

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
Donations Accepted Edition No. 559 Thursday, July 18, 2024

Getting help with fire abatement

Annie Evarts
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Longtime Willits resident Max Meyer, attended last week's meeting of the board of directors for Little Lake Fire to vent his frustration with a neighbor's property that he says is a threat to his home, and maybe more importantly to Meyer, to a building full of precious collectables.

"I have a building with treasures in it that are irreplaceable ... insurance won't replace what's in the building," said Meyer. Meyer's immediate neighbor, according to

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

BOS, SEIU agree on new contract

Submitted by SEIU

July 16 – This week, the In-Home Supportive Services providers of SEIU Local 2015, the nation's largest long-term care union representing more than 470,000 caregivers across California, ratified a new three-year contract with the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

The new contract will raise standards for nearly 2,000 IHSS workers who provide essential in-home care to older adults and people with disabilities across Mendocino County. It will:

- Increase the IHSS provider wage supplement by \$1.81, bringing wages to \$18.81 by October 2024 and creating a path to \$20.31 by January 2027.

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

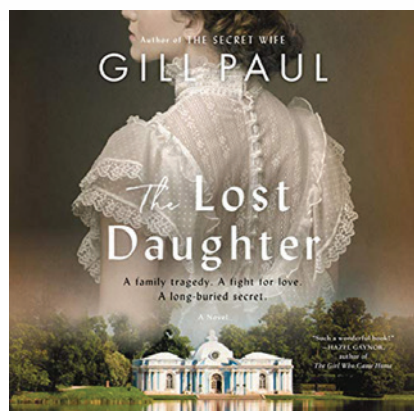
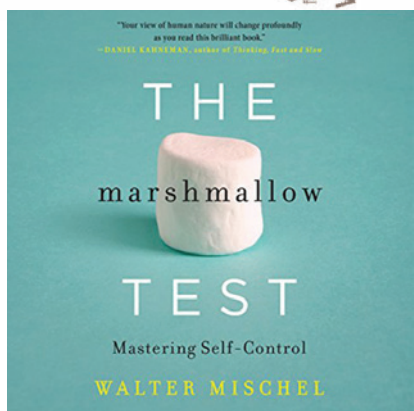
Mendocino College board seeks trustees

Submitted by Mendocino College

Have you ever wanted to make a meaningful impact in your community? Now's your chance! Mendocino College is actively seeking passionate and dedicated individuals to join its Board of Trustees. This is a fantastic opportunity to shape the future of education in our community and help Mendocino College continue its mission of fostering diversity, innovation, and academic excellence.

We have openings in Area 1: Willits, Covelo; Area 3: Calpella, Redwood Valley, Potter Valley; Area 4: Hopland, Boonville, Mendocino; Area 5: Fort Bragg, Piercy; and Area 7: Lakeport, Kelseyville

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



Publisher's descriptions, and my anecdotes, of some recent favorites include: Above, from left: "11-22-63: A Novel" by Stephen King: On November 22, 1963, three shots rang out in Dallas, President Kennedy died, and the world changed. What if you could change it back? "The Marshmallow Test: Mastering Self-Control" by Walter Mischel: A child is presented with a marshmallow and given a choice: Eat this one now, or wait and enjoy two later. What will she do? And what are the implications for her behavior later in life? "The Lost Daughter: A Novel" by Gill Paul: Set in 1918 and 1973, this book tells the tales of two women, Grand Duchess Maria Romanov, the 19-year-old daughter of the fallen Tsar Nicholas II, and Val Doyle, a woman with a distant connection to the Romanov murders and the curiosity to investigate what really happened if one of the Romanovs escaped. Below: Reading a great book, hanging out in a hammock, barefoot in the afternoon breeze is a great way to enjoy the summer.

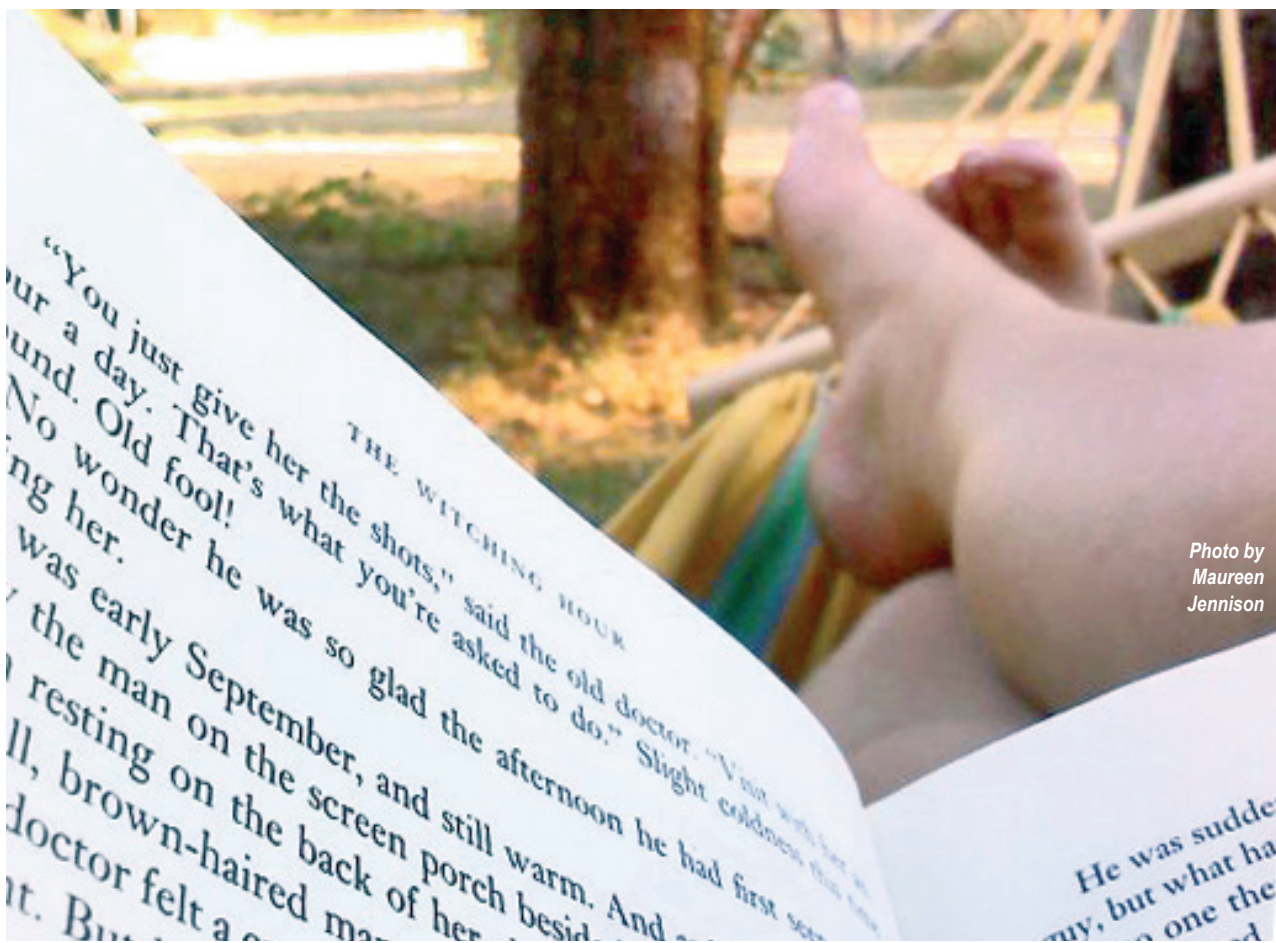


Photo by Maureen Jennison

What are you reading?

Summer is the perfect time to start a new series, learn about self-improvement, or dip a toe into historical fiction

While the obvious answer is "I'm reading Willits Weekly!" the question is really meant for after you put down these pages, and to what pages your hands gravitate to next.

Paperbacks, hardcovers, e-books, or a rising favorite of mine – audiobooks – are all wonderful ways to soak in some stories, and summer is a great time to do just that.

If you're lucky to have some hours of silence during the day, or a job where you can use headphones, Audible, or other online services, including the Libby app which connects to our local library, are great ways to enjoy a book, while multitasking at work.

