.

What do you want from your library? The survey should take 7 to 10 minutes to answer, and will close on December 1.

Paper surveys are available at the branch libraries, and to participate online, visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/mendolibrarysurvey

Programa especial del Museum
con Roots of Motive Power

En colaboración con el evento Roots of Motive Power Holiday Express, el Museo del Condado de Mendocino tendrá un horario extendido el sábado 3 de diciembre, de 11 a.m. hasta las 4 p.m., ofrecerá entrada GRATUITA e invitará al público a disfrutar de nuestras exhibiciones y actividades festivas. .

Nuestra exhibición de correspondencia con cartas, tarjetas postales, y recetas navideñas intercambiadas en todo el condado estará en exhibición. Pruebe a usar nuestra antigua máquina de escribir o escriba una nota a un amigo usando una pluma y la tinta. Una embarcación especial para llevar y fabricar estará disponible hasta agotar existencias.

Los visitantes también pueden ver la exposición recientemente inaugurada, Exploramos Juntos: Nuestra Alianza, que muestra el éxito de Nuestra Alianza en la preservación y el intercambio de la vibrante cultura de los amigos y vecinos latinos en la gran comunidad del condado de Mendocino.

Roots of Motive Power organizará el evento anual Holiday Express en Roots of Motive Power Yard and Engine House (al lado del museo) el 3 de diciembre, de 11 am hasta las 4 pm. Este evento familiar GRATUITO incluye trenes, golosinas, juguetes, y una visita de Santa. Para obtener más información sobre Roots of Motive Power y su evento anual Holiday Express, visite su sitio web: <https://rootsofmotivepower.com>.

Obtenga más información sobre el Museo del Condado de Mendocino y vea nuestro calendario completo de programas en www.mendocinocounty.org/museum. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con el Museo del Condado de Mendocino al 707-459-2736 o museum@mendocinocounty.org.

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Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013

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Cube Ramen Bar

New restaurant opens on Commercial Street, serving hot, delicious bowls of Japanese comfort food

Ever so quietly and without fanfare, a unique new restaurant has opened at 35 East Commercial Street, between Brickhouse Coffee and the Noyo Theatre at the site of the original Ardella's and most recently, It's Time. Cube Ramen Bar, named for the size and shape of the building, is currently offering only two selections, both ramen, one with a pork-based broth and the other a vegan selection.

The recipes are precise, subtly balanced, and tasty. They provide the consumer with a product that will both sate the hungriest of appetites and give them a satisfying blend of carefully selected ingredients to delight the palate.

This is the third venture for chef and owner Taylor Pedersen, who previously had the Ukiah Brewing Company and his first restaurant, Red Hill Station in San Francisco.

"I was looking for a new project and I saw this building which was already built out to be a small restaurant," explained Pedersen. "It's Time used to be in here. Naoko Sakane ran this place out of Ukiah. I was friends with them. I missed coming up here for noodles. I'm a ramen addict. I just think ramen is one of the most perfect forms of comfort food. It's what I gravitate towards whenever I go out, so I decided to open a ramen bar."

Pedersen grew up with ramen as a student in middle school.

"My love of ramen came naturally. I grew up in Japan part-time," said Pedersen. "I was an army brat. I lived all over the world before I got to California. I was in Japan for middle school and some of high school.

"I remember going to Ichiran Ramen all the time," he said. "It was my favorite place. It's a chain that started in the '70s. There were different stations for the food and drink and everything was super quick, which was the point of it. You could be a solo diner and go there for a quick meal. It was my addiction.

"We lived in Sagami-hara," said Pedersen, "which was about two hours from a suburb of Tokyo by train. The country was so safe my parents didn't worry about me. I would just ride the trains. I'd buy the cheapest ticket and if I got off at the same station that I got on, I didn't have to pay the fare and could ride the trains forever. I'd eat in the train stations. I would visit all the noodle bars in the stations."

Pedersen is a classically trained chef, having attended the French Culinary Institute in Manhattan. He had to train himself in the art of ramen, as he was not

Read the rest of **Ramen** Over on page 11

Photos by Mathew Caine

Above, from left: Many healthy foods are used in creating the ramen which is based in a pork broth. Owner and chef Taylor Pedersen takes a quiet moment in the bright interior, designed by local artist Robin Coomer. A bar was created out of local burnt wood from a fire in the 1950s. At far left: Cube Ramen Bar has quietly opened between Brickhouse Coffee and the Noyo Theatre. At left: Jesse Maples has been very helpful in creating the work flow and cuisine.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY, FAMILIES, AND KIDS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALL YEAR LONG

MAKE A BIG IMPACT SHOP SMALL

JOIN US FOR A SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY SHOPPING EVENT ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26 FROM 9 AM TO 12 PM

IN THE OLD REXALL PARKING LOT - CATERED BY LAURA FROM THE ICE BOX

FREE HOT BEVERAGES & PASTRIES

FREE SHOP SMALL SWAG & GIFTS

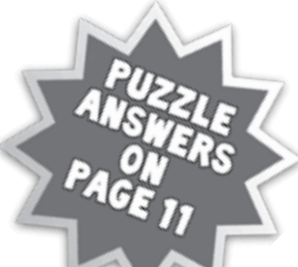
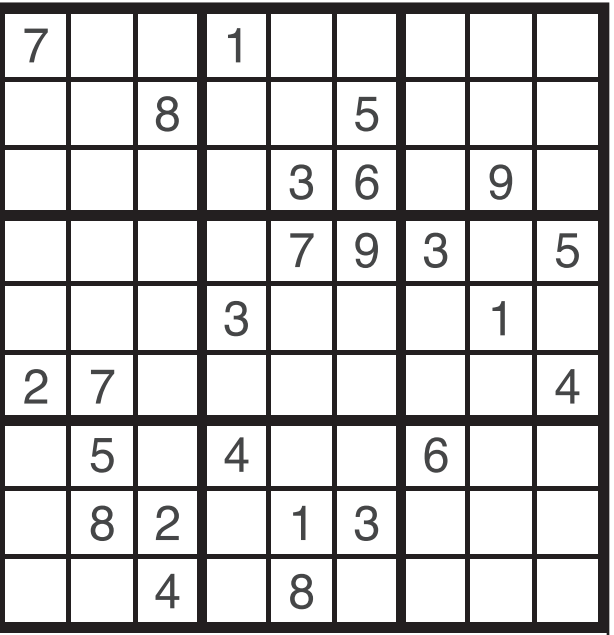
HEART OF THE REDWOODS

Willits CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Est. 1926

FOR MORE INFO ON CHAMBER MEMBERS OR HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER: WWW.WILLITS.ORG

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

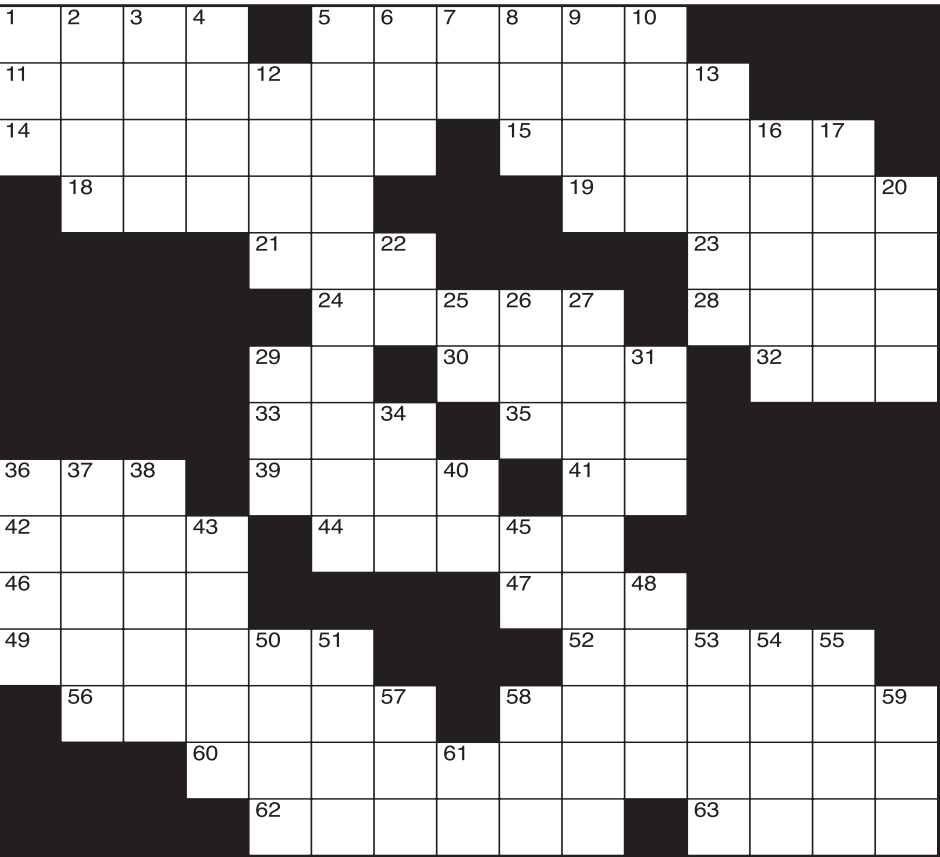


HOW TO SUDOKU
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using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

POULTRY WORD SEARCH

A	E	G	N	R	R	A	B	D	X	H	R	T	K	N	O	P	D	V	P	S
P	B	O	I	D	A	N	F	E	U	N	L	A	B	E	U	I	G	C	O	G
B	H	E	R	O	G	S	C	N	T	E	R	E	K	E	L	A	V	Y	O	H
O	I	E	R	Y	C	H	V	P	O	R	O	U	R	E	P	I	V	F	B	E
I	L	G	P	O	T	N	D	K	C	K	E	H	C	B	R	L	I	R	P	
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I	H	E	L	T	O	H	U	B	T	N	O	V	T	U	C	O	C	D	A	
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ALEKTOROPHOBIA	BIDDY	CLUTCH
ANTIBIOTIC	BIRD	DUCK
AVIARY	BOOTED	EGG
AVICULTURE	BROILER	FEATHER
BANDING	CAPON	HATCHED
BARBICELS	CARUNCLE	HEN
BARRING	CHICK	POULTRY
BEAK	CHICKEN	TURKEY



- CLUES ACROSS
- Greek mountain
 - One dependent on something
 - Gratitude
 - Glazed ceramic ware
 - Paddling
 - Step
 - More greasy
 - Upper-class young woman
 - Light beige
 - Belief in a supreme being
 - Indigenous people of Scandinavia
 - A beloved princess
 - Transfer property
 - Field force unit
 - Automated teller
 - When you hope to get there
 - Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - Politicians Fischer and Conroy are two
 - Blood type
 - Stringed instrument
 - Curses
 - Barbary sheep
- CLUES DOWN
- Klutz
 - Relaxing places
 - Expel saliva
 - The extended location of something
 - Certified
 - Cease to exist
 - Powerful legal pro
 - The OJ trial judge
 - Popular greeting
 - '90210' actress Spelling
 - ___ Blyton, children's author
 - 'This Is Us' star Fitch
 - Battery cell with a nickel alode
 - Full of bacteria
 - Remains of an old building
 - Exist
- CLUES DOWN
- It gets you into places
 - Witness
 - The spreading of a disease to another part of the body
 - Father
 - Touch gently
 - Licensed for Wall Street
 - Herring-like fish
 - Lute used in N. Indian music
 - Mirabel shouldn't talk about him
 - Atomic #62
 - Religious
 - Silvery-white metal (abbr.)
 - Influential civil rights organization
 - Acknowledgment (abbr.)
 - Turn away
 - Kidney disease (abbr.)
 - Smooth-feeling fabric
 - Competently
 - Sea eagle
 - General's assistant (abbr.)
 - It helps you see
 - Emerging technology

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

October 24 to October 30

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 111 incidents in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

October 24

6:04 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

6:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 22000 block of East Side Road.

