

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Thursday, May 2, 2024



Brooktrails OKs tree felling for creek restoration

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Directors Ralph Santos, Ed Horrick and President Tina Tyler-O'Shea were present for the gathering of the Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board meeting on Tuesday, April 23. Their number – three out of five board members – comprised a quorum, so the meeting was able to move forward without a hitch.

General Manager Tamara Alaniz provided an update on the bear trash

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

Prescribed burn set for Shamrock Ranch next week

Submitted by
CAL FIRE MEU

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit will be conducting a vegetation management prescribed burn on the Shamrock Ranch. This prescribed burn will treat approximately 100-acres of grasslands, chaparral, and understory vegetation within oak woodlands and mixed conifer habitats, creating a mosaic of variously burned vegetation and islands of unburned habitat.

The Shamrock Ranch is in the northern portion of Mendocino County, east of

Read the rest of **Shamrock**
Over on Page 9

CAL FIRE MEU doing nighttime copter training

Submitted by
CAL FIRE MEU

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit is conducting periodic helicopter night training. Starting April 29, CAL FIRE Copter 601 out of Howard Forest Helitack Base, south of Willits, will be conducting night vision training throughout Mendocino County.

The Helitack personnel have already completed a one-week transitional training and are now extending, enhancing, and building their skill set and "goggle" time to be prepared to work into the evening hours if significant fires occur in Mendocino

Read the rest of **Copter**
Over on Page 9



Above, left and right: Mostly perennial plant starts – destined to find new homes at the Grateful Gleaners' upcoming Plant Sale – line the "nursery" area of Karen Gridley and Wolfgang Ronnefeldt's Willits yard. Below: Ronnefeldt and Gridley stand at the door of the pair's new greenhouse, making starts and transplants easier to ready for the Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

City settles with former WPD officer for \$2.25 million

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The City of Willits' settlement with former Willits Police Officer Natalie Higley in her sexual harassment lawsuit is in the amount of \$2.25 million. The announcement the city put out April 18 did not have the settlement amount. But that figure has been reported elsewhere and was confirmed to Willits Weekly by Willits Mayor Sabrina Rodriguez.

The \$2.25 million will come from the city's liability insurers, not directly from city coffers.

The April 18 agreement with former officer Higley settles the second of two lawsuits that were filed about sexual harassment at the WPD, focusing on incidents involving former WPD Lt. Derek Hendry. The settlement amount with former Willits police chief Alexis Blaylock, announced in December 2022, was for \$250,000.

Former officer Higley filed a civil suit on June 6, 2023 against the City of Willits, the WPD, and former WPD

Read the rest of **Settlement**
Over on Page 9

Get ready for the Gleaners

Annual Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale set for Saturday, May 11

If your goal is to get your garden in as an activity for Mother's Day, getting all the starts you can at the Grateful Gleaners Annual Plant Sale is perfect timing.

The sale will be held from 10 am to 3 pm at 130 Tuttle Lane (north of the Willits Post Office) and will include flowers, fruits, veggies, herbs and more.

Proceeds from the sale help the Gleaners continue their work picking and distributing food from local trees and gardens to ensure it doesn't go to waste by distributing it back to others to enjoy.

– Maureen Jennison



Above, left: More plants sit in the "nursery" before getting brought to Tuttle Lane for the sale. Above, right: The new greenhouse holds additional starts and transplants, safe and warm from the last few chilly nights. Below: A family visiting the nursery's neighbors popped by to preview the sale options including parents Philipp, Yasmine and young Leopold, hailing from Vienna.



Burn permits required as of May 1

Submitted by
CAL FIRE MEU

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit has announced, effective Wednesday, May 1, 2024, all hazard reduction burning in the State Responsibility Area will require a permit in Mendocino County.

Burn permits must now be obtained online at <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>. Applicants can access the website to obtain a burn permit, which involves watching a short educational video and submitting an application. The process provides the necessary information needed to conduct the burn safely, while minimizing the chance for fire escape.

Permits must be in possession either by printed copy or digitally. Permits are valid beginning May 1 of each year and require annual renewal. Permits are issued free of charge.

Property owners conducting hazard reduction burning are responsible for checking the burn day status.

Read the rest of **Permit**
Over on Page 4

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Food Bank needs help

To the Editor:

I want to start by expressing my heartfelt gratitude for your previous support of the Willits Food Bank. Your generosity has made a significant impact on our ability to serve the community, and we are deeply thankful for your trust in our mission.

As the new executive director of the Willits Food Bank, I am writing to update you on our current situation. We want to thank Pete Swanton, the owner of Flying Dog Pizza, for his generosity and support during a difficult time. Recently, we lost one of our beloved employees, Cheryl Riggert, who will be deeply missed by all. Pete graciously offered a space for a critical incident stress debriefing. He also provided pizza for our bereaved staff and board members. Our condolences go out to Cheryl's friends and family during this difficult time.

We also want to thank Ruthanne Volz for her years of dedicated service to the food bank and the Willits community. Her contributions have made a lasting impact, and we are very grateful for her commitment.

As you may know, we have recently relocated to 344 Railroad Avenue in Willits. On Friday, May 24 from 5 to 7 pm we are having an open house if you would like to come and see our new location.

In the past families and individuals were able to pick up food twice a month, but as of May 1, we will be able to serve those in need once a week—a much-needed service for our community. We anticipate serving 1,600 to 1,900 disbursements per month. We are proud to partner with Food and Nutrition out of Fort Bragg, which provides us with access to healthy USDA food at no cost to us.

However, we still need funding to cover our operating expenses, including rent, utilities, insurances and staff costs. We are facing a funding gap, having missed our grant cycle, needing to raise \$100,000 for operating expenses to hold us over until the next grant cycle.

Unfortunately we only have months left of solvency left, and every donation counts. In addition to funds we are also in need of plastic and paper bags and volunteers who can work any hours on Wednesdays and/or Fridays from 10 am to 5 pm.

I urge the community to come together and support the Willits Food Bank during this critical time. Your donation will help us to continue to provide essential services to those in need. Every dollar counts, and your generosity will make a significant difference to many lives.

Please consider making a donation today. You can bring it in, mail (Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue Willits, CA 95490), or use our website www.willitsfoodbank.com to make a donation.

Thank you for your support, and together, we can make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Kim Tippit, executive director,
Willits Food Bank

Thank you

To the Editor:

Hi everybody! I want to give a heartfelt thanks to all of the people that attended, volunteered, donated, decorated and worked so hard for our Laytonville/Long Valley Lioness Annual Spring Fling! You made our event a great success! We raised \$1,874 and with an additional anonymous donation of \$2,000 funded through Tides Foundation, we will have \$3,874 to donate to the Student Council of Laytonville High School.

They will decide how to use the funds, whether it be a field trip, prom, the end of year celebration or, when funds allow, to have Challenge Day come back to the school. Challenge Day is an immersive, interactive two-day event all the students can attend that attempts to dissolve differences and build self-esteem and camaraderie among the students. The positive impact resonates through our community, and it's an experience the kids carry for life. It makes us all better community members. For more information on this program go to www.challengeday.org.

A special shout out to the Lionesses that worked so hard and joyfully gave of themselves! I also want to thank the Blue Luke Blues Band with very special guest Indiana Slim. They rocked the house, and the crowd boogied triumphantly! Big ups to Sho Nuff, William Priest, Amanda and Dylan Eichler and Mary Jane for the delicious crawfish boil. And thank you to Hal Wagenet and Leo of Modern Music Sound for the superb sound and light show.

Thanks to Sticker Farmer for donating the awesome banner, to Shane Edward Grogg, www.mendocheeto.com, for the gorgeous banner and poster art, and to Poobah of the Willits Lions for the beautiful backdrop. Thanks so much to my very dear friend Tara Bluecloud for her insightful Tarot readings. The Wildfire Dancers put on a spectacular fire show outside to make our evening even more magical.

With the hard times that we all have been going through since the pandemic and the economic hardships, our goal was to have a celebratory gathering like the old days. We wanted our friends and neighbors to have a chance to gather and see each other again and have some fun. We wanted the result of our fun to be something fun for the kids at Laytonville High, so they don't feel forgotten during this difficult time. They are the future.

Thanks again to every single one of you that had anything to do with this party! If you feel inspired to donate to this cause, scholarships, or any of our fundraisers, please email Lioness Treasurer Deb at djsalfen@yahoo.com, and she will direct you to the proper channels. Love and gratitude,

Tom Girdauskas, Laytonville/Long Valley Lioness Club

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Thursday, May 2: Lemon Tarragon Salmon, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Friday, May 3: Meat Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Veggies

Monday, May 6: Smoked Sausage, Peppers & Onions over Rice

Tuesday, May 7: Shrimp Scampi, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, May 8: Fish, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Thursday, May 9: Turkey Club Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

Friday, May 10: Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.

Pancake Breakfast: every second Sunday, Mother's Day Breakfast on May 12 this month, with a free mimosa for moms 21+ over, 8 to 11 am.

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Joliana 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.

Amy Wynn Appointed as Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) Chairperson

Submitted by CAL FIRE

Jackson Demonstration State Forest is happy to announce that Amy Wynn was appointed as the Jackson Advisory Group chairperson by CAL FIRE Director Joe Tyler on March 15, 2024. Wynn is a valuable contributor to the JAG, providing expertise in local recreation and land use planning since her original appointment in 2012.

That long-standing commitment to the JAG provides Wynn valuable perspective on Jackson Demonstration State Forest, its management goals and objectives, the interested stakeholders, and the role of the JAG.

Amy possesses a deep knowledge of the forest, strong listening skills, and is known for her fairness and passion, all valuable attributes for effective leadership. Wynn is well-respected by the JAG, CAL FIRE staff, and the public. These qualities suggest that she will handle the responsibility of the chairperson with professionalism and empathy.

"The reason why I'm still on the JAG is because I find the intellectual discourse about this forest to be completely engrossing and engaging," said Wynn. "The indoor meetings are all well and good, but the field tours are where I really learn the most. There is so much nuance to this forest that is so much more richly explained, described, and explored when we're actually in it and having deep conversations with our fellow JAG members, researchers, staff, and the public," she said.

"Having been on the JAG for so many years, I have had the opportunity to see many evolving landscapes – both managed and unmanaged – which continues to inform my inquiries. We push and pull and explore concepts, making changes small and sometimes large. Rewarding and challenging at the same time, I'm committed to continuing to offer my sometimes-naive questions from left field and doing my part to help maintain a forest of which all of us can be proud."

CAL FIRE expresses gratitude to outgoing Chairperson George Hollister who has provided many years of leadership and contributions in carrying out the mission and goals of the JAG. Jackson Demonstration State Forest is a special place to many people due to the numerous projects and initiatives that have been implemented during Hollister's tenure on the JAG. Expanding our capacity for public outreach and education through a partnership with the University of California Cooperative Extension and the addition of a local tribal voice to the JAG are just two

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

Sherwood Firewise Communities annual meeting, May 4, 2024

Submitted by SFC

Sherwood Firewise Communities' annual meeting, "celebrating six years of neighbors working together to create a safer community," is set for Saturday, May 4 – National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day – at the Brooktrails Community Center, from noon to 5 pm.

From noon to 1 pm, Eat & Greet with Taqueria Ramirez Taco Truck, and exhibits of Roadside Fuel Reduction & Home Fire Hardening projects. From 1:30 to 3 pm: Agency Panel Discussion, with invited speakers Supervisor John Haschak, CAL FIRE, Brooktrails Fire Department, Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services, and Mendocino County Fire Safe Council.

From 3:30 to 5 pm: Local Fire Safe Councils / Firewise Communities Roundtable Discussion. With Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council, Ridgewood Fire Safe Council, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, and Sherwood Firewise. More info at www.sherwoodfirewise.org or info@sherwoodfirewise.org.



Above, from left: Some of the ewes are very friendly and enjoy a good petting. Fresh vegetables from the Golden Rule Gardens are available for tasting. Jes Michalak with her helper, Primrose, works in the farm stand and with the CSA boxes. At left: People on the garden tour learn about the farming methods and varieties of vegetables grown. Below, left: A visitor to Golden Rule Gardens surveys the green house hoops which offer the protection needed to grow some crops year round. Below, right: Varieties of kale grow in the spring sun.



Lambs in the Gardens

Enjoying the beauties of springtime at Ridgewood Ranch

"Spring is the most beautiful time on the ranch, in my opinion," stated Ruthie King, who grazes sheep on Ridgewood Ranch. "It's when the vegetables are the sweetest and the lambs are the sweetest, so we felt like inviting everyone down to enjoy the beauty of this place that we get to enjoy every day."

"The gardens and the lambs have a strong connection. On this property, the agricultural world is strongly connected, and so right now there's sheep grazing in one of the fields and we graze the cover crop for the farmers. Connecting the lambs and gardens together in a public event felt really important to us," said King.

Last Saturday, April 27, the public was invited to a meet-and-greet with King's flock, which includes 40 breeding ewes, 15 yearling ewes which are bound to have lambs next year, and a slew of lambs who followed their mothers around the fenced yard at the Seabiscuit stud barn and museum.

The lambs frolicked, jumped, bleated, and generally entertained the attendees with their antics. In addition to observing the sheep and sometimes getting to pet them, the people who came down to Ridgewood Ranch were invited to bring a picnic lunch and graze the samples of produce that were made available from the Golden Rule Gardens. Tours of the gardens were offered by Donald Pivec, a long-time farmer, who is new to these gardens.

"The lambs are all between three and five weeks old, so I would say they're in their toddler phase," said King with obvious affection. "Toddler-mode is fun for lambs because they go and they're curious about

everything. They like to climb high on rocks or any kind of topographic element on the landscape. They all fight to be the king of the hill. They run around and kick their heels up. They're so fun. It's the best time to be watching the lambs play because they're exploring their bodies and the land."