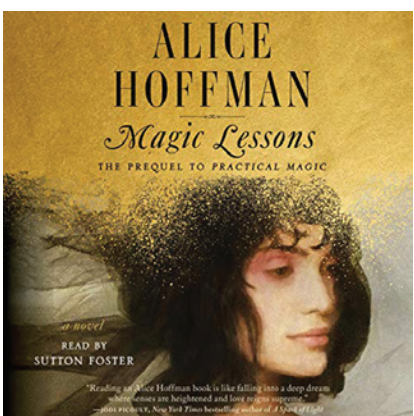
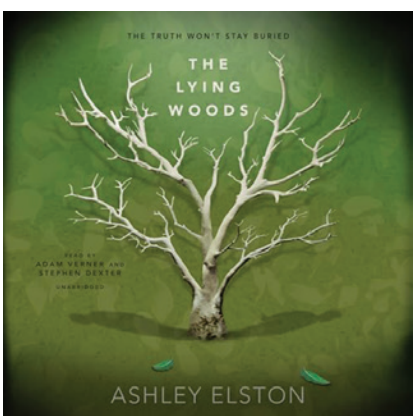
Grabbing something with paper pages, or using an

e-reader device, is equally wonderful on a relaxing day, especially when paired with a cup of coffee, a comfy chair, or a hammock and a light afternoon breeze.

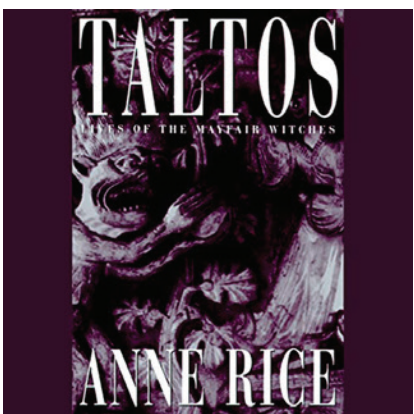
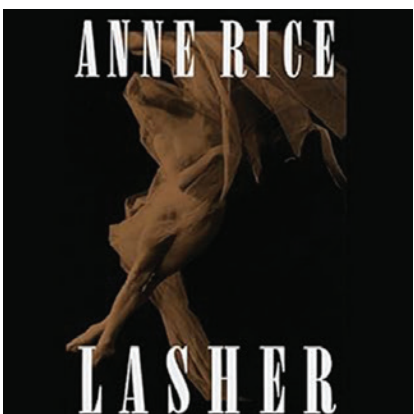
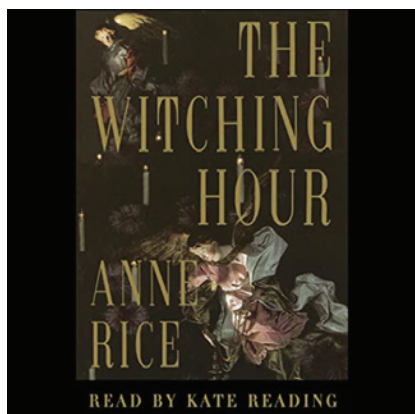
The Mendocino County Library welcomes new and returning readers to come in, sign up for a free library card, and enjoy choosing a read from their numerous volumes, and staying to read in the library, or taking it home to read.

Here are some of my favorites lately, and we encourage you to send us a Letter to the Editor and let us know what you're enjoying, and how you like to read them! Email us at: willitsweekly@gmail.com.

– Maureen Jennison



Publisher's descriptions, and my anecdotes, of some recent favorites include: Above, from left: Dean Koontz' Jane Hawk series, including: "The Bone Farm," "The Silent Corner," "The Crooked Staircase," "The Forbidden Door" and "The Night Window" tells the tale of Jane Hawk, a former FBI agent who becomes the nation's most wanted fugitive once she stumbles onto a secret organization with the goal to control the minds of the population. She fights a suspense-filled battle against the murderous conspiracy. "The Lying Woods" by Ashley Elston: Owen Foster grows up benefiting from embezzled money, only to have his father disappear, leaving Foster and his mother with the mess. They return to the town with the disgruntled workers and struggle to make things right. Foster's only refuge is the sprawling, isolated pecan orchard he works at after school, owned by a man named Gus who has his own secrets. Foster uncovers a terrible injustice that looms over the same Preacher Woods he's claimed as his own; he must face a shocking truth about his own past – and write a better future. "Magic Lessons: A Prequel to Practical Magic" by Alice Hoffman: In this novel that traces a centuries-old curse to its source, beloved author Alice Hoffman unveils the story of Maria Owens, accused of witchcraft in Salem, and matriarch of a line of the amazing Owens women and men featured in "Practical Magic." Below: "The Lives of the Mayfair Witches" series includes "The Witching Hour," "Lasher," and "Taltos." It tells the tale of a great dynasty of four centuries of witches – a family given to love, murder and philosophy, a family that over the ages is itself haunted by a powerful, dangerous, and seductive being called Lasher who haunts the Mayfair women. Moving in time from today's New Orleans and San Francisco to long-ago Amsterdam and the France of Louis XIV, from the coffee plantations of Port-au-Prince to Civil War New Orleans and back to today.



Farewell to Train Singer Greg Schindel

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Early in the morning of July 12, 2024, Willits, Mendocino County, and the world lost an icon, Train Singer Greg Schindel. The loss leaves a great hole in the fabric of the lives of the many who loved him for his kindness, his generous nature, his tales, his music, and his deep profound humanity.

Greg Schindel was a rare and unique individual, entertaining the thousands of riders of the Skunk Train in the guise (not a very hidden personality) of the

Read the rest of **Schindel**
Over on Page 5

Crash on Valley Road kills Willits man, 30

Submitted by CHP Humboldt

On Sunday, July 14, 2024, at 11:02 pm, the Humboldt County Communications Center received a 9-1-1 call for a two-vehicle crash on Valley Road, east of Davidson Road, east of Willits. California Highway Patrol officers responded to the scene to investigate the crash.

Julian Franks, 30, of Willits, was driving his 1985 Toyota pickup eastbound on Valley Road. The Toyota was partially in the westbound lane, and sideswiped a 2022 Honda Accord, driven by a 16 year old female from Willits.

The Toyota overturned,

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

BOS to count assessment votes next week

Jennifer Poole
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The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will count the ballots for the Sherwood Corridor Special Benefit Assessment after a public hearing at their July 23 meeting next week.

Ballots from Sherwood Corridor property owners will be accepted at the board chambers, 501 Low Gap Road in Ukiah, through the end of the Tuesday public hearing.

Ballots were sent to property owners in Brooktrails, Spring Creek, Sylvandale, and the Gates subdivisions, for their yay or nay on assessing

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

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Another amazing year

To the Editor:

Willits Frontier Days would like to extend our appreciation to the community and those who attended this year's Fourth of July events from near and far, and thank them for making it another amazing year.

We were excited to have two Sweetheart candidates; congratulation to winner Elena Arkelian; we had a new event: Bulls and Broncs which was put on by two high school students; we had amazing participation in our Junior Rodeo and in our local barrel and roping events; and it was wonderful to see everyone out for the parade, despite the hot temperatures.

The horseshow showed off riders' talents; everyone danced and enjoyed the live performances at the dances; the Truck and Tractor Pulls event was filled with locals trying hard to win against the Terminator; the BBQ provided a tasty lunch as contestants enjoyed the music of the Rodeola and the clangs of the horseshoe tournament; and the Lions Club breakfast sold more meals than ever before.

Each year, the two weeks of events are put on by an all-volunteer group of dedicated individuals who spend their weekends, evenings after work, and sometimes work hours (thanks to gracious bosses) to make these events happen each year. We want to thank all of the chairpersons of each event, and the numerous volunteers who help each year.

Our 2024 committee chairs included:

Rodeo: Lee Persico and Marcy Barry; Junior Rodeo: Marcy Barry; Horse Show: Mattie Owen and Pinon family; BBQ: Mike Frahm, Russ Rountree, Eldon Miller, and Steve Spackman; Parade: Mattie Owen, Katie Cooley; Gates: Paul and Bonnie Riley; Back Gates: Kenn Pedersen; Breakfast: Willits Lions Club; Advertising: Karen Cavanaugh, Marcy Barry and Maureen Jennison; Sweetheart Contest: Persico family, Tina Holguin, Kiri Silva; Sweetheart Dinner: June Sizemore, Fred Barry, Hailey Riley; Entertainment: Marcy Barry and Jeff Cook; Truck Pulls: Marcy and Fred Barry; Security: Bruce Cartwright; Carnival: Marcy Barry, Tracy Evans and June Sizemore; WFD Arena Crew: Fred Barry, Bruce Cartwright and Steven Hoyle; Gardening: WFD crew and Willits Frontier Days Juniors; Sweetheart Raffle: Genevieve Neary, Marcy Barry; Margarita Booth: Persico ladies; Beer Booth: Fred Barry, Rod Cavanaugh, Bruce Cartwright, Steven Hoyle; Vendors: Kinzie Barlow; Hometown Celebration: Ashton Bloomquist, Jake Whitehurst; Scholarship: Jeff Cook, Mattie Owen, and Bobbie Tilley; Local Barrels: Riata King; Local Team Roping: Bobbie Tilley; Rodeo Stock: Rockin M Rodeo Company; and Willits Frontier Days Juniors: Hailey Riley.