October 25

5:45 pm: OVERCAST, Jennifer Marie (44) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and East San Francisco Avenue. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

October 26

3:33 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

4:16 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

October 27

10:07 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Valley Street and issued a warning.

10:33 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:58 pm: BRITTON, Kaiden Wade (22) of Willits was contacted in the 1300 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to felony charges of 11370.1 H&S (Possession of a Controlled Substance

while Armed with a Loaded Firearm) and 25850 PC (Carrying a Loaded Firearm in Public).

October 28

7:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of North Main Street.

7:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

8:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

October 29

1:46 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

10:54 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

2:48 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:09 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

October 30

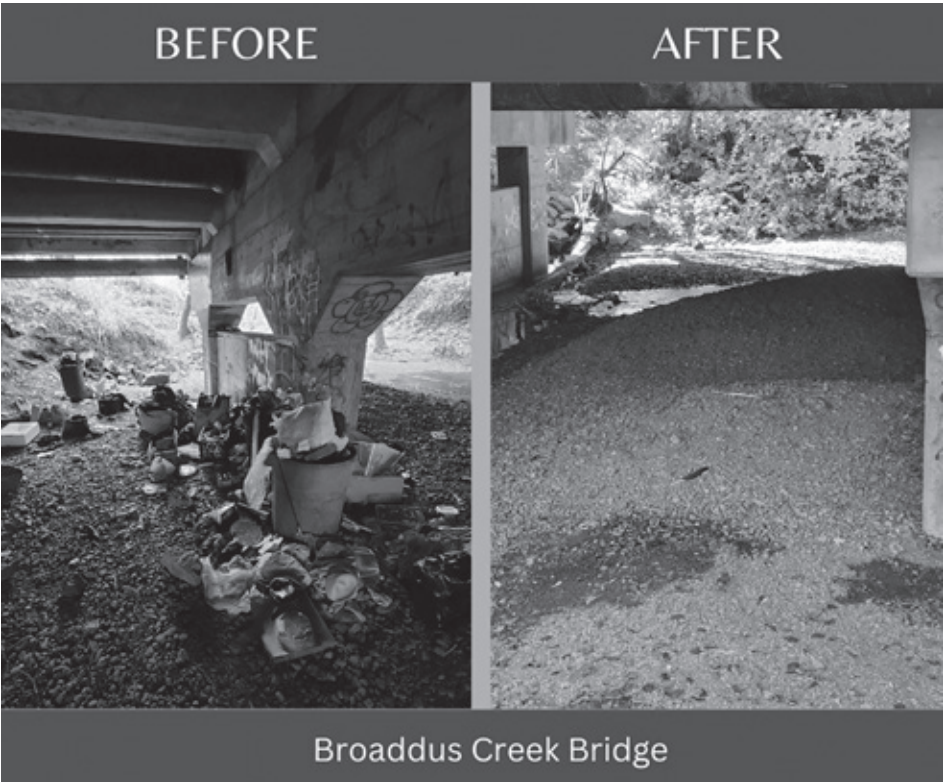
1:37 am: JONES, Donnette Rae (47) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of South Main Street and East Commercial Street. She was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol), 23578 VC (Penalty for High Blood Alcohol Content or Refusing Test), 14601.2 (A) VC (Driving with a Suspended License for DUI), and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher and driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher.



Public Works removes 9 cubic yards of trash
Thank you Public Works! City of Willits Public Works crews have been working diligently to clean up road debris and trash from transient camps along Railroad Avenue Bridge and the Broadus Creek Bridge along Main Street.

A total of 9 cubic yards of trash were removed. These efforts will help to protect our waterways and ensure the creeks may run smoothly during the storm season.

– Posted by City of Willits Community Development



Willits Weekly
Online & In Print



Above, left: Curtis Deshiell and John Frankum raise the flag as Willits residents and students look on. Above, right: Roger Ham greets diners Dave Beebe and Third District Supervisor John Haschak. Below: Roger Ham works on preparations for the breakfast drinks.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Remembering Their Sacrifice

American Legion Post 174 honors veterans with a breakfast and ceremony on November 11

On the 11th day of the 11th month at 11 am, the American Legion Post 174 went silent. It was a sign of love and respect for the thousands of veterans who had gone before them, many of whom had made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that the citizens of this country can have the freedom to practice the ideals of democracy put forth by the Founding Fathers so many years ago, although a short time in the history of civilizations.

Prior to the American Legion breakfast, the local scout troop was out on the streets of Willits, installing their multitude of flags along the sidewalks, a fitting beginning for the events to follow. Inside the Legion Hall, the members of the post were busily preparing for the breakfast that had not taken place since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had created isolation and the curtailing of social events.

It was obvious that this merry group of veterans, from



Above, left: John Frankum and Curtis Deshiell salute the flag after the raising. Above, right: George Froeschl mans the sausage station. Below: Rick Williams is an early breakfast attendee.



Happy Thanksgiving!

261 FRANKLIN AVENUE • WILLITS • 707-459-2529
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all services, was reveling in being able to offer their early morning repast to other veterans, first responders, scouts, and any citizen who wished to share a part of their Veterans Day in comradery with this good-natured bunch.

"I can only tell you a couple words of wisdom about Veterans Day," mused Roger Ham, Navy veteran. "I think it's high time that citizens of the United States truly remember veterans and the price that many paid for their freedom. I understand that young people have different priorities in life than those of us who are getting a little bit longer in the tooth. With this country divided, politically and whatever, let's all have some common ground about what it means to have a nation where you're free to say whatever you want, within certain reasonable parameters."

Ham believes that every young citizen of the country

Read the rest of Veterans Over on page 14

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Weaving time, weaving tule

Basket artist panelists at Grace Hudson Museum, November 19

by Roberta Werdinger, for Grace Hudson Museum

On Saturday, November 19, from 1 to 2 pm, the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah presents a panel discussion featuring four basket artists: Silver Galletto (Cloverdale Rancheria), Robin Meely (Graton Rancheria), Martina Morgan (Stewarts Point Rancheria), and Corine Pearce (Redwood Valley Rancheria).

All four artists are featured in the Museum's current exhibition, "Gathering Time: Pomo Art During the Pandemic," which includes 15 contemporary artists representing 10 Pomo tribal groups whose artwork reflects on the heartbreak of COVID and the cultural traditions that sustained them during lockdown.

For basket artist Robin Meely, creating baskets is a means of therapy, of stewardship to the land, and of creating bonds to her family and community, stretching into the past and future equally. Since basketweaving along with other Native practices fell away over the generations, it is a means of reclaiming "that culture that we lost to assimilation."

For Meely, that process of reclamation is still in its early stages: "I feel that I am just scratching the surface," she notes.

Raised in Yosemite Valley, Meely began learning the art of basketmaking at age 8 or 9, from her aunt, Julia Parker. Other teachers – including Silver Galletto, Corine Pearce, Martina Morgan, and Meyo Marrufo – helped her to develop and deepen her art. In her teenage years, she was taught "how to bead, to sew, how to use my hands."

Of mixed Native heritage that includes Coast Miwok, she participated in "powwow style" cultural events, where an assortment of tribes met, until she was told: "You have to go home to your people."

Relocating to Santa Rosa, Meely became involved with the Graton Rancheria, a federally recognized tribe of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo Indians. It was "one of the best things I have ever done," according to Meely, who was introduced to the plethora of plants that grow in the area – gray willow and green willow, redbud, sedge, bulrush, and tule. Harvesting a

plant is a process of exchange between two living entities – the basket-maker will offer a song, a prayer, even a strand of their hair in exchange.

Meely started working for the Graton Rancheria, which helped her in the often tricky process of accessing privately or government-owned land from which to gather material. Then the pandemic hit.

Fortunately Meely found a Facebook group called the "Pomo Weavers Society," started by fellow panelist Silver Galletto. Through this technological connection, the artists were able to strengthen their bonds and continue their traditional practices, even more important during a time of illness and isolation.

They also are engaged in the all-important work of passing their skills on to their children. Meely snapped a photo of her teenage daughter, Telele, while they were on their way back from a class in which Telele was weaving a cradle. Telele "holds that basket like holding a baby," Meely notes approvingly.

"It's very important to our culture to pass it down to the next generation," she continues. "The plants need us; the animals need us. Creator sent people to the earth so that they could tend the land. No matter where you come from in the world, you have a responsibility to take care of it."

The Grace Hudson Museum is at 431 South Main Street in Ukiah. The panel is free with Museum admission: \$5 general; \$12 per family; \$4 for students and seniors; and always free to members, to Native Americans, and to standing military personnel.

For more information please go to www.gracehudsonmuseum.org or call 707-467-2836.

All of the public programs tied to the "Gathering Time" exhibition have been made possible by a generous grant from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.calhum.org.

Stories in honor of the old Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital

Spotlight on Jodie Dalton, desktop support technician

Submitted by Shelby White, Adventist Health Howard Memorial

Our continued pride in Howard Memorial knows no bounds and certainly doesn't know an unfamiliar face – our next spotlight not only never did not know a face, name

or person at our old building, the same can be said for the new one too.

Jodie Dalton, desktop support technician for our team that works between Howard and Ukiah now, is truly a gem to our hospital. Having spent more than 41 years with our institution and truly enjoying every memory she has of it, we could not be more thrilled to have her on our team and spotlight her and her memories in honor of the previous Howard Memorial Hospital building.



Though it wasn't all play. "I know what you're thinking," Jodie said. "Did they work?" The answer? "Oh yes they did!"

Jodie is not only grateful for time spent with our team, past and present, but her family was touched by the work that happens each day at our hospital. "The old Howard hospital saved two of my family members, and I will never forget the care and compassion we all received we were there," she said.

Her granddaughter, now 18 and off to college this year, is healthy and well and Jodie can't thank the emergency staff enough for taking care of her that night.

Jodie's husband also had a heart attack a fateful 12 years ago, and he still going strong all due to the care they received at the hospital, Jodie credits. "Some of those people who took care of my family are still here today, and I say bless you and thank you for everything."

As a long-time associate on our team, Jodie's memories are far and wide of her time with us at Howard. "My memories of the old hospital are like a book. I have been blessed to make a whole new family. The laughter and tears, the hugs and being there for each other day in and day out. Those who were my friends here are now my family."

Some of Jodie's fondest memories are of Christmas parties, meeting up after work to spend time together, brown bag lunches where many of her and her coworkers would sit on the back lawn and eat together, laugh and enjoy each other's company. Even pitching in for departments that were short-staffed or staying up all night making pies for our Relay for Life team, nothing got past them and didn't make life at work fun.

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The rest of
Budget | From page 1

adjustment salary increase for their current workers.

The answer to that last question was a strong "no" according to CEO Antle, who said in her report that because of their current budget problems the county was not in a good position to raise wages for workers – and also that wages were fair when compared to other counties.

"From the outset of negotiations ... the county has sought a 'pause' on across-the-board increases for the year," Antle said in her report. "The need for a pause is the result of several critical events. First, the county is facing deficits due to a nearly \$5 million shortfall in the county's self-insured medical plans; a \$3.5 million decline in anticipated cannabis tax revenues; and sluggish growth in other revenue sources."

Antle did point out that county workers had received a 9% total pay raise between 2019-2021, and that the county is "offering a \$3,000 one-time payment to every county employee to be paid from [American Rescue Plan Act] funds."

Representatives of the Service Employees International Union Local 1021, which many county workers belong to, challenged many of the assertions of Antle, including that the county couldn't afford a COLA increase this year.