"We'll shear them in the fall when they're six months old," said King. "That's the most beautiful fur that will come off them. The first shearing is the softest and all different colors. Icelandic sheep are known for being dual coated, and so they have a really soft inner coat and a more durable outer coat."

"We'll usually raise them a whole year before they turn into meat," King explained. "When we do the meat, we also save as much as we can from the animal. We have these sheep skins. These come from the sheep here, and there's all kinds of products that we can benefit from, from these animals."

Jes Michalak works the honor-system farm stand at the Seabiscuit stud barn. She helps fulfill the consumer-supported-agriculture boxes which are one of the main sources of funding for the ranch and gardens.

"We currently have about 35 full shares in the program," said Michalak, "and we also offer half shares which will be every other week. The produce is so fresh it stays good for two weeks. We sell quite a bit of produce in the farm stand, and we sell through Food Hub. We also sell flowers as an add-on to the CSA." A full share will supply the subscriber with a box per week and a half share is every other week.

Read the rest of **Lambs** Over on page 9



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SPARETIME –GARDEN CENTER–
MOTHER'S DAY ROSE SALE
May 1st - May 12th

BUY 2 GET 1 FREE ON ALL ROSES

(707) 459-6791
208 E. San Francisco Ave.
sparetimegardencenter.com

STORE HOURS
Mon - Sat 8 am - 6 pm
Sunday 9 am - 5 pm

Hospice of Ukiah
Now Hiring
Join our Caring Team

Hospice of Ukiah is seeking an LVN or RN with a current license, to coordinate care for our clients in the Willits area. This is a great job for a part time nurse who likes to work without direct supervision, set their own hours, and be a part of a dedicated interdisciplinary team.

For information and to apply, send resume to hospiceofukiah@pacific.net, or call (707) 462-4038.

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

Level: Advanced

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!

Does anyone have a preference on the degree of difficulty of the Sudoku puzzle? Beginner? Intermediate? Advanced? I'll just keep randomly choosing? Please let us know what you vote for! Email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com

GREEN THUMB WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------|-----------|
| AERATION | FERTILIZATION | LEVELS | PRUNING |
| COMPOST | GRASS | MOLD | RAINING |
| CONTROL | GREENERY | MOLES | RESEEDING |
| CRABGRASS | GRUBS | MULCH | SOIL |
| DROUGHT | HOSE | PESTS | WEEDS |
| ENRICHMENT | IRRIGATION | PLANTS | YARD |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12		13			14
15						16			17
	18			19		20			21
				22	23				24
25	26	27	28	29					
30						31			
32							33	34	35
				38	39	40			
				43		44			
	45	46	47						
48				49		50	51	52	53
55				56				57	
59				60				61	
62				63				64	

CLUES ACROSS

- Lions do it
- In favor of
- Rest here please (abbr.)
- Pulpits
- Leisure activity
- Fertility god
- Financial obligations
- When you anticipate getting somewhere
- Spanish river
- Sporting events
- Type of tree
- Ceased to be
- Persons
- Synthetic resin
- Relates to photochemical reactions
- Father
- Former Cowboys coach
- City in Finland
- Run batted in
- Got through
- They darken skin
- In a harmful way
- Form of weaving
- City of Angels hoopster
- Caucasian language

CLUES DOWN

- Cool!
- Hebrew unit of measure
- Swedish rock group
- College army
- Favor over another
- Called it a career
- Egg-shaped wind instrument
- Israeli statesman
- Hurries
- Slog
- Midway between south and southeast
- Benedictine monk
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Family of regulator genes

- Surrendering
- Political action committee
- S. American plant
- Long-term memory
- Bark
- Breathes in
- Take hold of
- Everyone has one
- Valentine's Day color
- Drivers licenses and passports
- Outer walls of castles
- Enters with force
- One thousandth of an inch
- Deceased Chinese politician
- Sugary secretion of plants
- Expressed pleasure
- Shelter
- Utilizes
- Forest resident
- Fashion accessory
- A sharply directional antenna
- Kristofferson, actor
- A bad place to end up
- MLBer Gordon

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

April 15 to April 21

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 66 incidents in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

April 15

No incidents to report.

April 16

10:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

April 17

7:48 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

8:10 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

10:04 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

10:11 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:53 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:38 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:54 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

2:28 pm: MOORE, Catherine Elizabeth (46) was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol) and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher.

3:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road.

8:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:12 pm: FRANKS, William Eugene (23) of Ukiah was contacted in the 400 block of East Commercial Street following a disturbance. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol and drugs), drinking alcoholic beverages in a city park, and violation of probation.

April 18

9:33 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Highway 20 and Coast Street and issued a citation.

12:51 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

1:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of Robert Way.

1:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

2:49 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:07 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

6:18 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of West Commercial Street and School Street and issued a warning.

10:06 pm: GREEN, William Kenneth (57) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street.

He was arrested on felony charges of transportation of a controlled substance, and on misdemeanor charges of providing false identification to an officer, possession of a controlled substance, violation of probation, and failure to appear.

April 19

9:57 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Central Street and East Oak Street and issued a warning.

1:54 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

2:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Pine Street and School Street.

2:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Laurel Street and issued a warning.

7:28 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Alameda Avenue and Central Street and issued a warning.

9:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

April 20

11:52 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1000 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

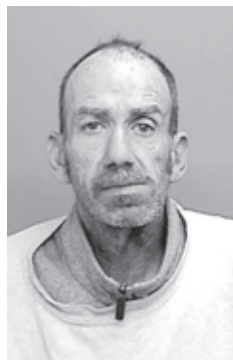
10:23 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

April 21

9:37 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

12:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

3:54 pm: COLBERG Jr., Kenton Michael (35) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).



William Green of Ukiah.



Above, left: Bud Snider City Park is the location of Clean Canvas, an event celebrating Earth Day with demonstrations and community art activities. At top, left: A chalk painting with an Earth Day theme celebrates our blue planet at Clean Canvas. At top, right: District Grant Manager for the Clean California Local Grant Program Preston Allen is on hand to answer questions and chat with locals.

Clean Canvas

Sidewalks become works of art at Bud Snider City Park during Earth Day celebration

It was a sunny and brisk April morning as vendors and community organizations put up their tents and set up their wares for the Clean Canvas Earth Day event at Bud Snider City Park on East Commercial Street. Clean Canvas gave residents of all ages a chance to come together and participate in various activities centered around litter abatement, art, and community beautification. Presented by the City of Willits, the sprightly event was funded through the support of Clean California, a state-funded initiative aimed at improving the cleanliness and aesthetic appeal of California communities.

Representatives from the City of Willits were on hand to meet, greet and distribute Clean Canvas totes and mugs to local residents, and answer any questions they might have. One of the most popular activities presented at the event was a sidewalk-chalk painting activity with an Earth Day theme.

"We wanted to invite participants to unleash their creativity by designing and painting unique and colorful chalk creations," said City Planner Taylor Perry. Both children and adults registered to receive a set of colored chalks and a section of park sidewalk to decorate as they pleased. Gary Martin, curator for the Willits Center for the Arts, was on hand to lend his expertise.

Many of the booths were set up with an eye to educating residents about ways to keep Willits beautiful by reducing litter and encouraging recycling and waste reduction. C&S Waste, which manages the Willits Transfer Station and Recycling Center was available to chat with Willits residents and explain how their services

can be best used. Cold Creek Compost from Potter Valley, who was responsible for the recent Willits compost giveaway, gave away marigold starts and shared practical tips for keeping the Willits community clean and environmentally sustainable.

CalFresh and the Blue Zones Project provided information on wellness, focusing on traditional, natural and healthy foods. Future Farmers of America gave out information on their important activities working with youth in agriculture, and the Willits Chamber of Commerce was there with community goodwill and more Earth Day freebies for friends and neighbors. Caltrans representative Preston Allen, district grant manager for the Clean California Local Grant Program, shared the goals of the grant and chatted with local residents.

A sense of community spirit and camaraderie brought the event alive with additional art-focused activities, including face painting from Symba Nuruddin for the Willits Center for the Arts, along with finger painting from Imagination Station. These activities engaged individuals, friends and families, promoted artistic expression and creativity, and boosted community spirit. Prizes were awarded to winners, which added to the excitement.

Willits residents came together around the Earth Day message, with Clean Canvas serving as a reminder of the collective power of community action in creating positive change, while raising awareness about environmental issues and educating locals about recycling and sustainable living. Perry reiterated her sense of the importance of community events like this one, saying, "Thanks to Clean Canvas, Willits is a step closer to becoming a cleaner and more vibrant town that can welcome future generations."



Above: Carri Beaver from Cold Creek Compost hands out marigold starts planted in compostable pots to delighted local residents. Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde



Above, left: Chalk painting makes for a fun afternoon for budding artists at Clean Canvas, an Earth Day celebration event held at Bud Snider City Park. Above, right: A happy participant prepares to begin her chalk-art masterpiece by signing up for a section of sidewalk to paint.

At left, top: Future Farmers of America friends and family promote youth in agriculture at the Earth Day Clean Canvas event on Saturday.

At left: Connor Stack, City Manager Brian Bender and City Planner Taylor Perry hand out the smiles, the chalk, and the Clean Canvas merchandise.

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CalFresh
 Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits. Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify.
 707-459-6826

Senior Center THRIFT STORE
 Open Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. & Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Lots of clothing and furniture available.
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SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church
290 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. - Worship
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:8:00 p.m.

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
•A University for Soul
•Spiritual Living Courses
•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:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Commissions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at
707-459-2252
https://santhonywillits.org/
sainthonywillits@gmail.com
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 - 7:00 p.m.
399 W. Mendocino Ave.
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort where all are welcome
Pastor Rosemary Landry
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@willitsonline.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willits umc
If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Thursday, May 2

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, May 2, at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street. Hours are still 3 to 5:30 pm. 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 at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, May 3

Senior Dance Hall at the Library: Starting Friday, May 3, seniors ages 55 and older are invited to bring your dancing shoes to the Willits Branch Library on Friday afternoons from 2 to 3 pm for a Senior Dance Hall. Enjoy jazz, pop, swing, and ballroom selections. Don't feel like dancing? Please come and enjoy the music, catch up with friends new and old, and share some light refreshments. Willits Library, r, 390 East Commercial Street. For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

Tom Freund & Big Sticky Mess at Shanachie: featuring singer/ songwriter and Americana artist, multi-instrumentalist Tom Freund with Big Sticky Mess, playing original funk music that you feel in yo' booty. Friday, May 3 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, May 4

Free Comic Book Day at the Library: "May the 4th Be With You," a multi-faceted celebration that you can't pass up. Saturday, May 4 from 10 am to 5 pm at the Willits Library. Choose your free comic from a variety of different series, and browse our expanding collection of graphic novels. Then top it off, by testing your skills, as we create comics of our very own. Also Star Wars-themed origami creations from 1 to 2 pm, and an action-packed, sci-fi feature film from 2 to 4 pm. Light refreshments served. 390 East Commercial Street, 707-459-5908.

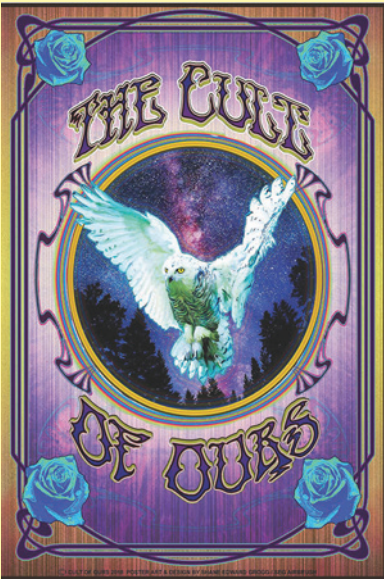
Sherwood Firewise annual meeting: Sherwood Firewise Communities annual meeting is set for Saturday, May 4 - National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day - at the Brooktrails Community Center, from noon to 5 pm. From noon to 1 pm, Eat & Greet with Taqueria Ramirez Taco Truck, and exhibits of Roadside Fuel Reduction & Home Fire Hardening projects. From 1:30 to 3 pm: Agency Panel Discussion, with representatives from federal, state and county agencies. From 3:30 to 5 pm: Local Fire Safe Councils / Firewise Communities Roundtable Discussion. More info at www.sherwoodfirewise.org or info@sherwoodfirewise.org.

Sherwood Firewise Communities Annual Meeting
Saturday May 4, 2024
1:30-3:00 - Agency Panel Discussion
3:30 - 5:00 - Local Fire Safe Councils / Firewise Communities Roundtable Discussion
Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council, Ridgewood Fire Safe Council, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, Sherwood Firewise
Celebrating six years of neighbors working together to create a safer community.
www.sherwoodfirewise.org

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Paint and Sip
with Laura Corben
Paint, Sip, Laugh, Eat.
May 10
7:30pm
\$55
Includes canvas, materials, wine and appetizers.
Limited to 12 participants.
ALL LEVELS WELCOME
Register online at www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Proudly sponsoring the Willits Weekly calendar section
Willits Chamber of Commerce
Est. 1926
www.Willits.org
info@willits.org
707.459.7910
299 East Commercial Street | Willits, CA

'The May Show' opens at WCA: The Willits Center for the Arts opens "The May Show," the first juried exhibition to grace the galleries of Willits. Art enthusiasts and community members are invited to the opening celebration of creativity and talent on Saturday, May 4, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6 to 9 pm. Attendees can cast their votes for the coveted "People's Choice Award," after viewing the carefully curated selection of artworks. Gallery hours are Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 am until 5 pm.