The events would also not be able to happen each year without the financial help of all of the advertisers and sponsors. Major Willits Frontier Days sponsors for 2024 included: Sherwood Valley Casino; East Side Ranch; 101 Trailer and RV Supply LLC; Budweiser - Eagle Dist.; Les Schwab of Willits; Family Tree Service, Inc.; Sparetime Supply; Adventist Health Howard Memorial; and J.D. Redhouse.

Thank you to all of these major sponsors, as well as to the individual event sponsors, the buckle and saddle and

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

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award sponsors, and to everyone who purchased ads in our program.

We look forward to exciting things for the next two years; 2025 events will be the 99th year of Willits Frontier Days, and 2026 will be the 100th year of celebrations. We are excited to announce that the 100th year will be the "Year of the Sweetheart" where we will not crown a new winner, but instead, will ask all past Sweetheart winners to return to the race, all ages and all years against each other in an epic battle of ticket sales – as well as perhaps a few more special contests, too, to make it a memorable achievement to be the "All-Star Sweetheart" in 2026.

Interested in learning more about Willits Frontier Days or becoming involved: emailwillitsfrontierdays@gmail.com

Willits Frontier Days

Willits needs a tree ordinance

To the Editor:

I am writing about two things: the redwood trees at the new Starbucks and the need for a tree ordinance for the City of Willits. Last week, two letters to the editor were written alerting us to the fact that Starbucks Corporation has the right to cut down the two redwood trees on their property. At this time, the construction project manager said Starbucks is not planning on cutting down the trees, but will probably limb them up. I am writing to ask the City of Willits to get an agreement with Starbucks in writing that it will NOT cut down the redwood trees on that property.

Secondly, it has come to my attention that the City of Willits does not have a tree or urban forest ordinance, so a property owner is free to do what they will with the trees on the site and the city and citizens have no say in the matter. After speaking with several city employees on this subject, my impression is that they are not happy with this situation.

I hope the City of Willits will develop an urban forest ordinance, and thank them in advance.

What I want to ask is that the city open up the ordinance development to the community for input. It would be wonderful to be informed of what the city is doing with ordinances such as the urban forest, and others such as a sidewalk ordinance, a franchise business ordinance, etc.

I love living in Willits and have seen many changes over the short 20 years I've lived here, some positive and some negative. The natural beauty of this area is the main attraction, and it needs to be preserved, cared for and managed in a way that allows commerce, people and nature to beneficially co-exist.

I plan to be at the next city council meeting on July 24 at 6:30 to share my concerns and ask for community involvement in the development of an urban forest ordinance and for future ordinances. I hope others will attend the meeting to speak for the trees and for the care of our natural environment.

Laura Toomey Rowland, Willits

California firefighters ready for lightning storms

Submitted by U.S. Forest Service

July 17, 2024, Vallejo – With the lightning storm that passed through the state July 13-15, California sustained 7,139 lightning strikes. Anticipating the incoming storms, the USDA Forest Service had pre-positioned resources throughout the state. These resources were able to quickly respond to initial attack fires, resulting in a successful response rate of 94%.

In this three-day period, the Forest Service and its cooperators responded to 97 fires on Forest Service lands. Only six new fires from this storm went into extended attack.

Given the extremely dry, record-setting fuel conditions where much of the lightning struck, this success rate stands out as a significant achievement for California. Initial attack response was also aided by readily available staff, quick detection technologies, and intermittent cloud cover with rain.

"Over the past few days, our firefighters have been able to aggressively respond to fires that resulted from this lightning storm. The ability to maintain readiness for emerging initial attack fires is critical, even when we have large ongoing fires in the state," said Pacific Southwest Region Fire Director Jaime Gamboa.

An additional 412 resources were brought into the state to assist with California's wildland fire response. The Forest Service remains at the ready during these critical summer months, to respond to emerging wildland fires across the state.

For regional happenings, follow the Pacific Southwest Region on Facebook, X and Instagram.

A special shout-out to our every-week, ongoing advertisers from Willits Weekly's ad gal

This week, Willits Weekly decided to do a super-size ad for each of our small batch of every-week, ongoing advertisers, who run their display ads in each one of our weekly papers.

We decided to celebrate them by increasing each of their ads up an additional column in size for this week, to give them a little extra support, reciprocating the support they give us!

If you happen to go into any of the businesses showcased extra-large this week, thank them for supporting Willits Weekly!

Want to become an ongoing, every-week advertiser? We'd love to add you to the list!

Ad rate sheets are available online at https://www.willitsweekly.com/WW_AdRates.pdf or by emailing willitsweekly@gmail.com

Thank you to these, and of course all the rest of our other monthly, random, one-off, and event-specific amazing advertisers; without all of you, this paper would not be possible!

– Maureen Jennison

Editor's Note: In last week's paper, Willits Weekly repeated Supervisor John Haschak's June update by mistake, instead of printing the correct July update. Here's Supervisor Haschak's July update – a week late. Willits Weekly apologizes for the error.

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT July 2024 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

Hot weather and hot issues are here. The Office of Emergency Services has been dealing with the extreme heat and advising people on how to stay safe. Please take care of yourself and others who might be vulnerable to the heat. Check on your elderly and at-risk neighbors. Since not everyone has air conditioning, consider libraries and stores as places to get a break from the heat. Mendoready.org has additional preparedness tips. Watch Duty is an app that is very useful in tracking fires and emergencies in your area.

Brooktrails Special Assessment vote is ongoing. The public hearing will be on July 23 during the Board of Supervisors meeting. This assessment, if approved, will provide maintenance and fuel reduction for the Willits Creek and Firco roads as emergency access routes. This is a pilot program using assessments for a special benefit. Appreciation to the property owners along the emergency access routes, Sherwood Firewise Council, and the Brooktrails board.

The State Controller's Office conducted an audit of the county's fiscal operations. The three main findings were: 1. the board (with me as the lone dissenting vote) consolidated the Auditor/Controller and Treasurer/Tax Collector positions without doing a risk assessment, which resulted in loss of staffing and institutional knowledge. 2. Payroll did not have sufficient checks and balances (the payroll has been taken into the Executive Office with checks and balances in place). 3. 14 financial accounts were

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

Grand jury 2023-24 reports now at libraries, online

Submitted by Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury

The 2023-2024 Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury Consolidated Reports, printed, are now available at all Mendocino County libraries, and on the grand jury website at: <http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/grand-jury>

Prior to publication, each grand jury report is reviewed and approved by the full panel of seated

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

Below: Dancers of all ages participated in sacred dances around the fire. At right: One of the containers of Commod Cookoff foods shows the variety of comestibles that can be created from the USDA supplies. Further right: The Pomos have perfected the art of grilling salmon, which they shared with all the attendees and participants. At far right: A Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians dancer carries on a long tradition.



Big Time

Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians hosts annual gathering in Willits

Every second Saturday in July, the Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians invites everyone, especially other tribes, to participate in their annual celebration known as "the Big Time." The gathering goes on from morning until sundown and beyond, with traditional dances by tribes from near and far, a "Commod Cookoff," informational booths, and a free salmon feast for all attendees.

And, of course, fry bread, the basis for the savory treat known as Indian tacos. Each band of Indians has their own Big Time which occurs around the same time of year, and several of the vendors travel from Big Time to Big Time, akin to the groups who used to follow the Grateful Dead around the country.

The Native culture is old and rich in lore. Their way of touching the world and the spirits is born of a deep connection and respect for the Earth as the provider of all that they need. Their dances, according to one of the participants, are given to the people by the animals, which is why their moves and costumes represent bears, deer, eagles, and other creatures that have become sacred to each tribe.

The first dancers were from the hosts, the Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians. Festeoed with feathers and other native trappings, they danced in the hot sun to the drum beats from some of the elders. Each time a dance would end, the observers would chant "Oh" in unison to recognize that the prayers have gone out to the world.

Other dancers, throughout the day, were Xa-Batin Feather Dancers, Shokawah Pomo Dancers, Sonoma County Pomo Dancers, Coastal Pomo Dancers, and more from Upper Lake and Round Valley. There was also an Aztec Dance Group as well as Bear Dancers.

"This is one of my favorite Sherwood events of the year," said Stan Horseman of the local Pomo tribe, who was manning the first aid booth for the Sherwood Valley Indian Health Service. "Today, we're going to be served a quality salmon, not salmon fed by little pellets, not salmon raised in tanks, not salmon that's been injected with colors or fillers. We're going to be having delicious, wild-caught salmon today. It's cooked over a barbecue by seasoned chefs.

"There are a lot of vendors here today and they have native products that are handmade," Horseman said. "I find that rather cool. Cutting the abalone can be dangerous because it gives off a dust, but they're professionals at it. They shape different kinds of signs and symbols and bears out of the material."