"First just a little bit of perspective," said SEIU 1021 Field Representative Patrick Hickey. "Our proposal for a cost of living adjustment would cost the county about \$1.2 million a year, which is often referred to as 'budget dust' when you're looking at a budget the size of the budget that Mendocino County has."

Hickey also argued against a statement in Antle's report that pausing wage increases would "ensure the sustainability of the [county] workforce and safeguard its ability to provide the public with core services."

"You've heard at this meeting this morning, but also at previous meetings that that's exactly what it won't do," said Hickey. "It will certainly not create any sort of sustainability. We're losing staff on a weekly basis. There are departments and units in Social Services that are having to shut down. We're losing people left and right. There's no sustainability to that. The services provided to the public are going to suffer and have been suffering and will continue to suffer."

According to Antle's CEO report, from July 1 to September 30, there were 236 requests received from various county departments to begin recruitments for positions, and 163 "recruitments in process."

The county received 1,276 applications in that time and hired 59 workers, but there were also 56 "separations," or people who left their positions.

County workers in the SEIU once again had a big presence at the meeting, holding signs and speaking out during public comments asking for the COLA increase, and expressing skepticism that the county couldn't afford it, pointing to high spending in other areas such as upgrades to the county jail.

A closed session special meeting was held two days later on November 10 where labor negotiations with the county workers continued, but at the end of the meeting Board Chair Ted Williams said there were "no reportable actions."

During the November 8 discussion, Williams seemed to find some common ground with SEIU's Hickey, saying that the board and county needed to take more large-scale actions to fix the issues in regards to worker pay, vacant positions, and the overall budget.

"I don't know if we're getting to the heart of the matter," he said. "I think we're talking about tuning a little bit here, tuning a little bit there. And that's great, I support it, but it strikes me that the board and the county need a vision. We need a strategic plan for how we're going to address the staffing and the operations."

"Most of the problems that I see – the top 10 – are operational in nature," he continued. "These are just fundamental operational problems, and the reality is we need more people, we need them to be paid better."

"Our revenue is not increasing much, maybe it's declining," he added. "That slope is not favorable, and we don't have a plan. How do we think any of this will be better in a couple years without a plan to get there? ... CEO Antle do you think it'll be better in two years?"

Antle responded, "Chair Williams, no I don't. There's a

number of factors, some of which we have discussed here, starting with the low wages. But I think you have bigger economic issues that are impacting the state and the fed as well, that are impacting us in small Mendocino. I think we need to take a hard look at what those impacts are going to be for the next two years," she said.

"I fully expect a state deficit which could hit our social services ... behavioral health and public health funding for the next few years along with the deficit at the federal government," she continued. "The decline in the cannabis – that impacts our sales tax as we all know, and possibly a decline in our property tax. Those are two of our largest sources of revenue coming into this county. So your idea of having a plan and a strategic plan ... I would say three to five years, is a good idea and welcome."

Williams told some anecdotes which he felt illustrated some of the "structural" problems with the county, saying that he had heard from one person who didn't get a call back about a county job application he had submitted for four months, and another who waited 14 months to get a permit to rebuild a deck.

"We need to be able to make a decision quickly," Williams said. "When there's somebody qualified and they're willing to work for us, there can't be no action for months and months. So I can think of a lot of other items that come up, but the heart of it is, the public doesn't think the county operates well."

"And I used to be the public looking at it thinking it's not operating well," he continued. "Now I get the advantage of seeing just how hard the people are working inside our county government. It's not the employees. There's something very wrong structurally, and we need to take baby steps to invent a plan and a vision that we think will address it. Maybe it fails, but if we continue with the status quo it will definitely fail. It's failing today."

Williams and Antle eventually agreed that a supervisor should work with her and the executive office to bring back an agenda item that would focus on some of the large structural budget and labor issues.

Also during the November 8 discussion, County Human Resource Manager William Shurtz talked of what resulted from a request by the board to look into eliminating some of the many vacant county positions to possibly free up some funding and streamline the work force.

The board had directed county staff to look into 27 positions specifically, but wanted to hear from the department heads first before eliminating any.

Shurtz reported that various department heads in the county rejected the idea to eliminate 25 out of the 27 positions being considered, saying they were too crucial, and so only two unfunded positions are now likely to be removed from the books.

One county department which is facing a severe lack of workers is Social Services, as Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren and Social Services Director Becky Emory laid out at the meeting.

Emory said that there are "100 vacant positions within social services", and that the caseloads are often around twice the amount for each worker that they should be.

She said the department has ramped up their recruitment and training efforts to try and fill the positions more quickly.

"We're bringing forward additional suggestions and ideas," she said, "and have been working through some of those for emergency funds for emergency response staff and recognizing those critical to fill positions. We are continuing to evaluate and are open to other suggestions."

Supervisor Mulheren said she hoped the board would act more quickly to give the social services department the help they needed.

"The work that your team members do is so important and critical. I often am really concerned that they don't feel supported by the board," she said. "This process of changing their salaries has been painfully slow.... We went through the RFP process, we're going through this painfully slow reclassification process."

"This conversation in our community really has to change as to how important our employees really are," she added. "And I just earnestly want to know what can we do differently? ... But please know and please let your department know that I'm happy to try to support that in whatever ways I can."

As for the county's health plan deficit, according to

Antle's CEO report it had ballooned to over \$8 million in the last few years, including a projected \$5.7 million for fiscal year 2021/22, and "an incurred but not reported loss)" of around \$2.6 million in fiscal year 2020/21.

"Rising costs are due to a variety of factors," said Antle, "including increases in the number and severity of claims, COVID claims, employees delaying preventative screenings due to COVID, and the cost of medical providers doing business. Even a few people getting very sick can create deficits."

The county did help to offset some of that health plan deficit with ARPA funds, putting \$4.6 million towards the growing gap.

The county was awarded \$16.8 million in American Rescue Plan Act money by the federal government, and the board gave direction to spend the bulk of it – \$10 million – on "core county services and infrastructure."

In some good news, Antle and some of the supervisors sounded confident at the meeting that they seemed to have fixed the structural health deficit issue by switching to a health plan with PRISM in October.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde pointed out that with the change the county switched from a "self-funded" plan to a "pooled" plan with a fixed cost over the next two years.

Antle said that the change in the health insurance plan would not increase costs nor reduce benefits for county workers, who typically pay around 25% of their health care costs with the county covering around 75%, although she said the county's share has ticked up in recent years.

Even with the improvements in the health plan moving forward, there was plenty of concern among the board about how the large deficit came to be.

Gjerde, who has served on the board since 2013, summarized what he saw as one of the big reasons – a "health holiday" several years ago where neither county workers nor the county paid any health care payments for three months out of the year for two years straight.

"It was represented to the board by the elected auditor, Lloyd Weer, that the state of California was telling him that the reserves were too large and that they needed to be drawn down," said Gjerde. "At the time, their proposal was to only extend the holiday to the employees. Well, the county, the plan sponsor, is paying 75% of the plan. So the board said, 'Well, we'll have the holiday, but both parties benefit equally. When employees have a pay holiday, so will the county.'"

"What the managers should have said was, 'Well, we weren't proposing that,'" he added. "'We'll need to scale that back to maybe one month, because both parties are having a holiday.' They never said that. They just went ahead and implemented a three-month pay holiday for both the employees and the employers, and they did not speak up, as they should have, and said, 'Well the math doesn't work with that.'"

County Counsel Christian Curtis said that the deficit continued to mount beyond the two years of the health holiday due to other factors. He also said that there may have been some "data entry errors" which added to the problem, although he didn't give much details as to what these might be.

When asked by supervisors, he couldn't tell them with certainty who had entered the financial data incorrectly, nor could he give assurance that it wouldn't happen again.

"We can't make such assurance, no," said Curtis.

"Certainly there's more to be reviewed, in terms of how did this happen, where some of the data entry errors may have occurred," Curtis noted. "Quite frankly I think a lot of the people who were involved have now retired, so the amount of information that we may be able to get in sort of pinning down what exactly happened may be imperfect. But what I do want to highlight for you is that this is not a one-time thing. You have a structural deficit there, and you are going to have to figure something out."

Deputy CEO Cherie Johnson, who worked in human resources at the time Weer was auditor, said that she did not know what state agency had told Weer that he needed to draw down the reserves.

The board ended up giving direction to ask former auditor Weer to give a report about what the state had told him, and also more generally how the health plan deficit came to be.

Thursday, November 17

Willits Farmers Market: This will be the last farmers market outside this year at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, since there won't be one on Thanksgiving and then it will be moving to the Little Lake Grange in December. Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm. Fresh, local produce, local meat, farm-fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. "Tobin's Tales" story time from the Willits Branch Library from 3:30 to 4 pm.

Shanachie Pub: Tyler Grass & The Sherwood Mountain Boys! "Come check out this new event every first and third Thursday evening of the month at 7 pm, with some of our favorite locals playing bluegrass & more!" Thursday, November 17, 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Friday, November 18

Willits Photography Club Show at the Willits Center for the Arts: This is the final weekend for this display. "With 15 photographers showcasing their work, it is an eclectic and exciting show." The gallery is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm, at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: willitscenterforthearts.org or call 707 459-1726.

"The End of Dystopia" at the Willits Center for the Arts: Written and performed by Felicity Artemis. "Performance poet Felicity Artemis is a spoken-word artist who blends radical truth-telling politics and spiritual reverence for the Earth into her art form. Her work expresses both outrage at the systems in place that are devastating the planet, as well as an avowed belief in the human spirit."

Friday, November 18, 6:30 door, 7:30 curtain. Tickets \$20 in advance and at the door. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, willitscenterforthearts.org.

Shanachie Pub: Stevie Cornell Trio: Stevie Cornell is a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist whose roots go back to the vibrant East Bay punk scene of the 1970s

What's Happening Around Town

and a band called the Young Adults. His eclectic approach to music is a result of the many twists and turns his musical journey has taken. But through it all he's stayed true to the idea that you can say it all in a tight three minute song." Visit steviecornell.com. Friday, November 18, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, November 19

Gift Bazaar at the Willits United Methodist Church: "Crafts, baked goods, white elephant table. There will also be a silent auction for a large hand stitched Amish quilt. All proceeds are used to help a family and our homeless population." Saturday, November 19, 10 am to 2 pm. Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street.



Funkacillin at the WCT Playhouse: "Originals and old school funk, rock and soul, part of the Willits Community Theatre's music series. Funkacillin aims to put your troubles on the back burner with a mix of originals and old school funk, rock and soul by heavy hitters including The Isley Brothers, Curtis Mayfield, Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin and Cold Blood, that will have you flashin' back to the days of paisley prints and platform shoes, and get your booty shakin!" Tickets are \$20 and available in advance and at the door. wctperformingartscent.org. Saturday, November 19, 7:30 pm. Willits Community Theater, 37 West Van Lane.

Shanachie Pub: Clay Hawkins Trio: "Blending rapid-fire fingerstyle slide guitar and honest, heartfelt songwriting, Clay Hawkins creates his own unique brand of acoustic rock. With long time co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass, the duo play what some say is, 'Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart', or, as the band calls it, 'Mountain House.'" Visit clayhawkins.com. Saturday, November 19, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

THAT'S RIGHT!

IT'S BACK!

Sunday November 20

Rita Hosking and Sean Federer at the Willits Center for the Arts: "Authentic American folk-music that stirs the soul. Northern California's Rita Hosking sings of forest fires, culture clash, dishes, rivers, black holes and hope. Her stories, songs and soul-stirring, country-folk voice are partnered with longtime collaborator and versatile multi-instrumentalist, Sean Federer, on dobro, banjo and guitar." Visit www.ritahosking.com. Willits Center for the Arts Great Room, 71 East Commercial Street. Tickets are \$25 and will benefit the WCA. Online or at the door. Visit willitscenterforthearts.org or call (707) 459-1726. Sunday, November 20, 2 to 4 pm.