The Cult of Ours at Shanachie: tribal groove jam vibe and ecstatic celebration of the boogie through a mix of skillful electric improvisation and the blending of energies between the audience and the band. The Cult of Ours is: Jessie 'Thundermuffin' Bessonni on drums, 'Mr. Magical' Kyle Madrigal on guitars, pipes and electronics, and Tom 'T-Bone' Jones on bass. "May the 4th Be with You" Star Wars costume party. Saturday, May 4 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, May 5

Dharma Talks at the Muse: Tibetan Buddhist master Lama Lodu Rinpoche returns to Willits to teach on "The Essence of Mind - Shamatha and Vipassana Meditation." Lama Lodu is the spiritual director of Kagyu Drodun Kunchub in San Francisco and conducts traditional Tibetan Buddhist retreats at his retreat center near Laytonville. The Muse, 30 East San Francisco Avenue. Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, from 10 am to noon and 2 to 4 pm. Info: 707-354-1866.

Dirty Cello at WCT: SF band Dirty Cello returns to Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, May 5 at 2 pm with its showcase mix of high-energy blues, bluegrass, and rock standards. With its most unique spin, Dirty Cello is



What's Happening Around Town

certainly cello like you've never heard before. Advance tickets are \$20 and available online at: wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Wednesday, May 8

Celebrate Mothers: Join us at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits for a special edition of "History Makers!" on Wednesday, May 8, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, to make paper flower bouquets and collage notecards. Attendance is included with regular Museum admission. Enjoy free admission on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. Program support generously provided by 2023 Draw 'Til You Drop Fundraiser. This annual event raises funds to support arts education, exhibits, and cultural events. More info: at www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.



Thursday, May 9

Volunteer Coffee Break at the Museum: Prospective volunteers are invited every second Thursday for a morning Volunteer Coffee Break at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Coming up May 9, from 9 to 10 am, and June 13, from 10 to 11 am. Meet staff and current volunteers and learn about exciting opportunities available at the Mendocino County Museum. More info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum or contact the Mendocino County Museum at museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.



Willits Shred Event: Savings Bank of Mendocino County's shred event in Willits is set for Thursday, May 9, from 9 to 11 am, in the parking lot behind Savings Bank on Humboldt Street. Bring up to three boxes, each no more than 35 pounds, of documents for safe, secure, on-site shredding. Additionally, to help shred hunger, non-perishable food will be accepted at each event for local food banks. Savings Bank representatives will

be available to supply information about preventing identity theft and what to do if your identity is stolen.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, May 9, at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street. Hours are still 3 to 5:30 pm. 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 at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, May 10

Senior Dance Hall at the Library: Seniors ages 55 and older are invited to bring your dancing shoes to the Willits Branch Library on Friday afternoons from 2 to 3 pm for a Senior Dance Hall. Enjoy jazz, pop, swing, and ballroom selections. Don't feel like dancing? Please come and enjoy the music, catch up with friends new and old, and share some light refreshments. Willits Library, r, 390 East Commercial Street. For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

Waldorf School's Spring Soirée: Step into the magic of springtime at the Waldorf School of Mendocino, 6280 3rd Street, Calpella, for an evening filled with joy, connection, and giving back. Friday, May 10, from 4 to 7 pm, with live music by "Mama Grows Funk," delicious hors d'oeuvres, and a Super Raffle Drawing and Silent Auction. Tickets \$25 are available for purchase online at www.mendocinowaldorf.org or by phone at (707) 485-8719.



Alex Wilkerson at Shanachie After Work: Indie rock artist from Bisbee Arizona plays "atmospheric and honest, sunny indie rock with a dark side." After work show on Friday, May 10 at 5 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



Donnie & Friends at Shanachie: featuring local harmonica (aka "Mississippi saxophone") player Donnie, joined by friends and fellow musicians possibly including Gary Bouley, Jeff Martin, Rasta Sean and Tom G. among others, playing an improvisational variety of Chicago style Blues, Rock, Funk, Latin, and West African music. Friday, May 10 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, May 11

Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale: Purchase seeds, starts, and full-grown plants at the Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale on Saturday, May 11 from 10 am to 3 pm in the yard behind the Gleaner garage, 130 Tuttle Lane, a block north of the Post Office - look for directional signs. Perennial and annual fruits and vegetables, herbs, flowers, landscape plants, and even some trees. Many plants will be drought tolerant and deer-resistant, and many will attract bees, beneficial insects and butterflies. Plus Richard Tootreese Jeske, with starts of table grape varieties and advice; Jamie Chevalier of Quail Seeds with heirloom and open-sourced seeds; Golden Rule Gardens CSA with sign-ups for their CSA program, a basket of delicious fresh produce every week; and Morgan Rex with metal garden art including wind chimes, mobiles, and fountains. Please respect the starting time, and bring cash, small bills preferred. Checks are accepted, but no cards.



Graves, Stories, and Genealogy: Tracing Your Family History: Benjamin MacBean, local genealogist, graver, and storyteller, on his experience tracing the history of those who have gone before us, plus tips and advice in tracing your own family history using the latest online resources. Part of "A Touch of Mendocino, A Taste of Mendocino" series, at the Willits Branch Library on Saturday, May 11 from 11 am to 12 pm. 390 East Commercial Street. More info: visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

Sit-N-Sew: Second Saturdays at the Willits Library, May 11 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in - bring your sewing project and have fun. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Clay Hawkins Duo at Shanachie: "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart" by slide guitarist and songwriter Clay Hawkins and longtime co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass. Saturday, May 11 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Sunday, May 12

Happy Mother's Day!
Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast: Celebrate Moms at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Sunday, May 12, from 8 to 11 am. \$10: \$9 center members; \$8 children. Free Mimosas for all moms 21+ older. Breakfast includes Biscuits and Gravy with side of eggs ONLY, or all you can eat pancakes, 2 pieces sausage or bacon, 2 eggs, coffee, milk or juice.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.
Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.
Story Time: Tuesdays through Friday each week, 10:30 to 11 am. "Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in the children's area of the library."
Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe". Topics will range and will be announced ahead of time.
LEGO Club: Tuesdays, now 4 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."
Willits Walk and Talk: Join the Willits Branch Library staff for a 20- to 30-minute walk around the neighborhood. Come enjoy a little bit of exercise as well as some pleasant conversation. All ages are welcome. Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am; meet at the front entrance to the library, 390 East Commercial
Open Lab / Study Hall: Don't have a decent place to study? Come to the Willits Branch Library's meeting room every Wednesday from 3 to 5 pm for the new Open Lab / Study Hall. The library has plenty of helpful resources including public Wi-Fi, computers with internet and word processing capabilities, and databases to aid you with your research, plus friendly and helpful staff ready to point you in the right direction.
Calming Coloring at the Library: Thursdays, from 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library. An hour of quiet with coloring pages. Supplies provided. All ages welcome.
Chess for Teens: On Fridays, from 4 to 6:30 pm. Teens, ages 12-18 are invited; all skill levels welcome. Library staff will be there to help beginners and those who want to learn. Light refreshments provided.
Tech Help: Now every Saturday from 11 am to 12 pm: Is your computer on the fritz? Want to install a new app? Bring your tech questions and get help from the library's tech savvy volunteer
Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library: from 1 to 4:30 pm. *All skill levels welcome!

Willits Tennis Club: Meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School courts. New members welcome. Free. Show up or call 707-484-3385.

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COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Civil War'

The Story: An action thriller, a character study, a brutalizing and suspenseful war movie. It's more or less the present day. California and Texas are rebellious allies. They have a powerful modern army and are at war with the Federal Government.

Dan Essman
Columnist
Lee (Kristen Dunst) is a photojournalist. Her partner Joel (Wagner Moura) is a reporter. They want to interview the President while he's still alive. They set off from New York City traveling on two-lane back roads through war-devastated towns hoping to reach Washington DC. With Lee and Joel is an older reporter Sammy, (Stephen McKinley).

Also with them is a young woman Jessie (Callee Spaeny) and her essential 35mm Nikon. Jessie is a plucky wannabee war photographer who romanticizes the job, and absolutely idolizes Lee.

What follows are fiery explosions, random shootings, bullet-ripped bodies spurring blood, and distrustful self-righteous strangers with automatic weapons. It's power against power, rancorous with homicidal manias and no real reasons are given.

The protagonists make their risk-filled journey to document and perhaps make sense of the killings and chaos, or maybe die trying. It's what journalists do.

My Thoughts: This flick is a tight, ruthless narrative about a world like our world but seen in the fragments of a shattered mirror, all sickened over and polluted with inchoate furies, random street battles, and pits full of bodies. I am in awe.

Special shout-out in gratitude to writer/director Alex Garland. He is a brilliant and imaginative truth teller. This is a great movie.

Parents: Not for the little ones. Violence and no reasons given.

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

Ongoing Events

'Art Under 20' at WCA: The 25th anniversary exhibit of student art from Willits High School, plus Willits Charter School and Potter Valley High School, is featured at Willits Center for the Arts in April. Gallery hours at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, are Friday through Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.

Free Food Pop-Ups: Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program's Food Pop-Up in Willits is now offering two events per month, first and third Thursdays, at 1250 Blosser Lane, from noon to 1 pm, weather permitting. Free food for all! In March these food pop-ups will happen March 7 and 21 this month. Info: outreach@foodbank.org; 707-964-9404

'In the Field' Exhibit: Mendocino County Museum's latest exhibit, "In the Field: Exploring Botany in Mendocino County," celebrates the study of unique plants that grow in our region, reflecting on the pursuits of Mendocino County botanists from past to present, featuring sketches, illustrations, photographs, and pressed specimens. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, is open 11 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. More info: visit www.mendocinocounty.org/museum

Willits Tennis Club: Meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School courts. New members welcome. Free. Show up or call 707-484-3385.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every week on Mondays, 6 pm, at the Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866.

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial 7pm. Info: Bill Bruneau; 459-3390.

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Sack lunches served at the City Park (or across the street in case of rain) every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm. Come early to be assured a lunch! Provided by various churches and community organizations.

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

The Redwood Empire Food Bank: Twice-monthly drive-thru 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 am. Groceries to go, senior basket (for low-income seniors 60 or older), and diapers.

Willits Boules Club: Tuesdays and Fridays at 3 pm: The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: bbruneau@bruneau.com
Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym: Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers free classes for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street, on Thursday evenings. "We teach Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu Karate, Kenpo Youth/Adult Self Defense, Bully and Abduction Awareness/Defense, and Small Child PreSkills." Little Dragons Small Child "PreSkillz" karate class, 6 to 6:30 pm, ages 3, 4, 5, 6 (7) year-olds. Beginner/intermediate class, 7/8 years and above, 6:35 pm to 8 pm. Intermediate/advanced class, all ages, 8 to 8:45 pm. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). More info: call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0565.

It's time again for the Mother's Day photo call for Willits Weekly's annual collage

Mother's Day is coming up (Sunday, May 12!), and Willits Weekly is ready to honor moms in the community with our annual photo collage feature.

This is something we do FOR FREE for the community, and everyone is encouraged to participate!

All you have to do is email a copy of a current or vintage photo of your mom to willitsweekly@gmail.com. If you only have a print photo, you can bring it to Ace Copy and Shipping, where they can scan and send it to us easily. Make sure to include a caption naming the people in the photograph, from left to right, and any message.

We need to have all images in by end of day Monday, May 6.

The photo collage will appear in the next edition of Willits Weekly, Thursday, May 9.

Questions? Call 972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com. We will try and print as many as we can, so get yours in early and get included with this fun way to honor all our mothers.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Darling Cowboy

Cowboy is such a sweetheart! Right now, he can be a little shy when meeting new people. Cowboy enjoys going for walks and has a good start on his basic training, as he already knows "sit" and "down." Cowboy loves to hang out with his people and is mellow indoors. We are recommending older children just because he can be a little "head shy." We're betting this guy will enjoy taking canine classes, where he can learn new and fun tricks.



The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road

in Ukiah, is open to the public from noon to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 3 pm (closed for lunch from 1 to 1:30 pm) on Saturdays. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinoshelter.com. Call 707-467-6453 for more information.

Smiling Barney

Barney is warming up to the staff at Milo. He's soft-hearted, shy, and purrs when relaxed with you.

He comes out to greet us and be petted, then goes into his safe place.

He smiles when he knows he's loved (yes, he does) and will blossom with a chance to trust and be loved in a calm home. His best pal is a cat named Sweetie who often sleep close together inside a kitty condo.

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

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendocinohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

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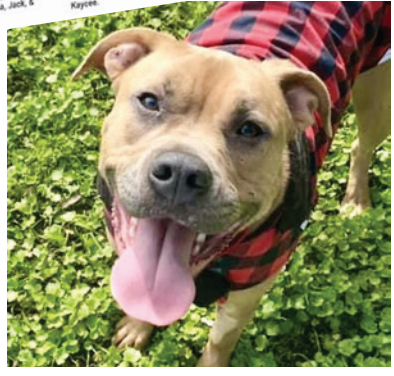
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Lovely Josie

Josie (aka Sweet Potato) was part of our bottle-baby Thanksgiving Litter. As we get to know her, we realized she needs all of the loves. Josie is sweet as pie and eager to please her humans. She is super smart, a quick learner, and beyond cute! I mean, come on, look at that facet Josie has her bags packed and is waiting patiently for you to come bring her home! Don't make her wait any longer!



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LEGAL NOTICES

WW483
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0196
The following person or persons are doing business as Danny Mihelic Construction Services, 260 Margie Drive, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Summit Signal, Inc., 260 Margie Drive, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 2, 2024.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on April 8, 2024.
/s/ Danny Mihelic, Vice President, Summit Signal, Inc.
Publication dates: April 18, 25 and May 2, 9, 2024.