As always, one of the most interesting and tasty parts of the celebration is the "Commod Cookoff." The United States Department of Agriculture provides many of the qualified natives with basic food necessities, called "commodities," which consist of grains, meats, vegetables, etc. During the Big Time, participants create dishes from these materials which are judged by anyone who wishes to try them. "I work for the Sherwood Valley Food Program," explained Lois Fluke. "Every year at the Big Time, we do the Commodity Cookoff because our program distributes food to low-income Native families. They come together once a year to make their favorite dish with the commodities we give out.

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



Above: The Xa-Batin Feather Dancers performed second at the Sherwood Big Time, with dances that went on until dark. Below: Lois Fluke works for the Sherwood Valley Food Program and helped serve the Commod Cookoff dishes.



Above, left: Stan Horseman manned the Sherwood Valley Indian Health Service, there to treat minor injuries or insect bites. Above, right: Judy Fisch, one of the people responsible for the Commodity Cookoff, counts the ballots cast for cookoff dishes.

At left: Native crafts have a long tradition of creating beauty through regional materials.

Below, left: Almost every tribe across the country has a tradition of creating the deep-fried treat known as Indian tacos. Below, right: The costumes were colorful and traditional, and were created out of regional pieces.

Photos by Mathew Caine



That's how many Americans have PREDIABETES

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Thursday, July 18

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, July 18, at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street, 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. "Storytime at the Farmers Market," from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin Steiskal reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, July 19

"The Tooth of Crime" at WCT: Sam Shepard's post-apocalyptic rock and roll drama continues at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, July 19 at 7:30 pm, and runs through July 21. In essence a classic tragedy, the play centers on an art and ego dual in a wasteland between an aging rocker and an upstart rap challenger. With a live rock band and a music score by T Bone Burnett. For mature audiences due to adult language, adult content, nudity and sexual violence. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available online at: wctperformingartscenter.org, or at the door.

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. Friday, July 19 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



Saturday, July 20

Flourish & Flow Free Walking Group: Flourish & Flow Wellness and Fitness Studio hosts a free walking group meet up every Saturday this summer. "Willits Wilderness Wanderers" is open to everyone. Saturday, July 20, meet at the Brooktrails Parcourse, 24530 Birch Street at 11:30 am.

Craft Saturdays in July: Join the staff of the Willits Branch Library for a variety of fun-filled, creative crafts for the whole family, every Saturday in July, this week, Saturday, July 20 from 11 am to noon. Willits Library Meeting Room, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Music Storytime with Tootreese at the Library: Richard Jeske, aka Tootreese, presents a musical story hour for families, reading from a collection of his favorite books for young people, singing some inclusive songs, and playing guitar. Saturday, July 20, 12 to 1 pm, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Tootreese has been playing music professionally for over 40 years, including leading the Willits Farmers Market Band for over 20 years. He loves sharing stories and music with people of all ages. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

"The Tooth of Crime" at WCT: Sam Shepard's post-

What's Happening Around Town

apocalyptic rock and roll drama continues at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, July 20 at 7:30 pm. See Friday, July 19 listing for details.

Blue Luke at Shanachie: "Blue Luke" Andrews is a prodigy guitarist, born and raised in Dos Rios, Mendocino County. "Imagine a band that takes the soul of the blues, the groove of the funk, the grit of rock & roll and the rich harmonies of jazz to create exactly what you've always wanted to hear." Saturday, July 20 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, July 21

Free Sports Physicals and Back to School Fair: Adventist Health Howard Memorial hosts a free Sports Physicals and Back-to-School Fair for school-age children on Sunday, July 21, from 9 am to 12 noon at AHM's Redwood Medical Clinic located at 3 Marcela Drive in Willits. The event will include free physicals for youth athletes, backpacks along with other school supplies for students, along with booths showcasing community resources like Mendocino County Blue Zones, the Mendocino County Library, and Mendocino County Public Health. A sports physical is required by California schools before a child can join in any school sports. Parental consent is required for the physical exam, and forms required should be brought with each parent and student.

The Willits Death Café: a place to talk about death and dying. Third Sunday of the month this month, Sunday, July 21, 1 to 3 pm. 2351 East Hill Road. Under the Great Oak tree. This is not a bereavement support group. Questions? Email mere.melvin@gmail.com

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"The Tooth of Crime" at WCT: Sam Shepard's post-

Wednesday, July 24

Summer Storytime in the Park: Wednesdays in July, the Willits Library adds an outdoor Storytime, from 11 to 11:30 am. "Join us at Recreation Grove Park for a midmorning dose of sunshine, shade, and stories!"

Dungeons and Dragons at the Library: Wednesdays and Thursdays in July, 10 to 11:30 am. "Our local Dungeon Master is putting forth a new campaign for beginning players and veterans alike. No experience or materials necessary to join. Drop-in players welcome. Choose one of our premade characters to play, or make and bring your own using the 5e rules set." Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

History Makers at the Museum: This summer, the Mendocino County Museum presents family friendly themed crafts and activities inspired by the permanent gallery exhibits on Wednesdays from 11 am to 3 pm. In July, the exhibit is "The Coli Sisters: Reflections on the Creamery." Wednesday, July 24 event is: "Soup's On! Set the Table." 400 East Commercial Street. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission. Enjoy free admission on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. Info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, July 25, at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats,

Dungeons and Dragons at the Library: Thursday, July 25, 10 to 11:30 am. See Wednesday, July 24 listing for details.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, July 25, at the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats,

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

Community Read-Aloud-Athon, August 3 at the Library

Join the library staff and local community members on Saturday, August 3 from 10:30 am to noon as we read our favorite books aloud. This activity seeks to not only promote literacy but also to foster a sense of unity and connection in our community.

Each person will have 5 to 10 minutes to read aloud from their favorite or current book. Please contact the library staff if you are available to take part. Willits Branch Library meeting room, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyotheatre.com

Big News: The Thursday showing of *Despicable Me 4* will be dubbed in Spanish. We are beginning Spanish offerings every Thursday!

live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. "Storytime at the Farmers Market," from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin Steiskal reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Thursday Evenings at the Museum: Mendocino County Museum in Willits revisits permanent gallery exhibits this summer, with new content shared by museum docents and a corresponding art activity on Thursday evenings, from 6 to 8 pm. In July, the exhibit is "The Coli Sisters: Reflections on the Creamery." Thursday, July 25 event is: "Tin Can Decoupage." 400 East Commercial Street. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission. Info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

Friday, July 26

Book Lovers Discussion Group at the Library: This group meets monthly to discuss books, authors and genres, Friday, July 26, 12 to 1 pm. Come talk about why you love books! All adults welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Saturday, July 27

13th annual Jesse Pittman Memorial Race: A fun run / walk for all ages - serious runners and not so serious. Saturday, July 27, registration open at 7:30 am; race starts at 9 am at the Rec Grove. 5K Run/Walk for all ages, plus 1 K Kids Fun Run for ages 8 and under, raffle, and silent auction. A benefit for the Jesse Pittman Foundation, which offers college scholarships for Mendocino County high school students in honor of Jesse D. Pittman, raised in Willits, a Navy SEAL who died on August 6, 2011 while serving in Afghanistan. More info or to register: www.jessepittman.run

Fat Fry in the Park: K-PHT Radio presents this free family-friendly music festival at beautiful Tan Oak Park, 58974 Highway 101, in Leggett. Saturday July 27, noon to 10 pm. Opening this year's Fat Fry will be Kate Nicole, followed by While We're Young, then featured artist Beans Sousa, followed by Scott Forbes Band, then it's Blue Luke & Co. Closing out the evening will be Kingsnakes featuring Indiana Slim and Blue Luke. Food served up by Gibby with soft drinks, beer and wine available. More info: www.kpht-lp.com or info@kpht-lp.org

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: Jesse Bessoni on drums, Kyle Madrigal on guitars, pipes and electronica, & Tommy G. on bass Saturday, July 27 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Free Summer Meals in Willits

A healthy breakfast and lunch are provided FREE to children 0-18 years old, whether enrolled in the Willits Unified School District or not, and regardless of income. Breakfast and lunch are available Monday through Friday, through August 9, 2024, at Blosser Lane Elementary School, 1275 Blosser Lane. Breakfast: 8 to 9 am; Lunch: 11 am to 12 pm. Questions? Call: Willits Unified School District Nutrition Services, 707-459-7700, ext. 155

1st Annual Willits Community Yard Sale
Saturday, August 10th, 2024
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Redwood Valley Capella 65th Firefighters BBQ
20 July
Winner 4:30 - 6:00 PM - Music 6:00 - 11:00 PM
21+ PRE-SALE PERK: DRINK TICKET INCLUDED
ADULTS \$25 • SENIORS \$15 • KIDS 6-12 \$10
UNDER 5 FREE!