Thursday, November 24

The Willits Food Bank annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner: "To be held at the Willits Senior Center on Thursday, November 24 from 11 am until 3 pm or when we run out of food. Sit-down Thanksgiving dinner. Free, but donations are accepted." Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baecht Road.

Friday, November 25

Shanachie Pub: A special Friday after Thanksgiving Forrest & Friends show featuring The Gyst with Sarah Rose McMahon, Malakai Schindel, and Forrest Glycer. Bring your friends and family to enjoy a post-Thanksgiving bash with some of the best local musicians and singer songwriters around! Other special guest performers will include Clay Hawkins, Isaac Frankie, Lhasa Summers and Greg Schindel. Friday, November 25, 7:30 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, November 26

2MuchFun! Band at Szechuan Restaurant: "2MuchFun! is multi-instrumentalist, Paul Haley, and guitarist/vocalist, Dave Pierce. They've teamed up to dish out a tasty buffet of family-friendly, musical favorites, sprinkled with original songs." Saturday, November 26, 6 to 8:30 pm. Szechuan Restaurant, 47 East Mendocino Avenue.

Sunday, November 27

30th Annual Willits Toy Run with an after party at the Little Lake Grange: The annual event to kick off the Willits Kids Christmas Program is presented by the Willits Wild Bunch. The day starts with a 'Meet and Greet' at the Evergreen Shopping Center. The motorcycle pack leaves at noon for a beautiful ride through Little Lake Valley to Little Lake Grange. Admission: one unwrapped toy and/or \$10. Raffle prizes, live auction, 50/50 raffle. Free lunch by Big Earl's BBQ. Beverages provided for additional donation. Music by DJ Mikey T. All bikes, riders and non-riders welcome to the Toy Run After Party at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Sunday, November 27, noon.



Mendocino College Repertory Dance Company, "Perspectives"

November 18, 19, 20

The Mendocino College Repertory Dance Company, under the direction of Eryn Schon-Brunner, presents "Perspectives," a captivating performance of contemporary dance, comic visual storytelling, ballet and Latin social dance. Dancers will bring to life new choreographic works by local and nationally esteemed choreographers: Stefan Haves, Trudy McCreanor, Devon Near, Kara Starkweather, Paloma Rodriguez, and Eryn Schon-Brunner; and the show features costumes by Kathy Katz. Performances are November 18, 19 and 20, in Mendocino College's Center Theatre on the Ukiah Campus. Friday and Saturday, November 18 and 19 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, November 20, at 2 pm. Tickets: \$15 general, \$10 students. Tickets are available at the Mendocino Book Company, and online at www.artsmendocino.org and at the door. CPVA Theatre, Mendocino College, 1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah. Call 707-468-3079 for more information or visit www.mendocino.edu/dance.



Native basketweaver panel, Grace Hudson Museum

Saturday, November 19

Grace Hudson Museum will present an artists' panel of Native basketweavers on Saturday, November 19, from 1 to 2 pm. Silver Galletto, Robin Meely, Martina Morgan, and Corine Pearce will talk about their art and practice. All have work in the Museum's current exhibit, "Gathering Time: Pomo Art During the Pandemic," featuring the work of 15 contemporary Pomo artists. 431 South Main Street in Ukiah. For more information please go to www.gracehudsonmuseum.org or call 707-467-2836.

County Bilingual Staff Pop-Up Display

Through November 27, Mendocino County Museum

"A pop-up exhibit featuring Mendocino County bilingual staff and services will be on exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits through November 27. This pop-up highlights and acknowledges the variety of county services available to the public in Spanish, and the dedicated staff that provide these services." The bilingual staff spotlight is in conjunction with the current bilingual exhibit, "Exploramos Juntos: Nuestra Alianza," showing through February

5, 2023. Info: 707-459-2736 or museum@mendocinocounty.org. Willits Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street.

Ongoing Events

Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl: "Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Game starts at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of 2, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we got everything you need!" Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main Street.

"Moving Meditation" Sunday Mornings at the WCA: Qigong & Taiji by Deviyana Livineh at the Willits Center for the Arts. "A practice designed to release tension, improve posture, and recharge energy." \$15 per class. For info call 310-990-8747, or email deviyanalivineh@gmail.com. Sundays 11 am to noon. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street.

Ceramics with Nancy New at the Willits Center for the Arts: Saturdays starting November 19: Course fee \$325, register online at www.willitscenterforthearts.org. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street.

Mendocino County Museum Presents "History Makers Recipe Challenge": "Kick-off the holiday baking season by participating in the Museum's Recipe Challenge! Bring your own recipes to share or pick up some historical recipes from the museum collection. Bakers Brenda Moss from Kemmy's Pies, Mariposa Market's Kathy Albright, and community member Nancy Walker accepted the challenge to bake pie recipes found within the Museum collection. Guest judges Gary Martin and Adam Celaya have determined the top choice recipe for this fall season!" The next will be on November 23, 1 to 3 pm. Mendocino County Museum in Willits, 400 East Commercial Street.

Downtown Willits Then & Now Walking Tour by the Mendocino County Museum: "Enjoy a self-guided walking tour of historic sites and businesses in Downtown Willits. Created in collaboration with Kim Bancroft and Judi Berdis and based on the 2016 Mendocino County Museum exhibit 'Main Street Willits: Then and Now.'" Sponsored by the Mendocino County Museum in Willits, 400 East Commercial Street. Visit www.mendocinocounty.org/departments/cultural-services-agency/museum/walking-tours.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank: Twice-monthly food distribution in Willits, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, located in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields, 9:30 to 11:30 am. Groceries to go, senior basket (for low-income seniors 60 or older), and diapers. The fourth Thursday in November is Thanksgiving, so don't expect a food distribution that week.

"Garraoke" at Diggers Bar: Karaoke night the second and fourth Friday of every month, with host and DJ Garrett Moore. "From 8 pm to midnight, then get down until closing!" Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street. The next will be on Friday, November 25, 8 pm.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street

Open Mic Night: Every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises."

Saturday Scramble: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, Tyler B hosts a 'Saturday Scramble'. You're invited to bring any instrument you can play and sign up for a 'band' to perform a 15 minute set with other local musicians. Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!" The next will be on November 26, 3 to 6 pm.

Tyler Grass & The Sherwood Mountain Boys! "Come check out this new event every first and third Thursday evening of the month at 7 pm, with some of our favorite locals playing bluegrass & more!" The next will be on November 17, 7pm.

'Students Respond to the Figure,' Mendocino College Art Gallery

Opens November 17

The Mendocino College Art Gallery is proud to announce a new exhibition "Students Respond to the Figure," curated by Jazzminh Moore and featuring her work along with several other Willits artists opening on November 17. Opening reception is set for December 1 from 4 to 6 pm, w/light refreshments. "Special interest is given to inspired works that go beyond basic formal technique and/or venture into more subjective terrain, with 20 students from diverse backgrounds participating in the exhibition." From November 17 to December 5. Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 3 pm; Wednesdays, 3 to 6 pm. Mendocino College Art Gallery, 1000 Hensley Creek Drive, Ukiah. Info: www.mendocinocollege.edu/gallery.



Thanksgiving Vegan Potluck, Laytonville

Sunday, November 20

The Long Valley Garden Club presents the "Fall in L.O.V.E. Thanksgiving Vegan Potluck," Sunday November 20, from 4 to 6 pm. "Back by popular demand, this Vegan Thanksgiving Potluck celebration has returned from its COVID induced hiatus, and will be held this coming Sunday, November 20, from 4 to 6 pm at the Long Valley Garden Club in Laytonville. Sponsored by Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience (L.O.V.E.), this event is a real crowd-pleaser, featuring many traditional Thanksgiving favorites such as sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie, as well as many new and exotic plant-based dishes that will tantalize your taste buds and satiate your salivary. Please bring a dish that contains no meat, dairy, eggs, gelatin, bone broth or honey, and label if containing gluten, nuts, or soy." Sunday, November 20, 4 to 6 pm. Long Valley Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road, Laytonville.

COVID-19 vaccines are here for children 6 months and older.

Help protect your little ones. Call for an appointment today.

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ARTS

PRESENTS THE 35TH ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

Friday, December 9th 12 pm to 7 pm.
Saturday, December 10th 10 am to 4 pm.

The fair will be held at the Willits Community Center. Live Music, Food and Beverages by Willits Charter School.

Willits Community Center 111 East Commercial Street
Willits Center for the Arts 71 East Commercial Street

For more information: willitscenterforthearts.org

MENDOCINO COLLEGE

STUDENTS RESPOND TO THE FIGURE

COLLEGE GALLERY

NOV 17 - DEC 5

East Hill Veterinary Clinic

Full Service Grooming Salon

Call or text for an appointment.

707-459-5236

all pets must show proof of current rabies and Bordetella (kennel cough) vaccine

-Bath and Brush
-Face, feet, fanny trim
-Full service grooming

WILLITS Commercial St.

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FOOD! CRAFT FAIR! & MORE!

Imagination Station EDUCATIONAL TOY DISCOUNT 15% OFF STORE WIDE!

ACE COPY & SHIPPING GRAND OPENING!

TAKE PICTURES WITH OUR GRINCH

No appointments. Tickets available in Toy Dept. Pictures are \$5 per group and will only be offered as digital images.

Long Valley Garden Club PRESENTS

Fall in LOVE

Thanksgiving VEGAN POTLUCK

Sunday, November 20th 4:00 to 6:00 pm 375 Harwood Rd, Laytonville, CA

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

Wine and LOVIN' Vegetables & Organic Vegan Experience

SPARETIME -GARDEN CENTER- 208 E. San Francisco Ave. (707) 459-6791

FARM FRESH CHRISTMAS TREES AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 25TH!

WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm Sunday: Closed

HAPPY HOWLIDAYS!

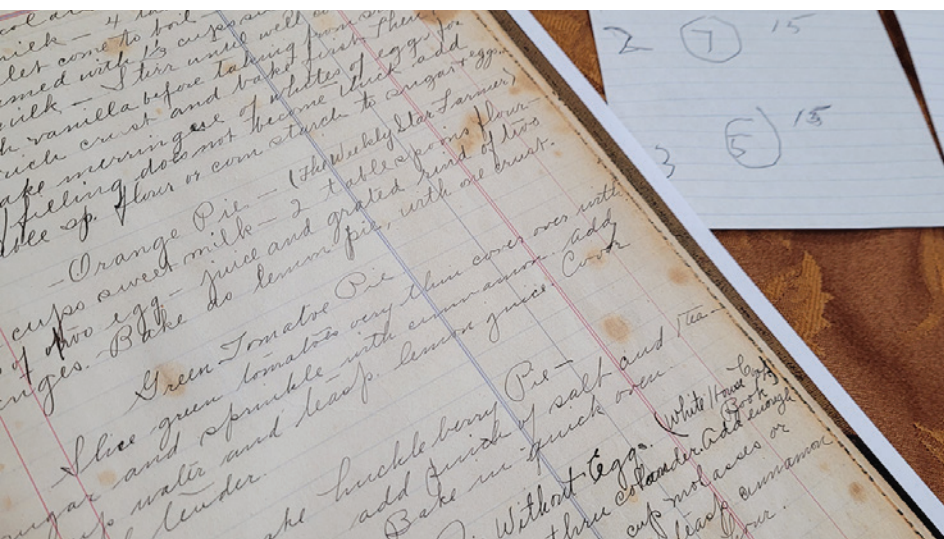
FROM Willits Animal HOSPITAL

20000 Hollands Lane • Willits, CA 95490 707-459-6723



Above, from left: Baker Brenda Moss offers up a smile and her entry, a Chocolate Custard pie without chocolate. Baker Kathy Albright holds her entry, an orange pie, at Mariposa Market. Tallying the scores, including orange pie and chocolate custard pie (without chocolate). Below, left: Chef Adam Celaya judges the odors of competing pies. Below, right: Judge Gary Martin reviews the pie scores. At bottom: A page of pie recipes from the Mendocino County Museum's collection of historical recipes.