WW485
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0223
The following person or persons are doing business as Scoops, 110 North Main Street, Willits CA 95490.
Mailing address: 575 Redwood Avenue, Willits CA 95490.
Registered owner: Lisa Kvasnicka, 575 Redwood Avenue, Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on April 24, 2024.
/s/ Lisa A. Kvasnicka
Publication dates: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024

WW484
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0192
The following person or persons are doing business as It's A Shore Thing!, 262 North Main Street, Fort Bragg CA 95437.
Registered owner: Kevin M. Silva, 43193 Caspar Little Lake Road, Mendocino CA 95460.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on April 4, 2024.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on April 4, 2024.
/s/ Kevin M. Silva,
Publication dates: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024

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

The rest of **Lambs**

From page 3

After lunch, the attendees were invited to tour the Golden Rule Gardens, with a walk past the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center, down to one of the three gardens. Donald Pivec, in his first year with the gardens, told the people about what was grown there, and some of the challenges involved in maintaining a farm in uncertain financial times and the challenges of the local climate and soil.

"We employ a couple main ways of farming," explained Pivec. "We grow over 75 different varieties of fruits, vegetables and flowers. We market our produce through a few channels. Our main channel is our CSA, a weekly or bi-weekly box of vegetables and fruits, with the opportunity to add flowers. We also sell through the Mendo Lake Food Hub to wholesale clients like restaurants."

The rest of his talk consisted of the varieties of vegetables grown, the proper times and methods for planting and taking care of the soil, how they rotate their crops, how they work with the ecosystem to create a sustainable garden.

"We don't protect ourselves from gophers per se but we do trap gophers," Pivec told about how they keep the predators at bay. "They are hard to keep out of the garden, so we try to manage the population."


"Lady bugs are already out. We haven't had many issues with aphids, although we are seeing aphids on older turnips that have been in the ground longer than they should. But it was comforting to see all the lady bugs out before we even saw the aphids."

"You'll see a lot of praying mantises on the farm," said Pivec. "They are a very beneficial insect predator."

It was a beautiful warm and sunny day. The lambs and ewes cavorting in their enclosure were endearing. The samples of arugula, turnips and lettuce were fresh and tasty. The fleeces that King displayed were soft. The knowledge imparted was useful and fascinating.

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\$26.20 - \$31.84

Code Enforcement Officer I
\$55,619 - \$67,662

Corrections Deputy
\$55,369 - \$67,308

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner
\$75,878 - \$93,142

Eligibility Specialist III
\$52,520 - \$63,856

Juvenile Corrections Officer
\$50,710 - \$61,630

Planner I
\$72,072 - \$87,630

Program Specialist I
\$51,396 - \$62,483

Senior Public Health Nurse
\$101,296 - \$123,136

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
EOE

The rest of **Shamrock**

From page 1

Burning will begin on Monday, May 6, 2024, and end on Friday, May 10, 2024. Burning will start at approximately 10 am and conclude at approximately 3 pm daily.

This project adds to significant work underway throughout the state and brings California one step closer towards meeting state fuels reduction goals directed by the California Fire Plan and the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. To track the progress being made, both in your community and throughout California, visit the CAL FIRE fuels reduction dashboard at www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/fuels-reduction.

This project burn will be conducted under strictly controlled weather and fuel conditions. Smoke and aircraft may be visible in the area.

The rest of **Copter**

From page 1

County or elsewhere in the state.

The copter will be conducting non-aided (no goggles) and aided (goggle) training that consists of off-site take-offs and landings, airport take-offs, landings, pattern work, static/hover water filling and dropping, and air rescue in the future. Copter 601 will be in operation from sunset to approximately 10 pm on selected training days.

This training is critical to ensure CAL FIRE has every possible option when it comes to serving the people of California.

The training will be conducted under very tight restrictions for the personal safety of personnel and area residents. CAL FIRE reminds all residents that their safety is of the utmost concern.

For additional information, contact Battalion Chief Drew Rhoads: 707-391-6708.

Willits Weekly
Online & In Print

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Chamber Seeks Volunteers
The Willits Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to be a Volunteer. Our mission at the Willits Chamber is to make Willits a better place to live, work and play. Our purpose is to promote Willits and its economic well-being and quality of life. If you have any questions please reach out to info@willits.org or call 707-459-7910 Monday-Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm

John Ford Ranch Beef
John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkellan @ 459-5049. (Prices change effective 6/25/23)

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/lp>

Weed Eating
Reliable and efficient. Senior discount. Call Mike at (707) 354-5650.

WCA seeks weekend coordinator
Willits Center for the Arts is looking for a personable art-lover/volunteer coordinator/gallery host to work weekends to engage visitors and organize volunteer schedules. Please respond with resume to manager@willitscenterofthearts.org.

'What Is the Secret of True Freedom?'
You came into this life to spread your wings and live in freedom - heart, mind, and Soul. Come share your thoughts and experiences or just listen. Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St., Saturday, May 4th, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free books and refreshments available. Questions? Call Joy (707) 367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar in California.

The rest of **Settlement**

From page 1

Lt. Hendry, on the grounds of sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and a hostile work environment.

The complaint alleged that "On an ongoing and continuing basis beginning in or around July 2020 [when Higley joined WPD], the plaintiff "has been subjected to harassment, discrimination, and a hostile work environment on the basis of her gender. Plaintiff has also been subjected to harassment and discrimination on the basis of her disability/medical condition."

Mayor Rodriguez said, despite the two lawsuits against the city and WPD being settled, especially with other legal actions and investigations involving Hendry in other jurisdictions, "I can't say anything more than the official statement," which the city council members agreed to put out. Rodriguez noted that the city was not required to put out a public statement, but council members chose to do that.

"Sometimes," Rodriguez said, "we're criticized for giving no comment, when it's a personnel matter, or sometimes on other matters, if there's a pending hearing, we can't comment, whether we want to or not," adding that sometimes she did "honestly feel frustrated" at being unable to comment.

Mayor Rodriguez reported that the city was interviewing candidates this week for a new permanent police chief. "It will take time to select one," she said, "and go through the background process, and enter into a new agreement." But "our hope is, we'll have a permanent chief in June."

The mayor explained that the city had a second interim police chief now, Chief Chris Dewey, because former interim chief James Comer had timed out of the 900 hours per fiscal year he was allowed to work after taking retirement.

"Comer was well-respected and well-liked by the city council and the police department ranks," Rodriguez said. New interim chief Dewey is in the same situation, serving after retirement, but will not come close to that hour limit this fiscal year.

"Both Comer and Dewey were good for the department," Rodriguez said, "for morale. They brought some really good strengths. Both of those chiefs have put themselves out there in the community, they're personable, easy to reach, with a softer demeanor, they're good listeners with good leadership skills."

"There was some worry we didn't have an active chief, before Comer," she said. "There was uncertainty amongst those at the police department, and community and members of the council, but both of these gentlemen filled the role to high expectations."

"Currently at the WPD we have Officer Cary, Officer Gale, Officer Angel and Officer Pearson. We have Chris Dendy, recently named community service officer, and we have recently promoted Sgt. Avalos. We have four dispatchers, with Mike Stainbrook just promoted to Dispatch Supervisor, ensuring we have a good chain of command."

The law firm of McNicholas & McNicholas announced Monday that partner Matthew McNicholas "successfully reached a settlement of \$2.25 million for former Willits police officer Natalie Higley. Higley sued for allegations of sexual harassment and hostility by her lieutenant." Willits Weekly reached out to the law firm for further comment, but did not hear back by press time.

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Employment Opportunity: Sr. Planner

Annual Salary 78,821.18 - \$95,807.50 DOQ/DOE

Minimum Qualifications:
Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university in urban or regional planning, or a related field.

Four years of progressively responsible related experience in city, county, or regional planning with a concentration in current planning and/or long-range planning.

•Must possess and maintain a valid California Class C Driver License and satisfactory driving record. Out of state valid motor vehicle operator's license will be accepted during the application process.

Desirable Experience/Education Special Requirements:
Experience using GIS software to create reports and maps.

Some private sector experience will be considered a plus.

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification desired.

Application Deadline:
Friday May 10, 2024, by 4:00 P.M.

Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org



Employment Opportunity: City Planner

Annual Salary \$71,329.23 - \$86,701.86

Minimum Qualifications:
Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university in urban or regional planning, or a related field.

Two years of progressively responsible related experience in city, county or regional planning.

•Must possess and maintain a valid California Class C Driver License and satisfactory driving record. Out of state valid motor vehicle operator's license will be accepted during the application process.

•One (1) additional year of qualifying experience may be substituted for the required academic major.

Desirable Experience/Education Special Requirements:
Experience using GIS software to create reports and maps.

Application Deadline:
Friday May 10, 2024, by 4:00 P.M.

Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org



Employment Opportunity: Accountant and Sr. Accountant

Annual salary is DOQ/DOE:
Accountant: \$48,680.74 - \$59,171.63


Desirable Experience/Education: Any combination of education and experience which would provide an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and abilities listed. Normally, either possession of a college degree in accounting, finance or business administration with at least 12 semester or 16 quarter units of Accounting, including Principles of Accounting, Intermediate Accounting, Advanced Accounting, Governmental Accounting, Cost Accounting or Auditing; or one year of experience in the accounting field.

SR. Accountant: \$57,689.22 - \$70,121.58

Desirable Experience/Education: Any combination of education and experience which would provide opportunity to acquire the knowledge and abilities listed. Normally, either possession of a college degree in accounting, finance or business administration with at least 12 semester or 16 quarter units of Accounting, including Principles of Accounting, Intermediate Accounting, Advanced Accounting, Governmental Accounting, Cost Accounting or Auditing; OR possession of a Certified Public Accountant Certificate, and one year of experience in a position comparable to Accountant I in a local government agency or one year of experience in a professional level auditing or accounting position which demonstrates exposure to the many different facets of accounting theory and application.

Application Deadline:
Friday, May 9, 2024, by 4:00 P.M.

Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org



OBITUARY |

Joanna Kostanecki

Our beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend Joanna (Jo) Elizabeth Kostanecki passed away peacefully on March 27, 2024, surrounded by loving family.

Jo, known for her kind heart and gentle spirit, was born on February 28, 1936, and passed away just after her 88th birthday. Jo is survived by her husband of 65 years, Michael (Mike) Kostanecki, and her three daughters, Cindy Kelley (Kevin), Caroline Durupt (Tom), and Christine Kostanecki-Banovitz (D.J.).

Proud "Grandma Jo" is survived by her beloved grandchildren, Leslie Kelley-Smith (Zach), Sean Kelley, Payton Kelley, Michael Kelley, Elizabeth (Elie) Durupt (Kevin), Griffin Durupt, Ian Durupt, and Lilly Banovitz as well as one great-grandson, Noah Durupt Delvie.

Jo moved to Los Angeles at the age of 21, and became a legal secretary. She met Mike Kostanecki and on June 6, 1959, they were married. Spending most of their married



life in Willits raising their family, Jo had a lengthy career as the branch manager for First American Title Company. When Mike retired from the California Highway Patrol, they moved to Boise, Idaho, where they lived for almost 30 years.

Her conviviality created countless lasting memories of joyful times amongst family and friends. She epitomized elegance and always took pride in looking her best. She was a beautiful person in every sense.

Jo's unwavering devotion to her faith and family, along with her innate gift for forging deep connections, have left indelible impressions upon the souls of all those she loved.

Her legacy united and inspired not only her family, but everyone touched by her life. The memories of Jo's life remain beacons of joy and powerful testaments to the enduring strength of relationships nurtured in love and a belief in the bonds that transcend our earthly life.

A memorial mass will be held at 11 am on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Turlock, California, with a celebration of life to follow. Any questions can be directed to Cindy Kelley (209) 678-2598.



Willits Charter School's lunchtime heroes in the kitchen; from left, Charm Sapien, Director of Nutrition Services Katie Lacy, Jayne Blair, and Katlin Ostberg-Warriner.

School Lunch Hero Day at Willits Charter School

Submitted by WCS

On May 3, 2024, Willits Charter School proudly honors Katie Lacy, our director of Nutrition Services, and her exceptional team, as we celebrate School Lunch Hero Day.

Behind the scenes of our bustling central kitchen, Director Lacy and her dedicated staff orchestrate a culinary masterpiece, crafting nutritious meals from scratch using locally sourced produce from Mendocino County farmers.

In a landscape where only a handful of California's 1,334 charter schools practice scratch-based cooking, our

commitment to quality shines bright.

Responsible for nourishing not just our own students but also those of four other schools in our community, Lacy and her team ensure that 744 young minds are fueled with wholesome goodness.

On March 3, we salute these lunchtime superheroes whose passion and dedication make every meal a testament to their unwavering commitment to our students' well-being.

Avenues to Wellness presents 'A Physician's Journey,' May 15

Submitted by ATW

Avenues to Wellness presents, "A Physician's Journey: Through Abuse, Psychedelics and Forgiveness" by Dawnmarie Risley-Childs, DO. This free ATW talk is set for Wednesday, May 15, from 6 to 7 pm, at the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Donations accepted for use of the hall: wheelchair accessible.

Dr. Risley is retired as a board-certified physician specializing in psychiatry. Despite surviving severe psychological, physical, and sexual abuse, Dr. Risley chose to heal through forgiving her abusers after recognizing those who harmed her are broken people.

Born to a violent alcoholic father, sister to a vanquished brother, raised by a psychopathic step-father, and offered by a sadistic mother who played the victim, Dr. Risley inspires survivors to take the first steps toward a healing journey to shed the albatross of shame and set themselves free from the burdens of their justified anger and fear. Please join us for this uplifting and empowering talk.

Dr. Risley is an advocate for those afflicted with mental illness, as well as a private pilot, a former skydiver, an art collector and, most importantly, a wife and a mother.

Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. For more information, contact Suzanne at (707) 456-9676 or spicetti@howardfoundation.org. Visit www.avenuestowellness.org to view video archives of previous talks.

At left: Dr. Dawnmarie Risley-Childs, DO, gives an uplifting and empowering talk about her own healing journey.



Employment Opportunity: Wastewater Plant Operator in Training, I, II or III

Annual salary is DOQ/DOE:
Operator in Training: \$39,175.55 - \$47,618.27
Operator I: \$44,830.45 - \$54,491.63
Operator II: \$48,196.93 - \$58,583.62
Operator III: \$57,978.13 - \$70,472.69


Candidates must possess a valid California Class C driver's license or higher, verified by current DMV records obtained by appointment of hire. Premium pay of 5% above current rate for employees in possession of a valid Class B or A California driver's license.

Special Requirements:
Wastewater Operator in Training - requires employees to complete a training program and successfully pass examinations to obtain Wastewater Plant Operator I certification within the first 18 months of employment.

Wastewater Plant Operator I/II/III - requires possession of a Grade I/II/III Wastewater Treatment Operator's Certificate issued by the California State Department of Water Resources Board.

Application Deadline:
Friday, May 9, 2024, by 4:00 P.M.

Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org



Employment Opportunity: Lifeguard I: \$16 per hour Lifeguard II: \$16.50 per hour

Under supervision performs the duties of Lifeguard and may also teach swim instruction. Lifeguards are responsible for the safety of patrons in and around the pool at all times as well as providing safe and thorough instruction to all levels of students enrolled in the City's swim lesson programs. In addition, they are responsible for providing a friendly environment at the pool facility as well as its overall cleanliness.

Special Requirements: Must be at least 16 years of age; must possess current certifications for Red Cross Lifeguard, First Aid for Public Safety Personnel (FAFSP) Title 22, and CPR for the Professional Rescuer certifications, at time of hire.

Application Deadline:
Wednesday May 15, 2024, by 4:00 P.M.

Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org



The rest of Restoration | From page 1

cans that are available for Brooktrails property owners, saying, "There have been 64-gallon cans delivered to the properties that require the larger size, and the 32-gallon cans have been ordered and distribution of that size will begin by the end of April."

Alaniz also reported that the park grant reimbursement that the township has been waiting on "was filed with the State Controller's Office on March 19 for check issuance, and that is expected soon. We've received our second Measure P check from the county. Director Santos brought up the Fire Safe Council's micro grant, and we applied for it and we received an award of \$6,500 toward the purchase of a collapsible tank and transfer pump. We also just received approval from the Department of Water Resources for our final 10% contingency payment on the Clarifier 2 project, so that will be our last \$11,000 of that North Coast Resource Partnership Grant, which has ended up paying for half of it."

Grants were uppermost in the general manager's report, and she said, "We've been going after resources that have been helping the ratepayers in this community and have helped the board govern, and this has been very beneficial."

The board voted unanimously to approve the April 23 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$66,265.70.

Willits Creek Instream Restoration Project Tree Felling Proposal

The "Consideration of the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group Proposal to Fell Douglas Firs for the Large Wood Structure Elements of the Willits Creek Instream Restoration Project" was then discussed.

Since 2019, the non-profit Eel River Watershed Improvement Group and the engineering company Stillwater Sciences have teamed up to design wood and boulder fish habitat structures across nearly two miles of Willits Creek. They have been planning for an instream restoration project along Willits Creek, which will build new large wood structures to create salmonid habitat. The project has moved forward each year, and ERWIG is at the stage where they are requesting to harvest approximately 20 Douglas firs from riparian areas where removal will not negatively impact the canopy over the creek.

ERWIG has partnered with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Conservation Corps to secure funding for the instream restoration. Working with their contractor, Wylatti Resource Management, Inc., ERWIG has identified the 20 trees as beneficial for use in their project.

The agenda item asks for board permission to take the trees and use them for the instream restoration project.

Wylatti Resource Management representative Isaac Mikes was present via zoom, and Wylatti Vice President Mel Goodwin was in attendance. They led the discussion of the project. Trees for the project will also be salvaged from the ground around the creek; there are approximately 70 large wood structures planned with the project, and additional tree felling will be needed as materials for the project implementation. The project proposal has been revised to avoid cutting down redwood trees in the Willits Creek corridor, and the Douglas firs to be felled will not negatively affect the canopy over the creek or the re-vegetated Summer Lake area.

CDFW will be responsible for permitting activities in and around the streambed. Their oversight will ensure an environmentally responsible approach is undertaken for the project work. Wylatti will be responsible for using their equipment and site access in a way that does not damage the creek corridor or surrounding open space areas. If soil or other vegetation is damaged during the work, it will need to be mitigated to as close as the original condition as possible.

The trees will be felled in July 2024. If additional trees are needed from open space or on the creek corridor, staff recommends that notification to the general manager in writing of any additional number of firs to be harvested for the project be allowed without making an additional request to the board.

The board voted to approve the request from ERWIG to harvest the 20 Douglas firs identified in the proposal; and to direct staff to move forward with the recommended process that ERWIG notify the general manager for permission to harvest additional firs from open space if needed for the project.

The rest of Chairperson | From page 2

examples of long-term improvements under Hollister's leadership. Hollister will continue to contribute to the JAG as a member through 2026 and has graciously offered his insights during the transition to Wynn's leadership.

The Jackson Advisory Group provides CAL FIRE a broad range of expertise and represents the broad public interest in the management of Jackson Demonstration State Forest under its general Forest Management Plan approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The JAG also offers valuable insights to the needs of the community, both of local forest users and those statewide with interest in the stewardship and sustainability of redwood forest ecosystems. The JAG chairperson is responsible for leading the public meetings, keeping the JAG on-task and on-time, and serves as the JAG liaison to CAL FIRE in preparing mee ng agendas and completing follow-up items.

Please join CAL FIRE in thanking George Hollister for his leadership and congratulating Amy Wynn on her chairperson appointment. We look forward to advancing world class research, restoration, recreation, and sustainable forestry projects with the JAG and public under Wynn's leadership.

Local Road Safety Plan workshops coming up

Submitted by MCOG

The Mendocino Council of Governments has hired a consultant to update Local Road Safety/Action Plans for the County of Mendocino, and the cities of Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah, and Willits. These updated safety plans will enable local jurisdictions to enhance safety for all modes of transportation for all ages and abilities, and will aid in seeking state and federal grant funding to implement priority safety projects.

MCOG invites the public to two upcoming In-Person Public Workshops.

The first workshop will be held at the Fort Bragg Town Hall on Monday, May 20, 5:30 to 7 pm, including a presentation on the project and a chance to offer input. The presentation will cover collision profiles, draft emphasis areas, and draft safety projects.

The second workshop will be held on Tuesday, May 21, from 5:30 to 7 pm, at the Alex Rorabaugh Recreation Center, 1640 South State Street #3, in Ukiah. The presentation will cover collision profiles, draft emphasis areas, and draft safety projects.

In addition, for those that cannot attend the In-Person Workshops, a virtual public workshop will be held on Thursday, May 23, from 6 to 7:30 pm, to hear the same presentation on collision profiles, draft emphasis areas, and draft safety projects.

For Zoom meeting access and additional information, visit the project website at <https://www.mendocinosafetyplan.com/>. This project is funded with state grant funds provided by Caltrans.

Contact MCOG project manager Loretta Ellard at lellard@dbcteam.net or 707-234-3434 with any questions.

Savings Bank offers down-payment grants for first-time buyers

Submitted by SBMC

Savings Bank of Mendocino County has joined the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco Workforce Initiative Subsidy for Homeownership matching down payment grant program to help more Lake County and Mendocino County residents achieve the dream of homeownership.

Through the annual grant program, Savings Bank of Mendocino County will reserve funds to assist eligible low- to moderate-income first-time homebuyers in Lake County and Mendocino County with up to the annual maximum FHFA subsidy limit, which is \$30,806 in 2024, in downpayment assistance until the \$13 million in WISH program funds are exhausted.

FHLBank San Francisco's WISH grant program was created to help families overcome the most significant barriers to homeownership and build wealth. This is the second year that Savings Bank of Mendocino County has participated in the program.

"We are proud to partner with Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco to assist eligible low-to-moderate income households throughout our service areas with attaining the goal of homeownership through the WISH down payment assistance program," said Stacy Starkey, president and CEO,



The 80-acre Rocky Ridge property, named for the large rock outcrop at its center, was added to Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve last month. Photo by Adrianna Andreucci, Save the Redwoods League.

80 new acres added to Montgomery Woods

Submitted by Save the Redwoods

Save the Redwoods League announced the transfer last week of 80 acres in Mendocino County to California State Parks as an addition to the adjacent 2,743-acre Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, 12 miles as the crow flies southwest of Willits.

The parcel, known as Rocky Ridge, was directly deeded to the state park system in March from the former landowners, the Weger family, as part of a deal negotiated by the League to conserve Weger Ranch. Rocky Ridge is the first land acquisition by California State Parks in the Sonoma-Mendocino District since 2008.

"Rocky Ridge is an ideal addition to the adjacent Montgomery Woods. It contains old growth redwoods, Douglas firs, and the headwaters of Montgomery Creek, which flows through the heart of the Reserve, before joining the South Fork Big River," said Paul Ringgold, chief program officer at Save the Redwoods League.

"The river provides critical spawning habitat for steelhead trout and coho salmon, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Montgomery Woods and the forests around it comprise a strikingly beautiful and ecologically important corner of the coast redwood range, for both recreational visitors and conservation. It is a unique and special place."

The property got its name—Rocky Ridge—from a large rock outcrop in the center of the property that provides peregrine falcon nesting habitat. While Rocky Ridge is steep and isolated, a future trail extension from the existing Montgomery Woods loop trail could afford Reserve visitors the opportunity to experience the 360-degree views from atop Rocky Ridge while gazing over the old growth redwood crowns below.

Expansion brings a host of benefits

The acquisition provides an opportunity for California State Parks to expand public access for visitors to the Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve. The park is also adjacent to a Bureau of Land Management parcel and nearby properties protected by Save the Redwoods League. With Rocky

Ridge added, these properties and the Reserve form a protected greenbelt of more than 11,500 acres in the upper reaches of the Big River watershed. Protected wildlife corridors are critical for unimpeded migration and movement potential for endangered or threatened species that inhabit the area.

"The conservation ethic of Save the Redwoods League is ingrained in the DNA of California State Parks," said Bill Maslach, Sonoma-Mendocino district superintendent for California State Parks. "The League continues to help State Parks evolve and create innovative solutions to the preservation and stewardship of California's landscapes. We are grateful to the Weger family for bringing their private land into the Montgomery Reserve. This generous contribution assures greater wildlife connectivity and increases public access to a remarkable place in Mendocino County."

Montgomery Woods Initiative

This purchase and transfer of the Rocky Ridge property is the latest effort in fulfilling Save the Redwoods League's vision for the Montgomery Woods Initiative, which is expanding the area of protected lands surrounding the park and improving trails and park experiences for visitors in the park.

The Initiative, announced in September 2022 www.savetheredwoods.org/project/montgomery-woods-initiative, began with the purchase and protection of the adjacent 453-acre Atkins Place property in 2022 as a future fee addition to Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve.

In August 2023, the League secured a conservation easement on the 3,862-acre Weger Ranch, safeguarding its coast redwood and Douglas fir forest. The easement protects the ranch from subdivision, development and excessive logging in perpetuity. The deal also ensures that the property will remain as a sustainable working forest buffering Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve.

The League has now protected more than 64 square miles (40,974 acres) in Mendocino County.

Potential homebuyers interested in this program should contact Savings Bank of Mendocino County at (707) 462-6613 or visit www.savingsbank.com to apply.

Savings Bank of Mendocino County is the only locally chartered bank and is a strong independent financial institution which provides Mendocino and Lake counties the dependability of a local community bank. As a local lender since 1903, Savings Bank understands the real estate markets in Lake and Mendocino counties. They offer competitive rates and provide their customers with personalized service.

The Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco is a member-driven cooperative helping local lenders in Arizona, California, and Nevada build strong communities, create opportunity, and change lives for the better. The tools and resources we provide to our member financial institutions – commercial banks, credit unions, industrial loan companies, savings institutions, insurance companies, and community development financial institutions – propel homeownership, finance quality affordable housing, drive economic vitality, and revitalize whole neighborhoods. Together with our members and other partners, we are making the communities we serve more vibrant, equitable, and resilient.



From far left: Covers of Emma Bland Smith's many books are displayed on the screen. A student plays with Claude the white alligator, a character from one of Smith's books. Healthy snacks are ready for the kids to grab. The kindergarteners and first graders all created books they wrote and illustrated, some of them pop-ups. Below, left: Author Emma Bland Smith and second and third-grade teacher Annapurna Steffen hold up the books that Smith read to the classes. Below, right: In the second session, author Emma Bland Smith addresses the second through fifth grades.



Young Authors Fair

Sherwood School students learn about writing books from non-fiction author Emma Bland Smith



Above, left: Sky Montana proudly displays the book that she created. Above, right: The kids are eager to show Emma Bland Smith the books that they created in class. At right: The students raise their hands and add their own perspective.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Annapurna Steffen, second and third-grade teacher at the Sherwood School, thought it would be a great idea to apply for a grant from the Mendocino Office of Education in order to have the funds

to invite a real-live author to come and speak with the kids about her methods, her inspirations, the different forms of non-fiction writing, and to read to them from their books.

"The grant money helped pay for our own Young Authors Fair. We have been having the students write and publish their own books, every grade. The culmination of this Young Authors Fair will be an open house next Friday [May 3] at 5 pm. The open house is like a showcase of our school that is open to prospective families, students and parents who want to come check out what we've been busy working at. Our parent / teacher organization is doing an enchilada dinner and a dessert auction as a fundraiser.