THE TOOTH OF CRIME
July 12 - 21
Friday 7:30 pm, Sun 11:30 am

TWISTERS (PG-13) 2 hrs 2 mins
Fri.: 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30
Sat./Sun.: 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30
Mon.-Thurs.: 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30

DESPICABLE ME 4 (PG13) 1 hr 34 mins
Fri.: 2:15, 4:30 & 7:00 pm
Sat./Sun.: 2:15, 4:30 & 7:00
Mon.-Thurs.: 2:15, 4:30 & 7:00

Movie Times for July 19 thru July 25
Masks Optional
Tightwad Tuesday Title for July 23 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!

CITY OF UKIAH COMMUNITY YARD SALE
TODD GROVE PARK
8 AM - 2 PM
JULY 20

WILLITS COLORING BOOK
SPONSORED BY
ROTARY CLUB OF WILLITS

The Rotary Club of Willits is holding a Contest for Photographs that represent the City of Willits. The winning photographs will be transformed into coloring book pages which will be made into a coloring book. We plan to have the books printed before Harvest Festival and are looking for advertising sponsors to submit their logos, photos, or coloring book artwork to be included in the Willits Coloring Book. There will be an event in August to announce the best photographs and to auction off the full color back page advertisement space of the Willits Coloring Book.

Email Logos, Photos, or Artwork To:
WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com
ON OR BEFORE JULY 21, 2024

For additional information contact:
Cathie Gerhardt
707-535-9500
Printscathie@gmail.com

Rotary Club of Willits

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.
Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Sunday and Monday.

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.
Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Sunday and Monday.

Story Time: Tuesday 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

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!

ONGOING EVENTS

WCA July Exhibit: Willits Center for the Arts offers a dual art exhibition featuring the contrasting yet complementary styles of Robert Louis Permenter and Patsy Brixie. "Visitors will be able to immerse themselves in the therapeutic and spontaneous worlds created by these two talented artists." 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm.

Free Food Pop-Ups: Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program's Food Pop-Up in Willits offers two events per month (no distribution on July 4 holiday this month); will resume July 18 from 10 to 11:30 am), first and third Thursdays, at 1250 Blosser Lane. Info: outreach@fbfoodbank.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.

Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays and Fridays at 2 pm: The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: tgregory@saaber.net or visit Willits Boules Club on Facebook.

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. More info on current classes: call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-454-0565.

Registration: www.jessepittman.run

Jesse D. Pittman Memorial 5K Run / Walk
Saturday July 27, 2024
Willits, California
Recreation Grove Park
9 am

A fun run / walk for all ages - serious runners and not so serious
Raffle, Silent Auction, Race Awards, Kids 1K Fun Race
The Jesse Pittman Foundation offers college scholarships for Mendocino County high school students in honor of Jesse D. Pittman, a Navy SEAL, who died on August 6, 2011 while serving in Afghanistan.
The Memorial Races may be ending... but the Scholarships will continue!

Registration: www.jessepittman.run

A Memorial Race in honor of Jesse D. Pittman 1984 - 2011
Raised in Willits, Mendocino County
CalFire Firefighter and Navy SEAL
www.jessepittman.org

*Sign up early - prices increase after June 30th - can sign up on race day too!

Artist Linda MacDonald featured in Museum pop-up exhibit

Mendocino County Museum is hosting a pop-up art exhibit featuring a series of paintings by local artist Linda MacDonald, that depict her longtime engagement with redwoods. Two of these works are featured in local historian Dot Brovamey's recently published book, "Mendocino Refuge: Lake Leonard & Reeves Canyon." These paintings were on display during a recent program that reflected on the history explored in the book. The nine paintings will remain on exhibit through Sunday, July 28.

Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm, with extended summer hours on Thursdays, from 5 to 8 pm and Sundays from 12 to 4 pm. More info: www.mendocinocounty.org/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov, or 707-234-6365.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events
Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

Saturday Scramble: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B. Bring any instrument you can play and sign up to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. "Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!"

Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm - welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!"

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Shanachie Pub presents its popular Open Mic Night every Wednesday, featuring an eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can be entered for the lottery. Lottery determines order from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20 pm.

BLUE ZONES PROJECT

The easier way to better health.

it only takes enjoying each bite.

Discover how mindful eating is one of the 9 ways to live a healthier life.

FLY ME TO THE MOON

Discover how mindful eating is one of the 9 ways to live a healthier life.

SCAN ME

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES
'Fly Me to the Moon'

The Story: Yeah, I hate to say this about so fine a movie, but: This is a Rom Com. (And, spoiler, a pussycat movie.) It takes place in 1969 in mid-July at Cape Kennedy, and be-gosh (as the Irish are fond of saying), there's a big rocket ship and lunar landing module looming over the whole story.

After a few scenes (you all will see it coming), a love affair blooms between the brilliant and beautiful and quite glib (also sly and tricky) marketing specialist Kelly Jones (Scarlett Johansson), and the plain-speaking "right stuff" ex-fighter pilot Cole Davis (Channing Tatum), director of the NASA Apollo 11 Moon Launch. The stakes are immeasurably high. Lives are at risk. The Russian Soviets are sending bad vibes (and miss-information). Congressional funding is being threatened.

Also (it's incredible, but quite true), the NASA Space Program is being televised around the whole Earth. Amid all this hubbub, a stray black pussycat is wandering around the base and has superstitious Cole Davis freaking out. No more hints. No more spoilers. I loved this movie - this old-fashioned Hollywood love story.

My Thoughts: Scarlett Johansson is a star. And you heard it here first: Miss Johansson's going to win an Oscar. (Hollywood film history note: Female stars were always referred to as "Miss," married or not, e.g. Miss Bette Davis.) I loved the old-fashioned story. And, I loved being able to admire and feel genuine patriotic respect for my country. The space program was, and is an American triumph - a triumph that we truly shared with the world.

Parents: Sure, bring the kids. Be ready to talk about the time, the place, and the unprecedented courage-driven NASA trip to the Moon.

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



Dan Essman
Columnist

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 Anton Bandannadam
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.

Or by appointment at
707-459-2252
https://santhonywillits.org/
santhonywillits@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 Jaime Rogers-Fairchild
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@outlook.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willitsumc
If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com



Above: Linda MacDonald's "Fraternity," one of many paintings she's done of redwoods, is part of a pop-up exhibit of nine paintings at the Mendocino County Museum on display through July 28.

Artist Linda MacDonald featured in pop-up exhibit at Mendocino County Museum

Submitted by Mendocino County Museum

Mendocino County Museum is hosting a pop-up art exhibit featuring a series of paintings by local artist Linda MacDonald, that depict her longtime engagement with redwoods. Two of these works are featured in local historian Dot Brovarney's recently published book, "Mendocino Refuge: Lake Leonard & Reeves Canyon." These paintings were on display during a recent program that reflected on the history explored in the book. The nine paintings will remain on exhibit through Sunday, July 28.

"Nature is my inspiration because California is an amazingly beautiful place," artist MacDonald reflects. "We have everything – the ocean, mountains, forests, and deserts. However, the beauty is fraught with natural perils – fire, drought, human impact, pollution. I have focused on the redwood tree, our state tree, as a symbol of our current environmental plight. The positive is that redwoods adapt, and most live through these perils. I walk the groves of coast redwoods and enjoy their environment. I sketch, paint, and photograph these amazing trees. Always green, "sempervirens," is an apt name for this amazing species."

Linda MacDonald has lived in Mendocino County since 1971. A migrant from the Bay Area, she and her artist husband were attracted to the rural life with its clean air, mountains, and trees. They lived in an old school, La Rue, near Longvale for seven years and then migrated to the big town of Willits.

Her art skills began with painting on canvas but after moving to the country, it encompassed quilting and weaving. MacDonald came back to painting and drawing when she started painting on her quilts in the 1990s. Her art topics have consistently focused on life in Mendocino County.

Besides a BA and MFA in art from San Francisco State University, she received a teaching credential from Dominican University and taught at Sanhedrin High School in Willits during the '80s and '90s.

MacDonald has shown her work in many venues worldwide and has artwork in the collection of the city of San Francisco, the White House, the Museum of Art and Design in NYC, the International Quilt Museum, in Lincoln, Nebraska, and in many private collections. She currently has a studio in Willits and at Shipyard Artists – Hunters Point in San Francisco. Her work may be seen at Stewart-Kummer Gallery in Gualala, or in the online artists gallery at Willits Center for the Arts, www.willitscenterforthearts.org/artistsdatabase/linda-macdonald

Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm, with extended summer hours on Thursdays, from 5 to 8 pm and Sundays from 12 to 4 pm. More info: www.mendocinocounty.org/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov, or 707-234-6365.