Photos by Karen Mattson



DEPARTING WILLITS ONLY
For the Whole Family
NOV. 26-DEC. 31

Trains leave from downtown Willits located just off Highway 101.

Tickets regularly \$59.95
Local's price \$47

Locals price for residents of Mendocino, Lake, and Humboldt Counties
Tickets claimed in person upon showing ID with address
Must Call to Make Reservations
(Online reservations are full price)

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‘History Makers!’

**Museum Collections hosts
Holiday Pie Recipe Challenge for local bakers**

By Karen Mattson, for Mendocino County Museum

Local pie experts Brenda Moss, talented manager and baker at Kemmy's Pies, Nancy Walker, locally renowned pie baker, and Kathy Albright, famed savory chef of Mariposa Market, accepted the Mendocino County Museum's Holiday Pie Recipe Challenge.

Each baker was asked to create a pie from the Museum's collection of historical recipes, which were selected from what is fondly referred to as the "Northwestern Cookbook." This cookbook belonged to Ms. D.W. Crockett, wife of Dennis William Crockett, who was listed in the census as a storekeeper in the once-thriving mill town of Northwestern in 1908, which is now known as Brooktrails. The recipes contained within are hand-written, kept in a ledger, and attributed to close friends and acquaintances.

The pie recipe options provided to our bakers were: Sweet Green Tomato, Huckleberry, Orange, Eggless Pumpkin and Chocolate (custard). After a bit of hemming and hawing, each baker selected their recipes: Orange, Chocolate Custard, and Eggless Pumpkin. Our bakers were instructed to follow the recipe to the letter.

Our judges were self-proclaimed pie aficionados, Gary Martin and Adam Celaya, who faced a particularly blustery cold morning to visit the Museum and participate in the much-anticipated tasting event. Always devoted to his work, Martin admitted to skipping breakfast in preparation for his duties.

The judges were served a small slice of each pie. They then proceeded to carefully smell and sample each piece in order to make the difficult decision. The judges could not determine if they liked the Orange or Custard best, until Gary Martin exclaimed, "can we have a pie-tie? These are all so good!" While tasting the orange pie, professionally trained chef Celaya stated: "Not everyone can make a stiff meringue. This is perfect!"

To everyone's amusement, it turned out that each talented baker had chosen a recipe that proved to be quite a challenge to prepare. Nancy Walker was not certain what to do given her recipe called for three times the normal amount of pumpkin and unusually hefty amounts of spice.

Brenda Moss flashed a wide smile when reporting that, after reading the recipe carefully three times, her chocolate pie recipe did not list chocolate as an ingredient, making her chocolate custard a vanilla custard.

Read the rest of
Recipe | Over on page 13

**Trailer & RV Supply**

Giving Thanks

10% Off Sale!

On all load Trail and Enclosed trailers in stock for the month of November.



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NEW STORE HOURS:
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-5 • SATURDAY 9-1

LEGAL NOTICES

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

WW405

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willits City Council, at a special meeting on November 28, 2022, at 6:00 P.M., will conduct a public hearing held via teleconference, on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

SUBJECT: Review and Consideration of the Adoption of the Permanent Local Housing Allocation Plan

REQUEST: To approve the Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) Plan, to which \$553,857, the entirety of the City's Permanent Local Housing Allocation for years 2019-2023, was allocated. The Permanent Local Housing Allocation Plan proposes using PLHA funding to implement an owner-occupied home rehabilitation loan program, offering low or no interest loans to homeowners under 120% of the Area Median Income. Generally, the program will provide rehabilitation home loans for activities including but not limited to bringing properties up to current code standards, implementing energy efficiency upgrades, accessibility upgrades, repair, or replacement of major systems such as HVAC or plumbing, abatement of asbestos or lead paint, or other activities which will prevent deterioration, extend the lifespan of the dwelling, and support homeowner affordability.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adoption of the Permanent Local Housing Allocation Plan

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: The Draft Permanent Local Housing Allocation Plan is available for public review at: <http://www.cityofwillits.org/>. The City of Willits encourages all interested parties to participate in the public hearing and to comment on the issues being discussed. Members of the public may participate and provide public comment as follows:

•Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Dusty Duley, dduley@cityofwillits.org, no later than 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490. All public comments received will be provided to the Council and uploaded to the City's website in advance of the meeting.

•Oral public comments may be presented to the Willits City Council via teleconference during the public hearing. To address the Council during the live meeting please find the meeting-specific link to the teleconference included on the agenda for the November 28, 2022 City Council meeting that will be posted on the City's website. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony on this matter.

In order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the City of Willits is currently conducting some public meetings pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act and the way the public can participate during the public meetings. Participation in the public meeting will be allowed pursuant to applicable Executive Orders at the time of the public meeting.

Participation is expected to be through electronic means as posted on the City Council meeting agenda for the November 28, 2022, special meeting. This allows the City to adhere to social distancing requirements, follow the Governors' Executive Order N-29-20 and provide a way for the public to provide public comment live during the meeting.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the public meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 459-4601. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

/s/ Dusty Duley
Community Development Director

Posted 11/17/2022

Publication Date: November 17, 2022

Marc Komer
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(707) 459-2775
245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY


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

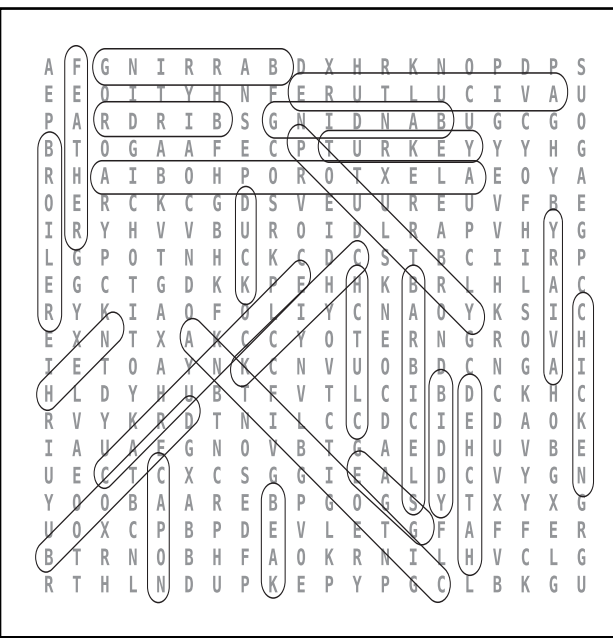



Willits Elementary Charter School

is seeking bids for the repainting of school buildings.
Prevailing wage not required.
Bid closing date 12/9/22.

Please contact Charlene Bredder at 707-459-1400.







Invites applications for:

Account Specialist II/III
Air Pollution Control Officer
Corrections Deputy
Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer
Deputy Director of Transportation – Administration and Business Services
Deputy District Attorney I/II/III
Deputy Probation Officer I/II
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
Juvenile Corrections Officer
Juvenile Corrections Officer – Extra-Help
Legal Secretary II
Office Services Supervisor
Registered Nurse
Senior Public Health Nurse
Senior Substance Abuse Counselor
Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D
Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C
Substance Abuse Counselor I/II

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca
EOE

LEGAL NOTICES

WW402

AMENDED SUMMONS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: JETT JENNINGS, also known as LAURENCE J. JENNINGS; DOES 1-50, inclusive, Case Number: HG21100522

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: CHERIE Y. SONG, THE BAYSIDE COURT OWNERS ASSOCIATION, a California corporation.

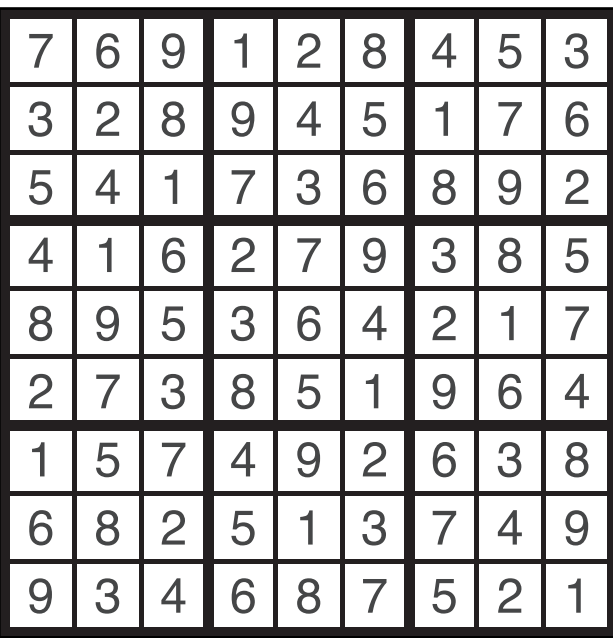
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: the court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

The name and address of the court is: Alameda County Superior Court, 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: Christopher J. Neary, 110 S. Main St., Ste. C, Willits, CA 95490, Telephone: (707) 459-5551

The real property subject to the complaint to quiet title is located at 2858 Filbert Street, Oakland, California 94608 and commonly referred to as Unit B, and also commonly referred to as Alameda County Assessor's Parcel No. 005-0453-065, formerly Assessor's Parcel No. 005-0453-065-2 and more particularly described in that certain Grant Deed dated on or about May 13, 2020 and recorded in the Official Records of Alameda County on or about February 23, 2021 as Instrument No. 2021075559.
Publication Dates: October 27, November 3, 10, 17, 2022



CLASSIFIEDS

Antique Baby Pram For Sale
Genuine Silver Cross Balmoral vintage baby stroller/carriage/pram for sale in Willits. Antique, but functional condition, huge, fabulous and perfect for living your British nanny dreams. \$450/obo 707-972-7047.

Help Wanted
Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic is hiring. Looking for a Phlebotomist to draw blood to send out and to run CLIA waived tests. Please pick up an application or drop off a resume at 1245 S. Main Street, Willits.

Computer Help
Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearhail@gmail.com

John Ford Ranch Beef
John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$325.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$150.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.

For (Almost) Free
Willits Weekly runs our classified ads for just \$10 for 30 words for two weeks - in print and online, too! Add yours by emailing willitsweekly@gmail.com

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tp>

For Lease
Small office or salon space for lease. 75 South Main Street in Willits, near City Parking lot and/or street parking. For appointment and more information, call Virginia at: 707-459-2927.

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

The rest of
Ramen | From page 3

able to travel to Japan for the Japanese Culinary Institute due to the COVID restrictions, despite having been accepted.

"I've been having a lot of fun trying a bunch of different methods of making a pork broth and I think I really stumbled on my own." But Pedersen persisted. "I've been through so many versions I can't count them. I've tried all parts of the pig, a 48-hour pork-head broth which was so gelatinous, it was completely solid after refrigeration. It was a wild boar which had a little gaminess to it.

"Now, I've settled on a broth that comes from around the pork belly and a perforated skin. I think that's giving me the best result. The stock is made separately by boiling sheets of seaweed with shitake mushrooms. It leeches all the salt out of the seaweed. Also, a garen seaweed which adds to the viscosity of the broth. I juice fresh ginger and I mix that into my broth to wake the palate up in the back and all around your mouth.

"Our flagship, our main recipe, is going to be Tonkotsu Ramen. It's a pork-based broth that is very gelatinous, fatty, creamy. We're serving it with a marinated boiled egg, seaweed, mushrooms, all the different ramen toppings that you would expect.