"There were a couple of things that I took into consideration when choosing Emma Bland Smith," explained Steffen. "One, is that she is local. I didn't want someone outside California. I like that she is local and lives in the Bay Area. Her books are all research-based because they are all based on true stories. I really like involving the students in that writing process.

"I'm hoping we get to question her about how long does it take you to write your books? Where do you get your information? What does your writing process look like, because we're learning from actual authors who have had their works published. I like that her work is so accessible and geared towards a younger audience. I think that it is something that they can be inspired by and relate to and be excited by her work."

Smith engaged in two sessions with the kids on the Sherwood School campus, tucked away in the far reaches of Sherwood Road, past Third Gate. The first session was held with the kindergarten and first-grade classes, who had their own books on display in the classroom, books of many colors and subjects, some of which had pop-up art that stood up when one turned the pages.

Smith read to this group from her narrative non-fiction book, "Claude: The True Story of a White Alligator," about an ugly-duckling alligator that ended up in a museum in San Francisco and found love and acceptance after being rejected by members of his own species.

"I am a picture-book writer, so I write a kind of picture book that is non-fiction. You might know that non-fiction means true stories," said Smith as she passed a

stuffed Claude doll which she purchased at Claude's museum. "I am always on the lookout for interesting stories about people and animals, and I turn those stories into a book."

For nearly an hour, Smith held the attention of the young students as she read from her book and spoke to them about how she goes about writing.

"In this book there are a couple themes," Smith explained. "A theme is an idea that goes through the whole book. One of the themes in the book, one of the ideas, is this idea of being different from the others and feeling that you are different, that you are not the same as everyone.

"Another word that pops up in the book is this word, 'alone,' because Claude was so alone much of his life and he felt lonely, which is something a lot of us feel much of the time. Those are two different themes that are woven through the book. If you hear me say 'different' or 'alone,' raise your hand and we'll see how many times those words pop up."

The second session was in front of the rest of the school, second through fifth grades. Smith read from her book, "The Gardener of Alcatraz," in which Elliott Michener, a convicted forger, found rehabilitation through becoming the gardener of Alcatraz's gardens. Through her talk, she taught the kids the different types of non-fiction writing.

"There are a lot of different non-fictions. Five different categories. Active non-fiction: books that teach a skill. (A cookbook, how to survive in the wilderness, how to play soccer). Browsable non-fiction: full of photos and fun to look through. There may be some text but mostly lots of great photos. Traditional non-fiction: pictures and words and all about a single topic. Expository non-fiction: usually about one topic. They are very poetic. Narrative non-fiction: it's written as a story," Smith told the rapt audience.

Smith left the kids with some suggestions for utilizing their writing creativity that could prove helpful in their future endeavors. When asked for questions, almost all of the kids raised their hands in a display of their thirst for learning. Mission accomplished.

The Sherwood School, located at 32600 Sherwood Road, has been in existence for a very long time, at first a part of the historical town of Sherwood. They are small, with only about 45 students in the kindergarten through fifth grades. The teachers are dedicated and creative and they are always looking for students to join them. Bus service makes it simple for kids to get to the school. For more info, call 707-984-6769 or visit www.willitsunified.com/asherwood.

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100 POINTS PER ENTRY AFTER 100 TODAYS POINTS EARNED
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Above: Ryder Elmore happily receives a bookmark signed by author Emma Bland Smith.



MAY 2, 2024

Willits Farmers Market

The weekly farmers market moved outdoors for the season on April 18, to the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street. Hours are still 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday afternoon.

Enjoy just-picked produce, local meat, farm-fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. All are welcome to Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books.

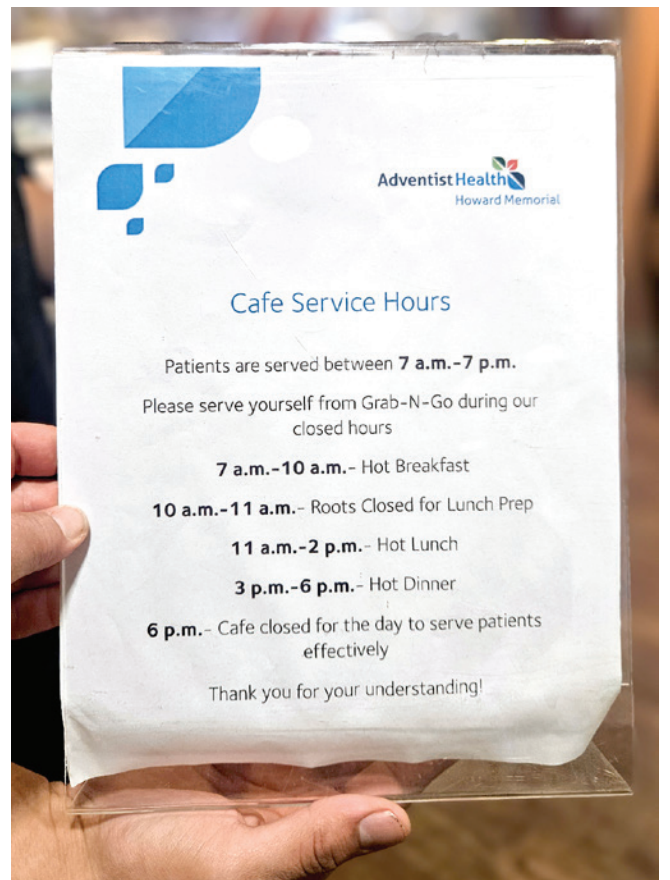


Dine at Roots

Howard Hospital's restaurant offers dishes featuring organic and locally grown produce to the public at affordable prices



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May Lunch Menu for Howard Hospital's Roots restaurant			1 TRI TIP STEAK OR VEGGIE SANDWICH POTATO SALAD RED PEPPER GOULGA GF	2 RASPBERRY BALSAMIC CHICKEN OR TOFU GRILLED POLENTA GARDEN VEGGIES SOUP: BROCCOLI	3 BAKED COD OR FRIED TOFU TOSTADAS W/MANGO SALSA SOUP: CREAM OF POTATO GF/DF	4 MEATLOAF OR LENTIL LOAF GARDEN VEGGIES MASHED POTATOES SOUP: CHEFS CHOICE
5 LEMON ROSEMARY CHICKEN OR VEG ORZO & GARDEN SALAD SOUP: CHEFS CHOICE	6 SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS SALAD GARLIC BREAD SOUP: MINISTRONE	7 CHICKEN TINGA NACHOS SOUP: BLACK BEAN GF/DF	8 THAI NOODLE SALAD W/ BEEF OR TOFU SOUP: CARROT GINGER GF/DF	9 CHICKEN AU POIVRE ARTICHOKE MASH ASPARAGUS STUFFED PEPPERS SOUP: VEGETABLE	10 FRIED CHICKEN SWEET POTATO MASH CILANTRO LIME COLESLAW SOUP: CHICKEN NOODLE	11 LEMON ONION BEEF GARDEN VEGGIES JASMINE RICE SOUP: CHEFS CHOICE
12 POT ROAST STUFFED MUSHROOM GARDEN VEGGIES ROASTED POTATOES SOUP: CHEFS CHOICE	13 PESTO CHICKEN OR MUSHROOM SANDWICH PASTA SALAD SOUP: RED PEPPER GOULDA GF	14 GROUND BEEF OR SOYRIZO TACO BOWL SOUP: CHICKEN TORTILLA GF/DF	15 TUSCAN CHICKEN MUSHROOM RAVIOLI GARDEN SALAD CHIBATTA BREAD SOUP: TOMATO GF/DF	16 CURED SALMON OR FLORENTINE MUSHROOMS W/TARRAGON CREAM SAUCE HERBED POTATOES GARDEN VEG SOUP: WHITE BEAN	17 BURGERS AND ONION RINGS SOUP: FRENCH ONION GF/DF	18 ORANGE PINAPPLE CHICKEN JAZMINE RICE GARDEN VEGGIES SOUP: CHEFS CHOICE
19 SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS SALAD GARLIC BREAD SOUP: CHEFS CHOICE	20 GYROS CHICKEN OR VEGGIE SOUP: BUTTERNUT SQUASH GF/DF	21 CHICKEN OR MUSHROOM SOPES RICE & BEANS SOUP: RED POSOLE GF/DF	22 MEATLOAF OR LENTIL LOAF MASHED POTATO CARROTS/KALE SOUP: MINISTRONE GF/DF	23 COLD SOBA SALAD W/TERIYAKI CHICKEN PICKLED CABBAGE SOUP: VEGETABLE GF/DF	24 JERK CHICKEN JAMBALAYA VEGAN GUMBO HUSH PUPPIES SOUP: CALIFLOWER GF/DF	25 CHICKEN SOUVLAKI CUCUMBER SALAD PITA BREAD SOUP: CHEFS CHOICE
26 BBQ CHICKEN VEG OPTION MAC AND CHEESE SALAD CORN BREAD MEMORIAL WEEKEND BBQ	27 PARMESEAN ENCRUSTED CHICKEN EGG PLANT PARMESEAN MUSHROOM RISOTTO SALAD GARLIC BREAD SOUP: MINISTRONE GF/DF	28 BARBACOA STEAK OR MUSHROOM TACOS RICE & BEANS SOUP: CHICKEN AVOCADO GF/DF	29 RUEBEN OR VEGGIE SANDWICHES W/ GARDEN SALAD SOUP: FRENCH ONION GF/DF	30 HOT TURKEY OR MUSHROOM PATTY SANDWICHES ON SOURDOUGH W/ DJON JACK CHEESE ROASTED POTATOES GRAVY SOUP: CORN CHOWDER GF/DF	31 FRIED CHICKEN WRAPS SWEET POTATO FRIES SOUP: SPLIT PEA GF/DF	



Avenues to Wellness is a community-based, free-of-charge wellness program sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Foundation.

Monthly Speaker Event: Featuring local health educators. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month, at Willits United Methodist Church 6-7pm.

Our next speaker is Dawnmarie Riskey-Childs DO, a retired psychiatrist speaking about her personal story of healing from childhood sexual abuse. Previous talks can be viewed in the archives at: avenuestowellness.org

Bereavement Support Groups: Offered three times per year in 8-week sessions. This is a facilitated group to process emotions and learn about your unique grief journey.

Call to Connect: A telephone-based emotional support system for isolated and lonely people. This program provides a once a week, 30-minute phone call with a "phone-pal." This is also a volunteer opportunity to help folks who are feeling lonely.

Suzanne Picetti-Johnson, Program Manager.

For more information call: 707-456-9676 or email Suzanne at: spicetti@howardfoundation.org Facebook page: Avenues to Wellness

Coming Soon!

Willits Kids Corner

Indoor Playground and Family Fun Center!

Scan this code to Keep up on our progress as we get closer to Opening Day!

WillitsKidsCorner@gmail.com

707-841-1138

Outdoor Recreation Boosts Mental Health

Submitted by the National Recreation and Park Association

Ninety-two percent of U.S. adults experience a positive mental health boost after spending time at their local parks, according to the latest National Recreation and Park Association Park Pulse poll.



Visiting parks and participating in recreational activities can improve mood and boost energy. Not only do parks and recreation provide opportunities for physical health, but also they provide mental health benefits. Time spent in nature positively impacts mental health by increasing cognitive performance and well-being and alleviating illnesses, such as depression, attention deficit disorders, and Alzheimer's.

Key Findings

- Ninety-two percent of U.S. adults experience a positive mental health boost after spending time at their local parks.
- Women are more likely than men to say they feel calm or peaceful after visiting their local parks (62% vs. 55%).
- Millennials are more likely than baby boomers to feel happy or joyful after spending time at their local park (53% vs. 40%).
- Those from households of three or more are more likely to feel happy or joyful after spending time at their local park (52%) compared to those who live with one other person (42%) or by themselves (34%). Larger households also feel more energized after their visit (32% vs. 20% vs. 21%).
- Nearly three in five parents (57%) feel happy or joyful after spending time at their local park, compared to 40% of non-parents.

"The positive impact of parks leaves many individuals healthier, happier and less reliant on local medical and mental health services," said Melissa May, NRPA senior manager of research. "Access to quality parks and recreation can help improve health outcomes for every community."

Each month, through a poll of 1,000 U.S. residents focused on park and recreation issues, NRPA Park Pulse helps tell the park and recreation story. To learn more about NRPA's Park Pulse and see results from previous polls, click here.

About the National Recreation and Park Association: The National Recreation and Park Association is the leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. With more than 60,000 members, NRPA advances this mission by investing in and championing the work of park and recreation professionals and advocates – the catalysts for positive change in service of equity, climate-readiness, and overall health and well-being. For more information, visit nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit parksandrecreation.org.



Hospice of Ukiah

Community Supported Hospice & Palliative Care

End-of-Life Care through Hospice of Ukiah

The Mission of Hospice of Ukiah is to provide end-of-life and comfort care, free of charge, to everyone in our community who needs it.

Hospice of Ukiah is based on the belief that people with terminal or long-time debilitating illness can live and die comfortably among family and friends in familiar surroundings. We provide support and professional care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of clients and their families.

How Do You Qualify for Our Hospice Program?

There must be a willing and able caregiver responsible for the client's 24-hour care.

The client must have a primary physician who makes the referral and accepts responsibility for medical care.

The client must live in the geographical area we serve.

The client, when possible, must be able to participate in decision-making.

Why Choose Hospice of Ukiah?

There is no requirement for a prognosis of death.

You may continue to receive life-extending treatment (such as Chemo, Dialysis, etc.)

We do not require or accept Medicare, Medi-Cal, or private insurance.