Abigail Summers, Jenny Watts play afternoon concert at WCA, August 4

Submitted by WCA

Please come enjoy an Afternoon Concert Fundraiser with Abigail Summers and Jenny Watts, Cello and Piano, on Sunday, August 4, from 2 to 4 pm in Willits Center for the Arts' Great Room!

Together Abigail and Jenny will once again combine their talents for this concert of piano-cello music that includes pieces by Bach, Vaughan Williams and Fauré.

Abigail Summers and Jenny Watts first met in the 1990s in Willits. Discovering their shared love of classical music, the two would put together house concerts every few years, to which friends and family were invited.

Abigail grew up in the English countryside, playing piano and cello from an early age. Her performance studies took her to the Royal College of Music in London where she added recorders, viola da gamba, and baroque cello to her repertoire. Locally Abigail performs regularly with the Symphony of the Redwoods and the Mendocino Music Festival Orchestra. She can also be found playing string quartets at weddings and private parties around the North Bay or teaching cello and piano in her studio in Sebastopol. She is currently studying Music Education at Sonoma State University.

Jenny grew up in Burlingame, where she studied piano privately for many years. Her early training was in classical music, but also became interested in jazz and musical theater during her high school years. After moving to Willits, she accompanied various groups and events including the High School Vocal Ensemble. She also worked with local choral directors, accompanying their choirs and several musicals including "Grease," "Oliver," and "Gypsy."

In 2022, the duo put together a program for a fundraiser at the Willits Arts Center which was also performed at Oakmont where Jenny and her husband, Dave, have been residents since 2018. Abigail moved to Forestville in 2017, and so the musicians are able to continue playing together and creating new programs for their old and new homes.

Tickets are \$20 and will benefit the WCA and available for sale online at willitscenterforthearts.org or at the door, at 71 East Commercial Street. More info: willitscenterforthearts.org or call 707 459-1726.



Above: Members of Willits Sit-n-Sew pose in front of the quilt they are raffling off to benefit the Willits Library; from left: Lani Nagy, Patricia Wilson, Penni Greer, and Tina Creswell.

Willits Sit-n-Sew quilt raffle to benefit the Willits Library

Posted by Willits Sit-n-Sew

The Willits Sit-n-Sew group meets at the Willits Library every second Saturday afternoon to work on their own sewing projects with like-minded crafters. Members have also created this beautiful quilt which they are raffling off, with all proceeds to benefit the Willits Library.

The quilt blocks were made by members of Sit-n-Sew; the quilt was assembled by Rachel Cash; Kelly Kartub quilted it; and Penni Greer did the binding.

The quilt and tickets, \$1 each, will be on display at Salon 707 in the Safeway plaza as of July 17.

The quilt is 73 inches wide by 98.5 inches tall. The drawing will be in January 2025 after the Quilt Show.

Raffle tickets can also be purchased from Sit-n-Sew members, including Lani Nagy, Penni Greer, Patricia Wilson, Kelly McClung Kartub, Juanita Lucero, Tina Cresswell, and Rachel Cash. Or come by the next Sit-n-Sew meeting to buy tickets, on Saturday, August 8 from 1 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

The rest of SEIU | From page 1

- Include an investment of \$30,000 for training and PPE.
- Strengthen safeguards to ensure non-discrimination in the workplace.

• Address the caregiver shortage by making changes to the provider registry, ensuring recipients in remote parts of Mendocino County receive the care they need.

"We fought a good fight, stood up for what we needed as essential workers, and did not back down," said Mendocino County IHSS Provider Priscilla Tarver. "The contract is a step in the right direction and includes new investments in caregiver training that we really need."

This contract was negotiated by a dedicated bargaining team of home care workers, including Beverly Galten, who was an IHSS provider for over 17 years. She passed away a few weeks before the ratification of the agreement, and her memory continues to inspire providers in Mendocino County.

Galten was a fierce labor advocate for all care workers until the end of her life. The last contract in 2019 could not have been accomplished without her. At 81 years old, Galten was still actively participating in bargaining, canvassing, and traveling to meet providers like herself.

"I was with Beverly four days before she passed away, and we all miss her dearly. She was hardworking, friendly, and determined to get better wages for all providers in Mendocino," said Mendocino IHSS provider and bargaining team member Consuelo Rocha. "She would be so happy to see our efforts pay off after going over a year and a half without a contract. Beverly never gave up, and she would want every care worker to use their voice in fighting for better wages."

Across the country roughly 10,000 people turn 65 every day. As this number of older adults and people with disabilities who require in-home care continues to grow in California, these higher standards will help counties continue to attract more care providers to this workforce (and retain them).

Today's announcement drew praise from SEIU Local 2015 leadership and marked a step forward in the union's statewide push for livable wages.

"For over a year, Mendocino County providers have been sharing their stories and raising their voices, imploring the Board of Supervisors to invest in the Future of Care. It was a long fight, and I'm inspired by our members, including Beverly Galten, who was still actively participating days before she passed away," said Kim Evon, Executive Vice President of SEIU Local 2015. "This victory is a testament to the power of collective action, and I look forward to seeing other California counties follow Mendocino in strengthening our care infrastructure."

The rest of Pomo | From page 3

"They get fresh fruits and vegetables," she continued. "They get canned and frozen meats, rice and beans, pastas. They get flour, boxed milk, and canned milk. Depending on the time of year, we get some bonuses like wild rice, some salmon, some walleye. We have various kinds of meat ... pork chops, chicken breasts. Hopefully, in the near future, we'll be getting olive oil in addition to our vegetable oil. We have quite an array of fruits and vegetables. This is a USDA program that is hosted by Sherwood."

"The dishes they make out of the commodities varies," Fluke said. "Today, we have a bison slider with a siracha coleslaw. We have a chicken pasta salad. We have a mixed vegetable with rice. There are Rice Krispy treats."

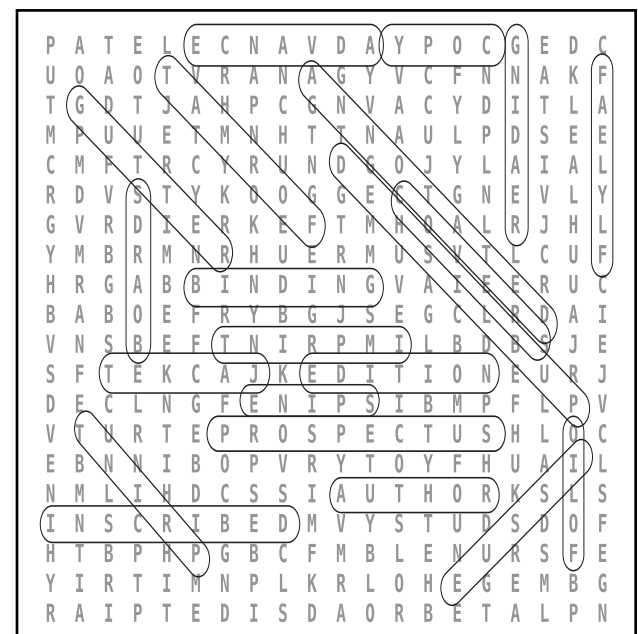
"I always bring in infused water for everybody, utilizing our lemons and oranges. I put cucumber and wild mint in it as well. Everybody has their own take on commodity dishes which we love to share with everybody," she said.

"This year, the dish with the most votes was a Shepherd's Pie, followed by the popular Bison Sliders, and the Pear Cakes."

There is always a raffle at the Sherwood Big Time, which the vendors participate in by donating an item worth \$25 or more. This year, the first raffle ticket was free, which caused a substantial line of people, wanting to get that ticket as well as more chances to win.

Although, the Native community and the reservations are integral to the ethos of the local identity, there is less interaction between the Native and Euro-Caucasian cultures than would be expected, considering the physical adjacency. Big Time provides a chance for everyone to enjoy learning about each other's cultures and is a day when everyone is accepted in friendship and comradery. Attendees just need to be mindful of certain spiritual practices of the Natives and show respect for those who live so close and have their own rich culture.

For more information about the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, visit www.sherwoodvalleybandofpomo.com/



Above: This beautiful quilt was crafted by the Sit-n-Sew group that meets at the Willits Library every second Saturday.

Since January 2020, SEIU Local 2015 has worked with counties and nursing homes across California to win more than 95 contracts, securing better workplace protections, improved wages and benefits, and a voice in the care its members provide. These investments in IHSS working conditions will help strengthen the infrastructure of care to help attract and retain caregivers.

To learn more about SEIU Local 2015 visit www.SEIU2015.org or on social media @SEIU2015.