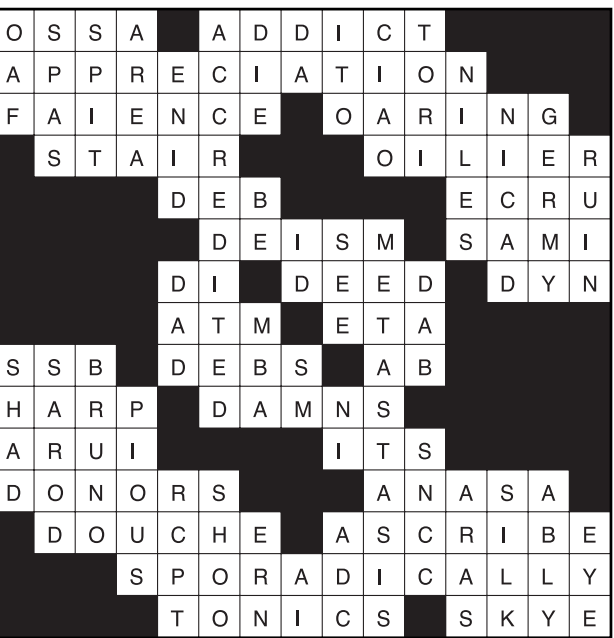
"We've made a black-garlic oil and a three-chili spice bomb, which is a combination of the chilis, miso, honey, some seasoned salt that we took some fresh ginger which we ground up with some herbs.

"We're also going to have a vegan, gluten-free selection. You can have a choice of noodles, the fresh ramen noodles or the gluten-free rice noodles. The broth we're working with is a caramelized-onion shitake-mushroom combo. It has kombu seaweed, sesame paste, oat milk."

Pedersen hopes to create a 10-item menu eventually, but for now, he is keeping it simple in order to learn the flow of his tiny kitchen. His 40-ounce broth with 15 ounces of noodles and other materials, sells for \$18 and he plans to offer a smaller size for \$10.

"It's comfort food that's healthy and quick. It can be fired in a minute. That's also what appeals to me about ramen. All the prep is done beforehand. When it comes to service, it's an assembly process which is very quick. We make it satisfying for the customer and it's a really good product. It takes us days to properly prepare the broth ahead of time. All the components are premade and are ready to add to the broth."

For now, the hours are 11 am to 8 pm, open Tuesday through Sunday, closed on Monday.





SALE
SALE
PINK FRIDAY
11/18/22
9AM-6PM
Follow our Social Media Post
for our upcoming
Black Friday Sale



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Presents
Rita Hosking and Sean Feder
Authentic American folk-music that hits the soul.
Alan Harrison

Sunday, November 20
2 PM
Brought to you by Willits Center for the Arts and The Willits Chamber of Commerce.
Advance tickets are available for \$25.00
visit
willitscenterforthearts.org/events-and-classes
71 E. Commercial Street, Willits, 95490



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Residential • Commercial • Industrial
mike@3sonselectric.net
CA 1081690
2010 Industry Rd, Ukiah CA 95482 707-462-1660

National Forest Christmas tree permits now available

Submitted by Mendocino National Forest

Willows – The Mendocino National Forest began selling Christmas tree permits online at Recreation.gov on November 4.

“Cutting your own Christmas tree on a national forest is a special experience for several reasons,” said Joseph Rechsteiner, acting forest supervisor for the Mendocino National Forest. “The Christmas Tree Program helps people connect to our public lands and helps families create treasured memories together. It also benefits forest health by removing the small-diameter, over-crowded trees, and opening more areas for wildlife foraging for food.”

To purchase a Christmas tree permit, visit www.recreation.gov/tree-permits/ and search by forest name or use the interactive map to explore locations. Be sure to carefully read the overview, need-to-know information and other guidelines prior to purchasing the permit. Visitors will need to create or log in to a Recreation.gov account to complete the transaction.

A permit must be purchased, limited to one per household. On Recreation.gov, visitors have the option to purchase up to three trees. The cost for 2022 is \$10 per tree, and with a \$2.50 transaction fee. The number of permits is limited and will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Permits are good through December 31, 2022.

Persons must be at least 18 years old to purchase the permit. All Christmas tree permit sales are final; no refunds will be made. Christmas tree cutting will be allowed only in specific areas in the Mendocino National Forest.

When heading out to the forest to cut a Christmas tree,

officials remind visitors to follow these important tips for a safe and enjoyable experience:

- Plan your trip and check the weather forecast.
- Bring plenty of warm clothes, water, food, tire chains, shovel, a saw or axe to cut your tree and a tarp and rope to bring it home.
- Keep vehicles on designated roads and be prepared for changing weather and road conditions. Be aware of safety hazards when traveling through a burned area.
- Remember cell phone service may be unavailable, so carry emergency equipment in vehicles.
- Cut the tree early in the season before favorite cutting areas can't be reached because of snow.
- Make sure you are cutting a tree on the Mendocino National Forest within the designated Christmas tree cutting area and not on other federal, state or private lands.

- Cut the tree as close as possible to the ground and leave as short a stump as possible.

- Print your permit and make sure it is visible on your vehicle dashboard. If you purchase a permit in-person at one of our offices or vendors, you will receive a tag that needs to be tied to your tree when you transport it home.

Permits can be also purchased by mail or in person at the Willows or Upper Lake Ranger Stations. If purchasing in person, individuals can purchase one permit per household and one tree per permit. Several local vendors will also be selling Christmas tree permits.

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



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Gentle Finn

Finn is a happy and intelligent big guy. He knows “sit,” “shake” and “down.” He is good with other dogs and loves to play. When we got him, he was said to be “food aggressive,” but he lives with another Great Pyrenees, and we have not seen that. He likes to ride in the car and loves people. He does pull on the leash, and he is strong. He does not seem interested in cats, pigs or chickens.



Finn needs an active family who will be responsible dog owners. He will need a yard with a high fence, and would love daily exercise. Great Pyrenees dogs tend to be strong-willed and fearless, which is a counterbalance to their good and gentle nature.

Finn is really a character with a big heart. He needs a great home, and is ready for you to come meet him!

To learn more about Finn 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.

Hopeful 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 HSMC



In February. 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 is.

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 enjoy life

once again! We don't know much about Roger's past but we have a chance to rewrite his future!

Let's talk about Roger! Contact our dog team for more info! He 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.mendohumaneociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Athletic Tommy

This good-looking guy has been in a foster home with his brother, Bear, for the last few weeks, and both have become very friendly cats who love people and playing with other cats. They are sweet, athletic, and very playful. Tommy is the big-boy kitten in the litter and will grow up to be a big, handsome boy.



Tommy is available for adoption at the Fish Out of Water pet store in Willits.

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 Tommy or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendooanimalshelter.com.

The rest of **Trees** *From page 12*

Officials recommend that visitors call ahead to check hours and availability at the following offices and vendors:

- Mendocino National Forest Supervisor's Office, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 9598, (530) 934-3316
- Upper Lake Ranger Station 10025 Elk Mountain Rd., Upper Lake, CA 95485 (707) 275-2361
- Covelo Ranger Station 78150 Covelo Rd., Covelo, CA 95428, (707) 983-6118
- Upper Lake Grocery 160 E. Hwy 20, Upper Lake, CA 95485, (707) 275-2380
- M&M Feed, 74540 Hill Rd., Covelo, CA 95428, (707) 983-6273
- Keith's Family Foods 76201 Covelo Rd., Covelo, CA 95428, (707) 983-6633
- Covelo Volunteer Fire Department, 75900 Covelo Rd., Covelo, CA 95428, (707) 983-6719
- Sacramento River Discovery Center 1000 Sale Ln., Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 527-1196.



Willits Weekly
Online & In Print

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

‘Black Panther: Wakanda Forever’

The Story: Marvel Universe flick continues the saga of Wakanda, the technologically advanced African city. Also, it is the origin story of the undersea superhero Namor (Tenoch Huerta). Black Panther has died. Wakanda is in mourning.

Meanwhile, Riri (Dominique Thorne), an American 15-year-old MIT super genius has designed a machine that can detect “vibranium,” the elemental source of Wakanda's power. The underwater nation ruled by Namor kidnaps Riri. Seemingly, the CIA wants her as well.

The Wakandans protect Riri from being killed, while searching for a new Black Panther. Stirring speeches and all sorts of battles with super weapons make up much of the movie.

My Thoughts:

Chadwick Bozeman, the original Black Panther, died of cancer in 2020. So, “The Panther is Dead!” and we the movie audience are just expected to accept that he's dead while watching his family and nation mourn his loss.

Then, we all celebrate a horde of muscular women warriors in bright costumes who brandish swords and spears, and guard Wakanda (and rock the Noyo with chants and stomping dances). Or at least, that's my memory of what I experienced on the big screen for two hours and 41 minutes.

It's all an uproar over a 15-year-old girl. A lot of fights, no blood. This flick's sound and fury is clearly aimed at a teen demographic, plus 10-year-old boys and girls, who all want to be bigger and stronger and braver, and somehow more gloriously alive. I think that's pretty much a fine thing.

Parents: Too hectic and noisy for the little ones. Let the bigger kids enjoy. They will. Besides, the movie honors mercy for one's enemies. In this cinema world of slasher vengeance flicks, that is a rare good message.

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

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

‘Wrecker’: a brief review

“Wrecker” is a homegrown movie! Not since “Toxic Avenger” has there been a comic middling masterpiece so wretched, so perfect, so cartoonishly anti-Catholic and, at the same time, so right-here-in-Willits!

Movie protagonist John “Wrecker” Knox takes muscular vigilante justice to new lows as he slams his sledgehammer on the balls of Smirking Rapists of Screaming Young Women. Such screaming victims are an exploitation cinema staple which Willits local, writer-director-lead actor, Bryan Brooks makes appropriate use of in his fictional city of trashy assassin pole dancers and zombie flesh-eating drug addicts known as “Trinitarians.” Or, from time to time, and much more epically: “The Trinitarian Horde!”

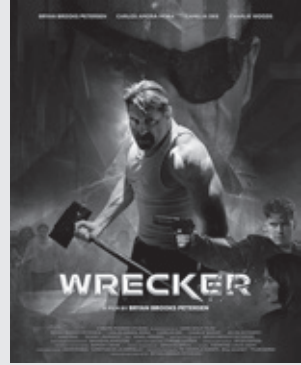
John Knox is effective at his vengeful craft, but he has been making powerful enemies. So now the Smirking Bad Guys are hunting him. And they have dastardly plans. It's all about mind-control. And bad drugs.

In choosing to shoot much of his movie in and around Willits, using (low-cost, but still theatrically effective) local actors, writer/director Brooks has made a (dare I say it) brilliant choice. Not to be too self-congratulatory, but we are a town full of talent.

Though I don't want to get too political in the midst of a review of this sometimes clunky, though still quite funny zombie flick, “mind control and bad drugs” are subjects we in Willits, the spiritual epicenter of the Emerald Triangle, know extremely well. For decades, we Willitsians have fought for the right to grow “good drugs” while fighting against the mind-control and bunkum of the anti-cannabis federal “cartel-oid” known (with unconscious self-mockery) as the DEA.

But enough politics! This is a damn fine flick. Conceptually, it's for the discerning (and quite often inebriated) viewers, and makers, of low-budget (but committed to the genre) sex-and-violence trash. That includes me. Thus, hooray for you, Bryan Brooks; the Soul of Roger Corman salutes you from up above, from Heaven's Projection Booth.

“Wrecker” is available to rent on Amazon Prime.



OBITUARY |

Doug Nord

Douglas George Nord, 76, passed away Sunday, November 6, 2022. He was born September 27, 1946 in Saint Louis Park, Minnesota, to Cyril Russell Nord and Dorothy Marie Hlavac Nord, the youngest sibling of David, Mary, and late sisters Lois and Joel.