You can go to the Hospital or Emergency Room as circumstances require.

Signing a DNR or POLST is recommended but not required.

24-hour on-call help via phone.

You will receive professional, compassionate care.

All our services are free.**

*Serving: Ukiah, Calpella, Redwood Valley, Potter Valley, Hopland, Talmage, Anderson Valley, and Willits.

** Hospice of Ukiah is completely supported by the community in the form of Donations, Grants, Bequests, and the earnings from our Thrift & Gift Store.

Hospice of Ukiah is hiring

Submitted by Ukiah Hospice

This is a great opportunity for a fulltime Nurse Coordinator working both in Ukiah and in Willits. Hospice of Ukiah is a community funded Hospice and Palliative Care service, not associated with Medicare or any other insurance.

Our services are available to everyone who needs us. Our nurses work with local doctors to coordinate care for those in their final days, and also those with long-term debilitating illness. Nurses work without direct supervision, set their own hours and become part of our team of nurses, personal care assistants, social worker, grief counselor, and volunteer medical advisor. For more information, call (707) 462-4038, 9 am to 1 pm, Monday to Friday.



New life for historic Rexall building

Family Entertainment and Learning Center coming soon!



Submitted by Willits Kids Corner

Willits, CA - The historic Rexall building in Willits, California, is set for a dynamic transformation into the Willits Kids Corner and Family Entertainment Center, slated to open in early fall of 2024. This renovation will repurpose the iconic site as a modern hub for family and educational activities. Willits Kids Corner will continue to provide an outdoor venue for the community's many seasonal gatherings and annual events.

The reimagined space will be a family-friendly facility, including large indoor play structures, event rentals, escape rooms, a sensory room, arcade games, interactive even a Willits "Tiny Town." place a special emphasis and crafts, as well as activities designed to growth and cognitive

soft play areas, climbing walls, and The center will on S.T.E.M, arts ASL classes and foster intellectual skill development.

"The revival of the Rexall building as the Willits Kids Corner and Family Entertainment Center is not just an investment in a building but an investment in our community's future," said Nina Swinney, owner, spearheading the project. "We are excited to create a space where learning and fun go hand in hand, and where children can grow and thrive."

This innovative project is not only a restoration of a beloved historic building but also an investment in the future generations of Willits. Combining educational opportunities with fun and open play, the Willits Kids Corner and Family Entertainment Center will provide a safe and engaging environment where physical activity and interactive learning are encouraged.

For more information, please contact: Nina Swinney, WillitsKidsCorner@gmail.com, 707-841-1138.



Willits organizations partner with Blue Zones Project – Mendocino County

Submitted by Blue Zones

Blue Zones Project Mendocino County is a community-led well-being initiative based off the National Geographic study of areas around the world where people live the longest, healthiest lives. In the original Blue Zones areas, residents make healthy choices because those choices are easy – even unavoidable – in their surroundings. Instead of just focusing on the individual, we focus on optimizing the environment and, more specifically, the "Life Radius," because personal choice is only one factor in the daily decisions we make.

The Life Radius is the area around your home or work where you spend the majority (up to 90%) of your time. Since most adults spend 40% of our time at work, Blue Zones Project is partnering with major employers in Willits to shape the work environment to make healthy choices easier for employees. Worksites can positively affect the larger community, because healthy employees become powerful advocates for change in other organizations like schools, restaurants, grocery stores, and civic groups. Worksites that increase well-being of employees by 10% see 5% fewer unscheduled absences, 5% higher reported job performance, and an increase of 6% more days of "best work" in a 28-day period.

Willits Unified School District is already working closely with BZP to improve overall student well-being. Post-pandemic, schools nationwide struggle with an overwhelming increase in student mental health referrals, discipline issues, and students reporting feeling disconnected from school. The partnership between BZP and WUSD brings a school-wide approach where every child receives well-being support to excel in the classroom through policy and program actions that promote physical, social and emotional health.

WUSD Superintendent Mark Beebe encouraged the BZP partnership early this school year, and now, three of the five WUSD schools have achieved Blue Zones Project Approval, with one more remarkably close.

Blue Zones Project schools focus on teaching healthy lifestyle choices based on evidence-based best practices from around the country that are proven to optimize the school environment to better promote physical, social and emotional health. Research shows healthier students earn higher test scores, have higher attention rates, and tend to be better adjusted and socially connected. BZP provides education for the entire family about how to improve well-being. BZP schools join a community-wide effort to improve well-being so that we all can choose to lead healthier, happier lives.

What is different when eating at a BZP-approved restaurant? Find out by eating at Brickhouse Coffee, The Munchery, and Roots Restaurant. These three restaurants completed a rigorous certification process ensuring that healthy choices are easy for patrons. At BZP approved restaurants, you can expect plant-based proteins offered at a lower cost than meat-based proteins, condiments served on the side, fresh fruit and vegetables as the default side dishes with many items sourced within a 400-mile radius, bread or chips are reserved for the meal, and whole grain offerings are available to replace refined grains. Water is the default beverage and served immediately upon arrival, while sugary drinks are served in tall narrow glasses holding no more than 12 ounces. Sparkling water, iced tea, and club soda are available as drink alternatives. Children's plates and portions are smaller than adults, and sugary drinks are not the default serving. Overall, when you see the BZP logo in the window, you know the restaurant commits to optimizing their menu, environment, and presentation for better health.



THE YOKAYO SEED PROJECT AT THE UKIAH BRANCH LIBRARY

Succulent Swap/Plant Swap

The Yokayo Seed Project is hosting a succulent plant swap on May 11 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Bring your favorite succulents/cuttings to swap and share. Veggie starts and other plant cuttings are welcome at this swap as well.

Let's share the succulent wealth. This event is for ages 12 and up, and the event is sponsored by the Ukiah Valley Friends of the Library and the Mendocino County Library.

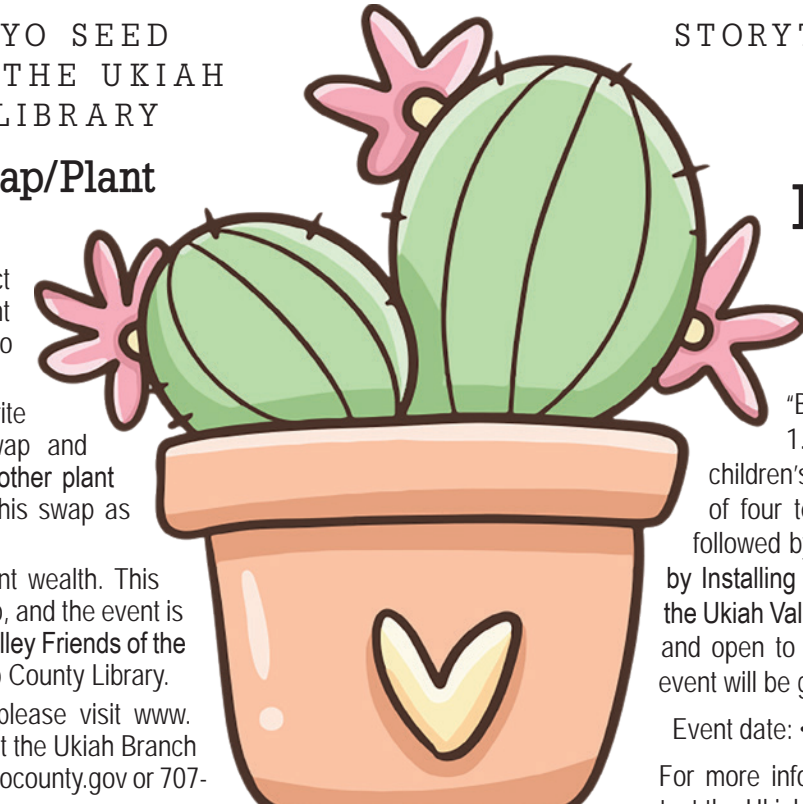
For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Ukiah Branch Library at lyonj@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-463-4490.

STORYTELLING AT THE UKIAH BRANCH LIBRARY

'Blossoming Kindness: Living In Harmony'

The Ukiah Branch Library is pleased to partner with Instilling Goodness and Developing Virtue Schools for a series of monthly storytelling and craft events focusing on the theme of "Blossoming Kindness: Living in Harmony." These 1.5 hour events will take place in the library's children's room and will include a storytime hosted by one of four teachers from the Instilling Goodness schools, followed by an hour of craft time. This event is sponsored by Instilling Goodness and Developing Virtue Schools and the Ukiah Valley Friends of the Library and is free to the public and open to all ages, though the storytime portion of each event will be geared towards ages 2 to 6.

Event date: • Wednesday May 22, 2024, 10:30 am to 12 pm. For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Ukiah Branch at 707-463.4490.



Did you know?

Heading out for a trip to one of our state parks? Get a CA State Park Pass with your Mendocino County Library Card!

How it Works:

1. Visit a branch of the Mendocino County Library and ask for a parks pass
2. Each pass can be checked out for 21 days with your library card
3. Return your pass by the due date for the next patron to check out
4. Passes are good at over 200 participating parks



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS Presents

The May Show

The Best of Inland Artists

Visit your Art Center
Vote for Your Favorite Piece of Art

Opening May 4 through May 26, 2024

MEET THE ARTISTS
Saturday May 4, 6-9 PM
Open weekends 11 am-5pm

East Commercial Street, Willits CA 95490
707-459-1726
willitscenterforthearts.org

What can your local Family Resource Center (FRC) do for you?

FRC LOCATIONS IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

- Covelo
- Round Valley FRC
- Laytonville Healthy Start
- Fort Bragg
- Willits
- Nuestra Alianza de Willits
- Mendocino Coast Children's Fund FRC
- Potter Valley
- Potter Valley Youth & Community Center
- Ukiah
- Vision FRC
- Raise & Shine
- The Arbor
- Point Arena
- Action Network FRC

Information and application assistance for: Medi-Cal Insurance • CalFresh (Food Stamps), Parenting Support & Referrals and many other supportive services!

Visit www.frcmendo.org for more info!

All levels Welcome

YOGA FOR THE FEMALE BODY

A conscious yoga class that includes sound, breath, visualization & movement.

at Long Valley Dance on Mon. @ 1-2pm
or
at Willits Center for the Arts on Wed. @ 12-1pm

LVD-\$10 WCA-\$15

Did you know:
• Most yoga asanas were created by men for men's bodies
• Many yoga poses do not support our female pelvises
• A misaligned female pelvis looks like painful sex, bladder incontinence, diastasis recti, prolapse, birthing complications, & many more symptoms
• Learn female pelvic bowl wisdom in this one of a kind yoga class
• Follow @bachelardemeadow on IG

Drop ins welcome
Call/text (707) 354-5068

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE 101

Learn how to be a good neighbor to your local wildlife!

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

about pigs, bears, birds? How to make a bear proof trash can? What to do about a bothersome skunk? How to remove bats without harming them?

GET EDUCATED FIRST BEFORE there's a wildlife conflict!

Join Wildlife Conflict Specialist Kiana Hargreaves and local Mendocino Biologist Camden Esch for a presentation and discussion on how to LIVE WITH (NOT AGAINST) WILDLIFE in Mendocino County!

MAY 8TH 5:30PM FREE EVENT
HARWOOD HALL, LAYTONVILLE

For more information E-mail mendowildsol@gmail.com

Willits Senior Center's

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 12th, 2024
8:00am - 11:00am
1501 Baechtel Rd. Willits, Ca 95490

Breakfast Prices
Adults - \$10
Senior Center Members - \$9
Children - \$8

Breakfast includes biscuits and gravy with side of eggs \$2.00
OR all you can eat pancakes, fruit, sausage, hot sauce, 2 eggs, coffee, milk or juice.
(Extra Sausage, Bacon, eggs and juice for additional cost)

Free Mimosas for all moms 12+ included with breakfast!

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Song Writing Class with Deanne Bunny

songwriting class designed to nurture the creative talents of individuals interested in the art form of composing songs to express themselves

Bring your instruments!

This class aims to guide participants in developing their songwriting skills, from crafting lyrics to composing melodies, with the goal of helping them create original, meaningful songs.

June 2, 9, 23, 30, 2024 3-5pm
\$100
ALL LEVELS WELCOME
Register online at www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Tired of slimy salad mix? Yellowing greens? Tasteless tomatoes?

Try Fresh! Try Farmers Market!

Every Thursday, 3 to 5:30 PM
Main and W. Mendocino

We accept EBT, double your money with Market Match

Fresh produce, local meat, eggs, bakery goods, prepared foods, drinks and hot food, crafts, community, and music every week.

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Hospice of Ukiah

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Hospice of Ukiah is seeking an LVN or RN with a current license, to coordinate care for our clients in the Willits area.

This is a great job for a part time nurse who likes to work without direct supervision, set their own hours, and be a part of a dedicated interdisciplinary team.

For Information and to apply, send resume to hospiceofukiah@pacific.net, or call (707) 462-4038.

Children's Memorial Flag raised at Mendocino County Courthouse on April 26

Submitted by Sheryn Hildebrand for CASA

Now more than ever, the safety and security of our nation's children is paramount. The Children's Memorial Flag was created in honor of National Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month celebrated in April of every year.

Flown on the fourth Friday in April — on April 26 this year — the Children's Memorial Flag honors each lost child across our nation and serves as a symbol for the protection of children and young people from all forms of violence. The flag raises public awareness about the continuing problem of violence against children.

The Honorable Victoria Shanahan and Bishop Jonathan Padilla from the Willits Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints together helped raise the flag this year at the Mendocino County Courthouse. Participants shared in the recognition that making children a national priority is critical.