SEIU Local 2015 is the largest union in California, representing more than 470,000 long-term care workers (home care, skilled nursing facility, and assisted living center workers) throughout the state. Its members are as diverse as the state's population but united in their commitment to caring for California's older adults and those with disabilities.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW497 NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, on Tuesday, the 5th of November, 2024, at which election the following offices will be filled: **Three (3) City Council Members**

NOMINATION PAPERS will be available at the Office of the City Clerk, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**, Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Please contact the City Clerk to make your appointment at (707) 459-7113.

First day nomination papers will be issued: **July 15, 2024**

Last day to file nomination papers (by 5:00 p.m.): **August 9, 2024, By Appointment Only**

Last day to file nomination papers (by 5:00 p.m.) if an incumbent fails to file: **August 14, 2024**

FURTHER NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
Posted: July 8, 2024
Publication Date: July 11, 2024

WW499 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN on that Wednesday, July 24, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Willits City Council will conduct a Public Hearing at the Willits City Council Chambers, located at 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California on the following matter:

To conduct an annual review of proposed changes and charges in City fees and to adopt a resolution establishing said fees and charges, effective August 1, 2024.

Information concerning the proposed fees and charges may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk during normal business hours at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California.

All interested persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

/s/Delores Pedersen
City Clerk

Publication Date: July 18, 2024

WW498 Fictitious Business Name Statement

2024-F0336

The following person or persons are doing business as The Fine Print, 150 South Main Street, Suite C, Willits CA 95490; mailing address: 27120 Oriole Drive, Willits CA 95490; 707-841-6305.

Registered owner: Shelby Geremia, 27120 Oriole Drive, Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on July 15, 2024.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 15, 2024.

/s/ Shelby Geremia
Publication dates: July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 2024

WW496 Fictitious Business Name Statement

2024-F0268

The following person or persons are doing business as Precious One Beads, 85 North Main Street, Willits CA 95490;

Registered owner: Lisa Gay Brown, 33470 Sherwood Road, Willits CA 95490.

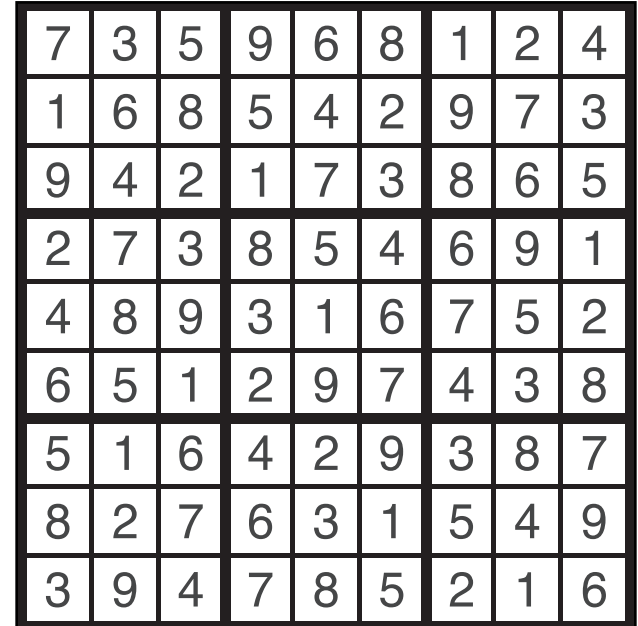
This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 30, 2024.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 30, 2024.

/s/ Lisa Gay Brown
Publication dates: June 27, July 3, July 11, July 18, 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



CLASSIFIEDS

Art's Handyman Service
I am a senior with a number of tasks that I can do for you. Call me and we can discuss what you need. Art: 707-891-1991

Beekeepers alert!!
Two bee-keeping jackets with attached hats \$25 each, two pairs of gloves \$15 each Call 408-500-8754

Do you need food?
Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 1-4:30 - Bring an I.D. (707) 459-3333

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 Arkelian @ 459-5049. (Prices change effective 6/25/23)

For Rent
Close to town. Two houses one bedroom each. First: loft to bed & bath, propane furnace. Second: one floor, solar/PGE interface, propane w/ woodstove backup. Details: 707-459-5680.

For Sale
Casio Digital piano with 100 rhythms, \$50; Water Bath Camer with insert and implements, \$35; canning jars, various sizes. Copper Table Lamp \$25, practically new Women's Town Bicycle, \$500. Call 408-500-8754

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



Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Animal Protection Officer I**
\$37,876 - \$46,030
- Corrections Deputy**
\$55,369 - \$67,308
- Deputy Probation Officer I/II**
\$55,577 - \$74,505
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner**
\$76,648 - \$93,142
- Program Administrator**
\$74,048 - \$90,022
- Secretary**
\$45,864 - \$55,764
- Senior Substance Abuse Counselor**
\$58,968 - \$71,697
- Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D**
\$51,729 - \$97,448

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:

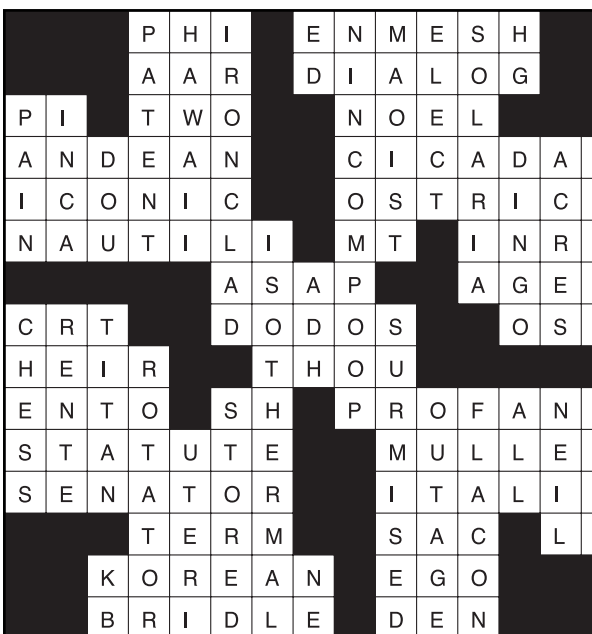
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs

EOE

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707-459-4599





Above, from left: Rather than struggle with greens that really want cool weather, try heat-loving greens like purslane, from India. It grows very fast and remains succulent and fresh with no bitterness no matter how hot it gets. There's always room for more basil, whether for pesto, salads, tea, edible flowers, or to put in a vase to freshen the air. It's at its best when young, so new plantings are always a good idea. Dill is fast-growing, attracts pest-eating beneficials, and has lots of uses in the kitchen. The seeds flavor dill pickles, and the leaves really perk up all kinds of salads. Cosmos and coreopsis are fast-growing and heat-loving flowers that fit easily between vegetables. These bean leaves show drought stress. Older leaves turn yellow and then brown in sections from one side of the leaf to the other. Note that the smaller, younger leaves are still vibrant green, older leaves are dull green, and the bottom leaves are dying. The plant prioritizes new growth at the expense of older leaves. Below, left: You can grow lettuce in summer if you choose summercrisp types and place them in the shade of taller plants. Below, right: Zinnias and amaranth are both native to Mexico and thrive in heat.



Below, left column from top: These pole beans are spaced the recommended 6 inches apart and kept clear of weeds to prevent competition for water and nutrients. Brussels sprouts need a long season, so plant soon. Early Half Tall gives you weeks of sprouts in late winter. Jewels of Opar (Talinum paniculatum) is another unusual heat-loving green we carry at Quail Seeds. It has succulent mild-flavored leaves, wands of pink edible flowers, and jewel-like seeds for dried arrangements. The leaves are not only tasty but super nutritious. Photo by Living Energy Farm. Below, right column from top: This columbine shows drought-caused yellowing. When it moves bottom to top or side to side on the older leaves it's generally from lack of water, not nutrients. Fennel is a great choice for summer planting. The leaves grace summer salads, and it bulbs up to make a sweet and refreshing fall vegetable either raw or in pasta sauce. Plant now so you have big bulbs before frost. Photo by Karen Morton. Perennials can be a resilient choice for summer. This perennial arugula, Diplotaxis tenuifolia, is quite heat- and drought-tolerant. Regular salad arugula, Eruca sativa, is best for fall and winter use.



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COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

July: Managing soil, water, planting, and shade

July's combination of high temperatures and long days puts plants under maximum stress with minimal hours of cool recovery time. How you manage soil, water, planting, and shade will make a bigger difference now than at any other time in the year.

After the last heat wave, you may need, like me, to do some replanting and repair. Whether your plans for the summer have materialized or crashed, there are choices to make now for the rest of the season. The hours when it's tolerable to work outside are limited, so it really helps to have a clear and concrete plan. If your priorities are clear, you can go to work without delays or indecision.

The first priority is to get new plants going now while we have a break from truly extreme heat. There are five types of sowings you'll want to consider.

First, it's important to pull out things that aren't thriving, and put in replacements right away. If you don't have a replacement ready, either direct-sow something, cover the area with mulch, or sow buckwheat as a quick soil-building cover crop. Fast-growing herbs like dill and basil are good options for bare spots.