He leaves behind his wife of 48 years, Kay (Matson), sons Luke and Brady, daughter-in-law Aimee, and grandchildren Micah and Lilah.

In 1967 he enlisted in the Army and went to Vietnam as part of the First Air Cavalry, intercepting radio signals from a helicopter. During winter of '73, he was honorably discharged in California, and he and Kay decided it was too chilly to return to their home state. They returned home to marry on April 13, 1974, then found work in Petaluma.



Doug started his trucking business and soon they moved to Willits, building their house from the foundation up with the help of his dad.

Doug traveled all over the country as a long-haul trucker. He had countless stories of his time on the road and the relationships he formed along the way. He often got excited about knowing every little place or town brought up in conversation: “Know it! I've driven through it many times; heck, I've even stayed there once during a blizzard!”

After retiring, he kept busy working on the property and building sheds and workshops, continuing to chainsaw and split wood until his last months. He was a loving caretaker to his wife throughout her decline from dementia, until he did not have the strength to do so.

He lived an extraordinary life and always had an interesting story to tell of his adventures and the people he had met. He could make you feel like part of the family from the first conversation, and built many deep friendships throughout his life. His strong faith and heart of gold left an impact on many. He was loved and will be greatly missed.

Please join us for a memorial at 145 Wood Street, 2 pm, December 3. RSVPs and photos may be sent to memorial.for.doug.nord@gmail.com.

The rest of **Recipe** *From page 10*

Kathy threw her hands-up and exclaimed the orange pie only called for two tablespoons of flour as a thickening agent.

Our excellent community bakers proved to be equally good sports and did their best with what they were given. Technician Brian Brooks shared that “When writing down my own recipes, I often skip ingredients or instructions that are intuitive to me, so it's not surprising to see this habit reflected in the recipes from our collection.”

During “History Makers!” on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 pm, through November 23, the community is invited to join in the recipe event and pick up several recipes in addition to the three pies described above, or contribute their own in the great recipe exchange tradition started at the Museum last year by Briana Brooks.

In addition to wonderful recipes from the Northwestern cookbook, there is some well-recorded wisdom, as expressed in the following poem:

*We may live without poetry, magic, and art;
We may live without conscience, and live without heart;
We may live without friends, and live without books;
But civilized men cannot live without cooks.
We may live without books, what is knowledge but grieving;
We may live without hope, what is hope but deceiving;
We may live without love. What is passion but pinning (sic);
But where is the man who can live without dinning (sic)?*

Kemmy's Pies and Mariposa Market will be in full pie baking production for the holiday season; information about placing your order can be found on their websites. As for Nancy Walker, baking is an art form and labor of love that she reserves for her family and friends as part of their own special holiday traditions.

Whatever your family traditions may be, we hope you leave room on your calendar to try your own hand at baking pies, or at least sample the offerings of our talented local bakers.

For more information, please visit www.mendocinocounty.org/museum or contact the Mendocino County Museum at museum@mendocinocounty.org or 707-459-2736.



GAS UP 'n GO PLINKO
HOT SEATS
THURS • 7PM – 10PM
Earn 100 same-day points. 3 winners each hour will play Plinko and win Free Play or a **\$50 Gas Card**.
For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club.



Key in the New Year
MUSTANG GIVEAWAY
3X ENTRIES ON MONDAYS
EARN ENTRIES SAT & SUN THRU DEC 31
200 Points • 1 Entry
NEW YEAR'S EVE CAR GIVEAWAY
6 winners get **\$500 Free Play** plus they **select a car key**. One lucky key will open the door to the **2022 Ford Mustang**. Happy New Year!
Actual make and model may vary. For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club.



Thanks GIVIN' A SPIN
HOT SEATS
SATURDAYS • 7PM – 10PM
Earn 100 points for a chance to give the Prize Wheel a spin. Keep winning when you land on **Spin Again**. 4 winners each hour.
For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club.



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SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jernigan
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

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

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

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2252

Sunday Mass inside:
9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

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

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

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

If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com



Above: Jacob Arms, wearing the No. 21 shirt for the College of Idaho, during the November 5 game against the Eastern Oregon Mountaineers that ended in a 41-7 win for College of Idaho. Below: Jacob Arms.

Congrats | **Jacob Arms**

Congratulations to Jacob Arms of the College of Idaho for his successes during his second season with the College of Idaho Coyotes football program.

Arms, a 2020 graduate of Willits High School, won multiple awards as captain of the WHS football team.

Last week, Arms – No. 21 on the roster – set a school record for the “Yotes” with a 90 yard strip and return for a touchdown. The November 5 game against Eastern Oregon ended in a 41-7 win for the College of Idaho.

“When Jacob Arms stripped the ball out of the Mountaineers’ ball carrier hands,” on Saturday, November, 5, the College of Idaho “Football Notebook” reports, “and raced 90 yards the other way for a Yotes touchdown, it was his second defensive touchdown.”

Arms was also the subject of an October 31

School of Idaho press release , describing the moves that got him named “Conference Football Defensive Player of the week.”

“Sophomore defensive back Jacob Arms had a game-changing interception that he returned 57 yards for a game-tying touchdown in the No. 12 Yotes 28-24 win over Southern Oregon on Saturday [October 29],” the PR reads. “Arms stepped in front of a Blake Asciutto pass on the Raiders’ second drive of the second half for the game-tying touchdown to swing the momentum back on to the host Yotes side of the field.

“Arms was also involved in eight tackles (six unassisted, two assisted) in the win. His eight tackles were the second most on the team.”

The regular season for the College of Idaho Coyotes ended November 12, with a loss against the Carroll College Saints.



The rest of Veterans | From page 5

should be drafted into some form of service to the country.

“In my personal opinion, I would like to see the draft reinstituted,” he explained. “The reason for that is sometimes I have a feeling that the younger people, whether in the 20s or 30s, maybe they don’t have any skin in the game as it relates to, not just democracy, but all of the freedoms that this country has to offer. They could work with the California Conservation Corps or some other form of service.”

This group of veterans knows how to deliver a healthy, delicious, and perfectly cooked meal of eggs, sausage, and fluffy pancakes. They have the process down like a military campaign, down to the exact temperature for the griddle to perfectly create pancakes.

“The secret to pancakes is having your grill at 375 degrees, lightly oiled, and you have to wait until they bubble before you turn them over,” said Ham.

Ham’s daughter, Kelly Martin, came up from Centerville Junior High School with a special treat for the veterans. Each of the seventh- and eighth-grade students created a card

with a heartfelt short message for the vets.

“One of our history teachers decided that she was going to teach what it is to be a veteran,” explained Martin. “A lot of our kids these days have no idea what veterans are, so she had her kids write notes to veterans, thanking them for their service. She asked me to bring them and hand them out to the veterans here today.”

At noon, the American Legion Post 174 adjourned to the flagpole in front of the Mendocino County Museum for the traditional Veterans Day flag-raising. As bugler Zack Ireland polished his instrument to perfection, people gathered in front of the museum – veterans, supervisors, mayors, and a class of four-year-olds who had just toured the facility.

Ham greeted the onlookers: “I want to thank you for being here for this flag-raising as we remember those veterans that have gone before us, those who are currently serving their country, and a few of us older folks who are still around,” said Ham, after which he signaled Curtis Deshiell to switch on the boom box, playing the “Star Spangled Banner” as the color guard raised the flag. After which, Ireland stood in front of the Mendocino County Vietnam War Veterans Memorial and blew taps for all who had lost their lives in that war.

“Our democracy is based on the sacrifices these people have done for our country,” said attendee John Haschak, Third District Supervisor. “So, I’m very grateful, just like we all are, for their service to our country.”

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Best ways to save money and reduce climate change

By Suzanne Fletcher for WELL

Speakers at a recent Energy Future Forum, sponsored by Willits Economic Localization, shared new information about our local transition to a carbon-free future, advice for coping with power outages, and how to save money on energy. Keith Rutledge of Renewable Energy Development Institute in Willits and Geof Syphers, CEO of Sonoma Clean Power, the public power provider serving Mendocino County, shared insights summarized here.

How did utilities manage to keep the power on during the recent heat wave?

When temperatures in Northern California topped a record 116 degrees in September, the electric grid would have been forced to shut down if not for the public’s response to the state’s Flex Alerts. An emergency appeal to reduce energy use was sent to every cellphone by the California Independent System Operator, which manages the electric grid.

Within 10 minutes of receiving the alert, people responded and reduced demand for power by 2,000 megawatts, which is significant. However, utilities have to come up with ways to store power to cope with demand during these heat waves, like batteries distributed at public locations like schools, because relying on Flex Alerts won’t fix the problem.

Also, utilities can market power-saving programs like Sonoma Clean Power’s GridSavvy Rewards, in which a customer receives financial rewards for reducing their electricity use when there is excessive demand on the grid.

Are there inexpensive ways to keep my refrigerator running and lights on during a power outage?

Everyone can have access to backup power for very little expense. When you hear there may be a power outage, put a few gallons of water into the freezer (with enough room at the top for expansion when the water freezes), and then put those frozen gallons in the refrigerator when there is a power outage. They will keep your food cold for a few days.

You can purchase a small, inexpensive battery inverter from a camping store or online that also will keep your fridge, several lights, a phone, and computer going for a few days – this is what Syphers of Sonoma Clean Power uses. An electric car can power a home for several days, too.

What are we doing to generate more clean, renewable energy in Northern California?

There is a lot of innovation happening in our backyard. Humboldt County is leading the state’s efforts to build offshore wind energy and may generate 30 percent of California’s target for wind energy. Mendocino County has joined the GeoZone, charged with development of 500 megawatts of new geothermal energy in the region. Lake County plans to install an innovative system that will use solar energy to pump water from a giant storage tank located down low up to a storage tank up high, and then release that water to generate electricity when it’s needed.

Is there a benefit to Ukiah residents of having their own city electric utility?

Ukiahns are lucky that their city owns and maintains its own power lines, because their rates are 30 to 50 percent lower than PG&E’s rates. Customers outside the City of Ukiah can choose to purchase electricity generated by either by Sonoma Clean Power or PG&E, but the electricity is delivered on power infrastructure owned and maintained by PG&E. Maintaining that power infrastructure contributes at least 30 percent to a household’s electric utility bill. The City of Ukiah provides both power and power-line maintenance.

renewables. In our region, that means geothermal. That is what Sonoma Clean Power is working to develop right now.

What are the best first steps to reduce my use of fossil fuels?

Take some of the money that you spend on your home’s utility bill and invest it in inexpensive weatherstripping, caulking and insulation to plug holes in your house where heat and cold can get in. Public libraries in Mendocino County have free do-it-yourself toolkits that you can borrow and use to find leaks and fix them. You’ll save money on your utility bill and also improve the value and comfort of your home.

Keep investing some of your financial savings in further energy improvements that save you even more money. If you need help getting started, North Coast Energy Services in Ukiah offers low and no-cost weatherization services. REDi offered in-home do-it-yourself classes before COVID and may start them again.

The state and federal government will help by subsidizing insulation and efficient electric appliances. You can explore all-electric appliances and rebates that are available to you at Sonoma Clean Power’s Advanced Energy Center in downtown Santa Rosa.

How can a local household or business completely stop using oil and natural gas fossil fuels that are the primary cause of climate change?

Probably the best way is to switch to EverGreen electricity – a 24 / 7 mix of local solar and geothermal renewable energy that is offered in Mendocino County by Sonoma Clean Power – and convert to an all-electric home or building as you can afford it.

Add an electric car that you charge at home and you will have eliminated carbon emissions from the most polluting sectors, electricity and transportation. You can go further and add rooftop solar panels and a backup battery that will shield you from electricity price shocks, stabilize your expenses, and keep the lights on during power outages. Rebates and tax credits are available or are coming that will help you to afford all of these changes.