This flag is simple but powerful. A red flag depicting blue, paper-doll-like figures of children holding hands. In the center, the white chalk outline of a missing child symbolizes the children lost to violence across the nation. Created by a 16-year-old student in



Victoria Shanahan and Bishop Jonathan stand with the flag before it was raised on April 26.

Alameda County, California, the Children's Memorial Flag honors each lost child and raises public awareness about the continuing problem of violence against children.

Pinwheels were also shared at the ceremony, as the pinwheel has been embraced as the national symbol for Child Abuse Prevention. By its very nature, the pinwheel evokes whimsy and childlike notions. It has come to serve as the physical embodiment, or reminder, of the great childhoods we want for all children.

The Pinwheels for Prevention campaign nationwide provides a unique opportunity for all of us, individuals, and organizations alike, to get involved by learning more about prevention, supporting child and family friendly policies and services, and volunteering at the local, state, and national levels.

If you want to learn more about how you can get involved locally, email Sheryn Hildebrand at CASA of Mendocino County at shildebrand@mendocinocounty.org.



Become a CASA volunteer and help youth in trouble have a voice

Submitted by Sheryn Hildebrand for CASA

CASA of Mendocino and Lake Counties, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), was established in 1994 and graduated their first volunteer advocates in 1995.

CASA volunteers are community members of all backgrounds and educational levels trained to work with our Juvenile Dependency Courts to assure that every child has a voice.

ONE PERSON CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE!

We are accepting applications ongoing for training and are especially interested in recruiting males to train as CASA advocates.

Make a difference in a Mendocino or Lake County abused, neglected or delinquent child's life. For more information, contact Sheryn Hildebrand at 463-6503, ext. 13 or email her at shildebrand@mendocinocasa.org.

Traditional Spring Green Sauce from Germany

Submitted by Claudia Wenning

The seven spring herbs that are traditionally used for this colorful sauce in Germany are: Borretsch, Kerbel, Kresse, Petersilie, Pimpinelle, Sauerampfer und Schnittlauch. In English translation: Borage, Chervil, Cress, Parsley, Salad Burnet, Sorrel, Chives.

INGREDIENTS to serve 4:

- 2 hard-boiled egg yolks
- 1 tablespoon walnut oil (or other nut oil)
- 2/3 cup strained Greek yogurt
- 2/3 cup buttermilk or plain yogurt
- 2/3 cup sour cream or crème fraîche
- 10 to 12 ounces fresh herbs, finely chopped, in about equal amounts of parsley, garden cress, chives, borage, salad burnet, sorrel, and chervil
- Add freshly ground pepper, salt, and fresh lemon juice to taste

PREPARATION:

Mix the egg yolks with the oil into a smooth paste.

Add a teaspoon or two of lemon juice.

Mix this with the yogurts and sour cream, add the finely chopped herbs, and season to taste with salt, lemon juice and pepper.

Process in a blender until herbs are finely chopped and the cream is bright green.

Traditionally served cold over hard boiled eggs and hot, boiled potatoes.

Enjoy the brilliantly green color!

Use this sauce also for a bread dip or salad dressing, or as a dip for raw veggie dishes, tofu, bean dishes, and even with chips and crackers.

VARIATIONS:

This sauce is traditionally dairy rich, but you can easily use these variations:

Just a vinaigrette, oil/vinegar. Or simply lemon juice with olive oil.

Or replace dairy with a nut butter base, cashew yoghurt, beans/tofu, goat cheese, or coconut cream. You can certainly also leave out the eggs all together.

Add or substitute other fresh spring herbs you have on hand:

Dandelion, lemon balm, dill, cilantro, fennel, thyme, rosemary, miners lettuce, chickweed, purslane, dead nettle, lettuce, chard, kale, spinach, garlic sprouts, alfalfa and other sprouts, etc.

Quantum Level Health - www.claudialawenning.com - claudia@claudialawenning.com



Above, left: Luna Boss explains the history and uses of jackfruit to Miles Mueller, Jon Spitz and Louis Rohlicek. Above, right: Valerie Edwards uncovers the dish she brought to share as Sally Mueller looks on. Below: A fruit salad with a variety of tasty fruits lends plenty of color to the table. At bottom: Everyone loved this pasta salad with chopped pasillas, onion, celery, peas, tomato, pickled cucumbers, spicy peppers, olive oil, hummus, lemon juice, salt and cumin.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Peaceful Plates

Wide variety of healthy, colorful foods to choose from at vegan potluck dinner in Laytonville

"We started these vegan dinners, 10 years before COVID hit, around 2009 or so, at the Garden Club [in Laytonville]," said Jon Spitz. "Before that, we were having vegan dinners at people's homes."

The group has now resumed their dinners and plans to get back to their schedule of holding three dinners a year, one being on Thanksgiving.

"I've been vegan for 34 years now," said Spitz. "After a while, it's just what you do. People who don't eat vegan imagine what a struggle it is, that you're constantly denying yourself. That's not the way it is at all. I enjoy my food as much as anybody."

"First of all," he explained, "the diet itself is healthy for our bodies. There's a huge amount of evidence that proves that."

Spitz' second argument was that eating vegan is also healthier for the planet. Methane produced from animals raised for food is one of the major contributors to climate change.

"Methane is about 100 times more potent than carbon dioxide," said Spitz. "It only lasts in the atmosphere about 20 years as opposed to 100 years for carbon dioxide. If we were to reduce our methane emissions, it would be gone in 20 years. You would see an enormous change in just 20 years. Animal products and livestock production are the main source of methane. I know it's a hard sell up here with all the ranches, but those are the facts."

"Third," he continued, "and this may seem esoteric, but to me, it is a healthy way for humans to relate to the other animals on the planet. We treat the other animals as though they are just chattel for us to use however we please, but they have lives. They are sentient. They feel. They feel fear and pleasure. Eating them causes health problems in us. If you really think about it, it just doesn't make sense. We eat food that, not only is making us sick, but we're ruining the planet and it's creating a terrible relationship with all the other animals."

Many carnivores think that meat is the only way to get protein into their bodies, however, they do not realize, according to Spitz, that all food contains this precious element. "What people don't realize is that

every living thing is made out of protein, plants, animals, everything," explained Spitz.

"Whenever you eat a plant, you're getting protein. All protein actually comes from plants. Plants synthesize protein when they're growing. Then animals eat the protein, and their bodies break down the individual meal essence and rebuild it into animal protein. So, all proteins essentially come from plants. All plants have all the essential amino acids that people need. If you eat a plant-based diet, there's no question, no concern about protein. That's just a myth that's been created."

Prior to raiding the tables where the participants had laid out their contributions to the evening's repast, Spitz formed everyone into a circle where they introduced themselves and gave a short sentence or two about why they were attending and / or their feelings about food.

"I think we can contribute to a better world by choosing to have more peace on our plates and putting peace inside of us," said Miles Mueller, who has been coming to these dinners for a couple of years. He and his wife, Rachel, moved to Laytonville to share a property with Miles' parents, who were also in attendance. The first time they came, their 18-month-old toddler, Marlo, was still yet unborn.

Luna, who brought an amazingly tasty dish made from jackfruit, brought a huge jackfruit to show. She explained that the 1.5-foot-long jackfruit was actually quite small for a jackfruit.

Valerie Edwards is not strictly a vegan or a vegetarian but loves the company and the food.

Sally Rohlicek, who attended with her husband, Louis, said, "It's wonderful to see all these committed vegan people together, having a wonderful time, eating plant food, and honoring our fellow beings on the planet." Louis added, "I am so happy to be with a group of people who share peaceful feelings toward the planet, especially at a time when we have such crazy turmoil happening."

By the end of the evening, the attendees were happy to have been in the company of their vegan friends and to have enjoyed a healthy and tasty meal together, created with love of food and planet.



At left: Miles and Rachel Mueller have been attending these vegan dinners since they arrived in Laytonville two years ago and baby Marlo was still yet to be born.



Above: Two tables contain dishes with many types of foods to choose from, all tasty and prepared lovingly.

Serving Families throughout Mendocino County

We are here for you!

First 5 Mendocino works to build cohesive and resilient communities where all children have access to quality services, support and opportunities to reach their full potential.

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- Community Resiliency Model Workshops
- Family Empowerment Center - Family Support, Help navigating IEPs
- Professional Development Trainings

To Learn more, visit our website www.first5mendocino.org (707) 462-4453

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Wednesday: Vinyasa, Bands & Buti, Kids Creative Movement, Capoeira
Thursday: Family Yoga, Flow Fusion, HIIT Pilates, Zumba, Groove
Friday: Vinyasa for Stress Release, Strength & Conditioning, Buti Yoga
Saturday: 26x2 Hot Yoga, Beginning Hatha Yoga
Sunday: Buti Yoga, Zumba
Massage: By appointment

*Beginning April, check out our website for current information & special workshops.

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Cultivate a brighter outlook through habits of gratitude with the Give Thanks Challenge.

JOIN THE CHALLENGE >> APRIL 1 - JUNE 30

Track your progress for 21 days by answering the daily question and improve not only your sense of gratitude, but your overall wellbeing.

1. Register or log in at bzmendocinocounty.sharecare.com
2. Find the Challenges under the Achieve
3. Join an Active or Upcoming Blue Zones Project challenge

Grateful Gleaners

PLANT SALE!

* Saturday May 11th * 10 am to 3 pm *

FLOWERS!
FRUITS!
VEGETABLES!
HERBS!
POLLINATORS!
CA NATIVES!
AND MORE!

Garden art from Morgan Rex Golden Rule Gardens CSA
Grapes from Richard Toolseese Jeske and Quail Seeds

Proceeds enable the Grateful Gleaners to distribute fruit from local yards to community groups AND provide grants to farmers in the Willits foodshed

LOOK FOR SIGNS BY THE WILLITS POST OFFICE, POINTING TO 130 Tuttle Lane

Mendocino College Dance Department presents the 42nd Annual

Spring Dance Festival

May 2-5, 2024

Original Dance Works
Live Music
Visual Arts
Family Friendly

Tickets: \$10 All Ages
Friday Scholarship Gala \$15

Available at Mendocino Book Company,
online at www.arts.mendocino.org or call (707) 468-3079
Tickets will be sold at the door, cash or check only.

May 2nd at 7:30pm - \$10
May 3rd Scholarship Gala at 7:00
Performance at 7:30pm - \$15
May 4th at 7:30pm - \$10
May 5th at 2pm - \$10

Mendocino College Center Theatre · 1000 Hensley Creek Rd., Ukiah CA 95482 · www.mendocino.edu/dance

Want to Dance?

There's a new Senior Dance Hall at the Willits Library Friday afternoons

Submitted by the Willits Library

Attention, seniors ages 55 and older, bring your dancing shoes to the Willits Branch Library on Friday afternoons from 2 to 3 pm, starting May 3. Enjoy jazz, pop, swing, and ballroom selections.

Don't feel like dancing? Please come and enjoy the music, catch up with friends new

and old, and share some light refreshments.

The event will be held at the meeting room at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

¿Quiero Bailar?

¡Salón de baile para personas mayores en la biblioteca!

Atención, personas mayores, de cincuenta y cinco a ciento cinco años, traigan sus zapatos de baile a la biblioteca sucursal de Willits los viernes por la tarde, de 2 a 3 p.m., a partir del 3 de mayo de 2024. Disfruten del jazz, el pop, el swing y el baile de salón.

¿No tienes ganas de bailar? Ven y únete a nosotros para disfrutar de la música,

ponerte al día con amigos, nuevos y viejos, y compartir algunos refrigerios.

El evento se llevará a cabo en el interior de la sala de reuniones de la biblioteca Willits Branch.

Para obtener más información, visite www.mendolibrary.org o comuníquese con la biblioteca sucursal de Willits al 707-459-5908

NCU
NORTH COAST OPPORTUNITIES

VISIÓN FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

PARENT CAFÉ

2024 SCHEDULE

PARENTING WITH BOUNDARIES: EXPLORING DISCIPLINE STYLES
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

DISCONNECT TO RECONNECT: ALTERNATIVES TO SCREEN TIME IN THE DIGITAL AGE
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

DISCONECTAR PARA RECONECTAR: ALTERNATIVOS PARA EL USO DE LA PANTALLA EN LA EDAD DIGITAL
JUEVES, 27 DE JUNIO DEL 2024

NURTURING CREATIVITY FOR PARENTS AND KIDS
THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024

Register at bit.ly/NCOVisionParentCafe

102 Scott Street, Ukiah | 707-467-3210
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SCAN TO REGISTER
¡REGÍSTRASE AQUÍ!

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUTH POLICY COALITION
EST. 2023

JOIN US
In the Journey of Creating Voices for Northern California's Rural Youth

OUR PURPOSE
The goal of the NCYPC is to highlight the issues facing rural communities, engage future voters, organize annual advocacy days at the California State Capitol, and emphasize the voices and viewpoints of our rural youth who are an often-overlooked constituency in the state. As a nonpartisan organization we seek to advocate for all.

MISSION STATEMENT
We seek to give a voice to rural youth who feel unheard and a platform to come together to advocate for issues that are most important to our rural youth in Northern California.

Key Issues
Our goals revolve around issues such as Fire Insurance, Water, Access to Reliable Internet, Access to Opportunity, and Climate Change.

Interesting in Joining the Cause?
If you seek to help the youth of northern California join our cause whether you seek a leadership position or a smaller role we welcome you to make change possible. The QR code to the right will lead you to our sign up form. We are incredibly excited to start this new adventure.

"The Northern California Youth Policy Coalition is a phenomenal advocate for rural youth, tirelessly championing their needs and ensuring their voices are heard. With their unwavering dedication and commitment to addressing the concerns of this often overlooked group, they have become an invaluable force in creating positive change and empowering young individuals in the region."
-Tanya Zhou

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