What is the best time of day to charge an electric car?

From the standpoint of reducing carbon emissions, midday between 11 am and 3 pm is the best time to charge an electric car – and people who charge their cars at that time are actually providing a service to the rest of us in California.

That’s because solar energy in California is plentiful and supplies so much electricity to the grid midday that sometimes the state has to send it out of state to another utility that can use it. Conversely, charging an electric vehicle at night puts more pressure on the grid at a time when power is almost entirely generated from natural gas, a fossil fuel.

The rest of Count | From page 1

Ballots left to count in the “hot” contests are: the City of Ukiah: 2700; City of Point Arena: 64; City of Fort Bragg: 1,200; Willits Unified School District: 2,950 [4,708 votes already reported in initial results]; Potter Valley Unified School District: 580; Round Valley Unified School District: 500; Mendocino Coast Health Care District: 4,450; Brooktrails Community Service District: 700 [1,186 votes already reported in initial results]; Hopland Fire: 350; Redwood Valley/Calpella Fire: 1,450; and Redwood Valley County Water: 1,150.

For the past four years we have updated our count (unofficial results) within two weeks of Election Day on our website and provided those numbers to the Secretary of State’s Office. We will update our numbers again this election in the same manner.

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.

The rest of Increases | From page 1

Accounts Payable,” she said. “It’s still wrapped up, but it is just the right thing that we needed and we are very happy to receive it. We will start wiring and plumbing it in soon.

“Also, the fire department’s squad vehicle that is on order is moving forward,” Alaniz continued. “Fire Chief Noyer will be going over to Sacramento to finalize the building of the rest of the vehicle.” Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer was present and available to answer questions, as was Superintendent of Utilities Tom Jones.

President Williams stated, “I can’t believe the pump system for Primrose cost is \$107,000!”

Manager Alaniz responded: “Yes, that is a lot of money, and this board has prioritized capital expenditures and cash funding our capital improvements over the last several years. Remember, this is a 25-year-in-the-making project,” she continued.

“Our Tank 3 was a 30-year-in-the-making project. We have a tank liner that we just finished this last week on a tank that was leaking for ages. We are really looking forward to having the second clarifier installed. We are going to continue to move forward and get the projects finished, and that’s going to be reflected in our next year’s budget.

“Our goal is to keep our expenditures and budget in line for the next couple of years.”

The board then voted unanimous approval of the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$203,834.76.

Next up was the “Consideration of Resolution 2022-05 Establishing an Agreement with the Basket Beaters Disc Golf Club for Tournament Use of the Ohl Grove Redwood Park” item. General Manager Alaniz said: “We’ve been anticipating this. Mr. Joe Haggard who heads up the Basket Beaters Disc Golf Club is present this evening, and he came before the board a couple of meetings ago and talked about disc golf and how he and his group have taken on tasks to prepare the Ohl Grove for disc golf play.

“We want to ‘memorialize’ this and note that the Basket Beaters can use the Ohl Grove for their tournaments, and that the work that they do is an avoided cost to the district and should be acknowledged. The way we are going to acknowledge this is to not require them to pay a rental fee for the facility. And, it is noted that they do have insurance that they carry that meets our requirements.” The board then voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Proposed water, sewer rate increases

The anticipated December 13 public hearing regarding the proposed increases in the base rates for water and sewer was then discussed. Background information provided by the general manager noted that in 2019, the district board approved the current base rates for water and sewer. In 2021, the board approved a small increase in the volumetric water rate that is currently in effect.

The 2022-23 annual budget showed a \$6,106 deficit in the water revenues and a \$139,129.95 deficit in the

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

Editor’s Note: The total of 12,597 votes countywide reported in the initial November 8, 2022 election results, as updated on November 9, is 24.3% of Mendocino County’s 52,366 registered voters. To see initial results, visit www.mendocinocounty.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/current-election-results] With roughly 17,686 votes remaining to report, countywide turnout in the 2022 midterms should increase to somewhere around 58%.

The votes in the local elections for 3 seats on the Brooktrails board and the Willits Unified School District board have significant undervotes reported in the initial results. Undervotes are ballots cast with the voter skipping a race, or selecting fewer candidates in a race than the ballot allows. In Brooktrails Township, there were 641 undervotes among the 1,186 votes initially reported. In WUSD, there were 1,676 undervotes among the 4,708 votes reported in initial results.

sewer revenues. These differences were discussed at the time of adoption to be considered later in Fiscal Year 2022-23, and inflationary pressures have increased significantly in the meantime. Staff has developed proposed utility rates for 2023 based on the budgeted expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year and to help ensure sufficient utility revenues in Fiscal Year 2023-24.

“A 2.467% increase to the water base rate (\$60.00 to \$61.50 per month) will provide revenues to meet Water Division expenses through 2023-24,” the agenda report noted.

“There are significant increases to the cost of treatment due to inflationary pressures, energy and fuel cost spikes, supply shortages, and chemical availability. These impacts necessitate an 8.714% increase to the water use rate, the largest percentage increase proposed, to cover water treatment expenses. This increase still retains the volumetric rate at less than one-half of 1 cent per gallon, or \$45 for the maximum 9,000 gallon monthly usage.”

In the Sewer Division, the report continued, “capital expenses have been about 9% higher than expected with capital reserves available to offset their impacts to the zero-based budget. However, delays in manufacture and shipping of capital project components have not made it necessary to yet access reserve account funds.”

The report concludes that “a 2.23% increase (\$75 to \$76.67 per month) to the sewer base rate beginning in January will make the use of reserves unnecessary for cash funding capital projects through 2023.”

Golf, green, garbage fees

In 4.5 years there have been considerable increases to costs for running the golf course business, the agenda report notes. “Although the district owns the golf course and supports it through the Parks and Recreation Division, green fees and membership rates need to be increased to support the golf course operator, maintenance costs, and a July 2023 capital reserve contribution.”

An increase of \$3 to daily green fees is proposed for both golf and disc golf. “Annual memberships are increasing by \$100,” the report notes, “and the creation of a new Fair Weather membership from May to October is proposed for \$500. Finally, adopting a new senior annual membership of \$650/\$450 will help establish an affordable and marketable senior rate.”

The agenda reported that notification was circulated to every ratepayer in October with the December 13, 2022 date for the public hearings and a January 1, 2023 effective date for the new rate increases.

Solid Wastes of Willits refuse collection and recycling services’ proposed increase for 2023 is 10.01%. The proposed increase for the typical residential 35-gallon can with weekly pickup, now \$39.22 per month, will increase to \$43.15 per month in 2023, an increase of \$3.93 per month. The board voted to approve the increase, and it will be included in the scheduled December 13 hearing.

The rest of Fatal |

From page 1

Patrol, Little Lake Fire Department, Brooktrails Fire Department, Willits Fire Department, and the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office all responded to the scene.

This collision remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol - Garberville Area.

Willits Weekly

The November 9 school board meeting began, after agenda approval, with a presentation of the Students of the Month. Students Imerald Nunez, Mason Hood, and Gabriel Gutierrez from Blosser Lane, and students Valena Nuñez-Carillo and Lilian Paniagua from Brookside Elementary proudly received their Student of the Month certificates.

Longtime district employee – and now retiree – Cari Stiles also received a commendation for over 30 years of service as a cook, coach, and a campus supervisor.

Willits Teachers Association President Brandon Ludwig presented a slideshow titled, “SOS: Save Our Schools.” He discussed the California Budget Act of 2022, which increased school funding by 13.26%, which teachers at WUSD have not seen.

Ludwig offered “The Great Divergence” theme, explaining how teacher salaries at WUSD have diverged dramatically from those of nearby districts. At the top tier, salaries at Ukiah Unified are now 24% higher than those of WUSD teachers, translating to \$2,000 or more per month for Ukiah. At the same time WUSD currently maintains the highest funding reserve of any other school district in the county. He showed a simple map of the area to illustrate how easily teachers could garner a heftier paycheck by choosing to leave the district.

Ludwig stated that the State of California recommends a minimum of a 3% reserve. Mendocino and Fort Bragg districts have no mandate, and Ukiah presently has a 9% mandate, while maintaining a 9.3% reserve. Willits currently has an 18% mandate and maintains the highest reserve district-wide of 24%, he said.

Ludwig referred to the situation as “wage theft.” He pointed out that much of local teacher salaries is spent in their local communities, and that the Willits community also suffers when Willits teachers are paid less. He concluded

by calling for an emergency school board meeting to consider the lowering of mandates and of reserves, in order to hire, pay, and keep qualified teachers, for the good of the children in the district, invoking the much-repeated, “Professional Pay for Professional Services.”

California School Employees Association member Justin Walker thanked Robert Chavez for his service on the Willits school board, and commended district maintenance crews for their competence and hard work.

Student Representative McKenna Thom announced a number of student-led activities, including varsity football, a Dia de los Muertos hallway presentation, a canned food drive for the Food Bank, and preparations for the 2022’s Hot Winter’s Night celebration.

Board member Alex Bowlds congratulated retiree Cari Styles along with the Students of the Month. Member Jeanne King shared some research that she has done on fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine, and causes high numbers of deaths. King related many sobering statistics, and expressed her hope that someone at WUSD could be trained to administer the life-saving drug Narcan in case of an overdose on a school campus.

Board member Robert Chavez thanked parents, administrators, students, and his fellow board members, commenting that the district is entering a very busy time with both sports and the holiday season ramping up.

Superintendent Mark Beebe emphasized the importance of teamwork and finding common ground going forward. He thanked teachers for their engagement in professional development programs, and made a plea to everyone to pay attention to viruses that are going around, including RSV, influenza, and COVID, and to stay home if feeling ill.

The consent agenda was approved. Board member Paula Nunez raised a question regarding the retention of new hires, and board member King brought up the high

cost of spending on technology upgrades.

During Public Comments, a concerned parent spoke with regards to vague open or closed campus policies, asking for more transparency regarding parents on campus, and including a better-organized pick-up and drop-off system.

Two parents spoke supporting Willits teachers, one emphasizing the tie between competent teachers and student achievement, and another whose son had to be housed in the office and the library for several days because there was no teacher in the classroom.

The remainder of public comments were from more than 60 WUSD educators who spoke to a packed house, many carrying Save Our Schools signs. One teacher who made the switch to the Ukiah district spoke of the relief that she felt at receiving a living wage, but expressing her regret at having to go outside of the Willits community, as well as her support for her fellow teachers.

Personal stories of those torn between staying in Willits and moving to Ukiah for higher pay, those unable to pay bills, those who regularly spend their own money on student school supplies, were heard.

The high cost of housing and college tuition were big topics, as well as the instability caused by teacher turnover, with many noting that WUSD pays the lowest teacher salaries in the Mendocino County. The segment ended with calls of “Save Our Schools” and “Professional Pay for Professional Services” echoing in the room.

Items suggested for the next meeting’s agenda (set for Wednesday, December 14) included a suggestion by board member Bowlds for the formation of a budgetary working group, to involve both labor groups and board representatives, to make decision-making as transparent as possible. Superintendent Beebe suggested that priorities be identified and developed before the formation of such a group.

Nunez expressed her support of a working group, but questioned the inclusion of an outside consultant, given the extra cost. She also brought up the need to know what, if any, decisions had been made with regards to security on the Baechtel campus, while Dianne MacNeil asked about the latest developments on the fire alarms at Blosser Lane.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

At left: Willits High School Principal Mike Colvig presents longtime WUSD employee – and now retiree – Cari Stiles with a commendation recognizing her 30+ years of service as a cook, coach, and a campus supervisor in the Willits district.

At far left: dozens of WUSD teachers and community members showed up to the November 9 Willits school board meeting to rally and speak for better teacher pay.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde

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