Second, sow succession crops. Bush beans, corn, root crops, determinate tomatoes, lettuce, greens, and even zucchinis are all going to be finished cropping before the season is over. Now's the time to start another wave of beans and lettuce, or a different crop to use the space.

Third, many herbs and flowers can be sown now. Quick-growing annuals like basil and coreopsis are great companion plants for this year. Biennials and some perennials need sowing now so they can size up enough to bloom next spring.

Fourth, you need to start winter vegetables early enough for them to be productive by fall. They will survive the winter and can be harvested for months, but won't make new growth once winter has closed in. Brussels sprouts, cabbage, broccoli, kale, collards, and rutabagas need a long growing season, so start them soon. You don't need to have garden space for them yet. Find a place in dappled shade or with only morning sun and start them in pots or in a bed set aside as a nursery.

Fifth, there are several fall specialties that need to be started now so they are ready to eat before hard frost. Fennel, endive, chicory (radicchio), carrots, turnips,

beets, and chard make fall meals special and are best planted from now until mid-August.

Give both new and old plants their best shot (and make your labor go farther) by following best practices for hot dry climates:

- Plant the right seeds to start with. Choose vegetables and flowers that are meant for the season. For example, spinach is a winter green, while chard is a summer green. Varieties of the same vegetable can vary a lot too. For example, Rattlesnake pole beans continue to bear in hot spells, when popular varieties like Kentucky Wonder and Blue Lake burn out. Commercial lettuce is grown in cool, foggy places. We need different kinds than what you see in the store. Batavian or Summercrisp types are more heat-tolerant.

- Soil should be moist enough to prevent wilting in afternoon heat (though large-leaved plants like squash may droop a bit). But make sure they have plenty of water during morning and evening, when plants can actively grow, rather than just survive.

- Reduce competition for water. Follow recommended spacing and keep beds weeded. If plants are stressed and you can't water more, thin them to wider spacing.

- Keep the soil covered with mulch. In hot weather, use a light-colored mulch like straw.

- Wind dries plants worse than heat. Provide some shelter.

- Before planting, work in organic matter to hold moisture and release it slowly to plant roots. Compost is ideal. After planting, you can layer compost on top of the soil and under your mulch.

- Provide shade to reduce temperatures at ground level. Seedlings and new transplants are particularly vulnerable to extreme heat, sunlight, or wind.

- Plant a wide variety of flowers, herbs, vegetables, shrubs, and trees. Plants thrive in an interlocking community, with some shading others. Perennials are deeper-rooted and more resilient than annual vegetables.

The unique thing about gardens is that they're habitat for both plants and people. Increasing the comfort, beauty, and diversity of the garden makes it better for both.

Jamie Chevalier of Quail Seeds lives and gardens near Willits. Visit www.quailseeds.com for over 400 varieties of seed adapted to the Northern California climate, as well as extensive how-to information.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier

The rest of Reports | From page 2

jurors and is reviewed by the Mendocino County Counsel and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

It is a misdemeanor for individual jurors to discuss grand jury reports or the process through which a particular report was developed and published. Please address any inquiries to the grand jury foreperson, who serves as the jury's sole spokesperson: Carole Hester, Foreperson, Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury 2023-2024, at 707-463-4320



The rest of Haschak | From page 2

not in the software system (they are now). More work needs to be done on the fiscal department's processes and procedures so that everything is consistent and transparent.

There has been controversy about the number of licenses allowable in the cannabis ordinance. To be clear, staff did not usurp board power but rather read the exact language of the ordinance. It states that a person may obtain two cannabis cultivation business licenses on a parcel. This allows for up to 22,000 sq. ft. Previously, this allowed cultivation and a nursery. County Counsel says that the language allows for two different types of cultivation such as mixed light and outdoor. Only four people have applied in the last two months (while 135 have been denied or withdrawn in 2024 so far). Applying for a second license applies to non-resource land since these applications are under Phase 3 rules. This is all consistent with the CEQA review and the Mitigated Negative Declaration which considered parcels having up to 22,000 square feet of cultivation. Many feel that the intent of the ordinance was to limit cultivation to 10,000 square feet. Since there are two very different views on this issue, I will be bringing it as an agenda item for the board to resolve.

I am available by email haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or phone 707-972-4214.

The rest of Trustees | From page 1

Why serve as a trustee?

Serving as a trustee for Mendocino College is more than just a title – it's a chance to give back and help steer the institution toward a brighter future. Trustees play a critical role in shaping policies, guiding strategic planning, and ensuring the college stays true to its core mission of providing high-quality education while promoting diversity and inclusion.

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Reside within the district and trustee are a they wish to represent
- Be a registered voter
- Not be disqualified from holding civil office
- Must not be an employee of the district

How to apply

Ready to take the plunge? To learn

CA national forests treat record number of acres with prescribed burns

Submitted by USDA Forest Service

Vallejo – As of 10 am on June 24, the USDA Forest Service has treated 63,878 acres with prescribed fire on national forests across California, a record number prescribed burn acres. This critical hazardous fuels reduction helps reduce threats to communities and restore forest health. The previous record was set in 2018 when 63,711 acres were treated.

"We're fully committed to increasing the scope and pace of our hazardous fuels treatment work in California, and it shows," says Pacific Southwest Region Fire Director Jaime Gamboa. "Restoring natural fire to these ecosystems not only helps mitigate threats to communities but also increases forest health overall."

All native vegetation types in California have adaptations to wildfire as a natural disturbance, and for many forests, it's a necessary component to ecosystem health. The elimination of fire from these systems often leads to overcrowded, unhealthy forests. Trees are stressed, fire-dependent species disappear, and vegetation builds up, contributing to unnaturally high severity fires.

When conditions are right, fire managers use prescribed fire to reduce hazardous fuels, helping reduce threats to communities from extreme fires. Reintroducing fire also minimizes the spread of pest insects and disease, recycles nutrients back to the soil, and improves natural conditions for native flora and fauna.

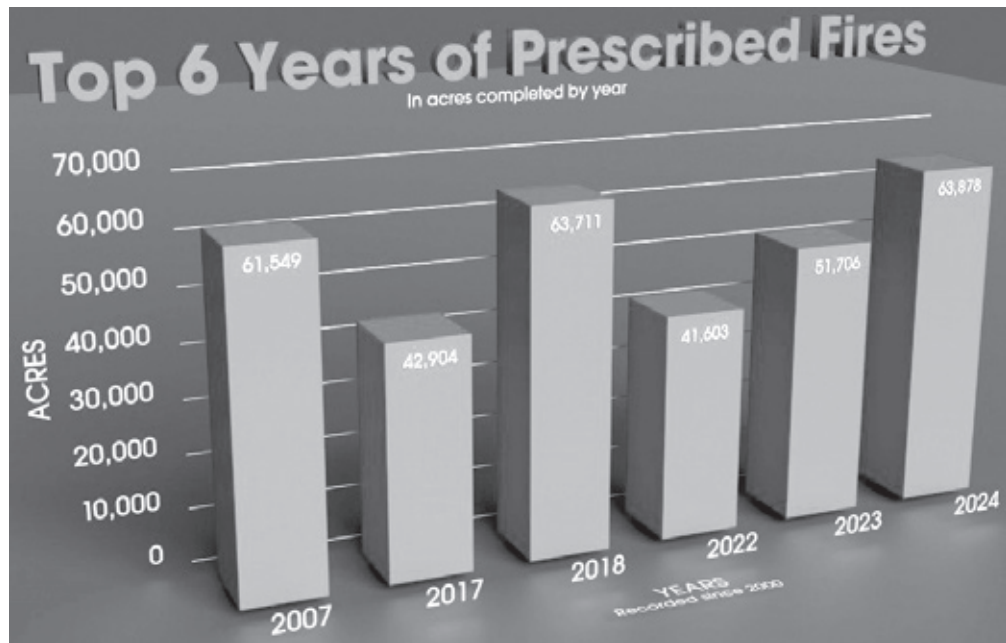
The rest of Fatal | From page 1

and Franks was ejected from his vehicle. CAL FIRE and MedStar Ambulance arrived on scene and pronounced Franks deceased. Deputies from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Coroner's Office arrived on scene to assist in the investigation.

The 16-year-old female was transported to Howard Hospital for minor injuries, the Santa Rosa Press Democrat reported.

The CHP Garberville Area's Laytonville Resident Post is conducting the investigation into the cause of the crash.

The California Highway Patrol wants to remind the motoring public to wear your seatbelt. Approximately 60% of fatal crashes involve persons who are unrestrained.



Planning for prescribed fire is an in-depth process including assessment of vegetation (fuel) type, elevation, location and proximity to communities, area use, past fuel treatments, past fire return interval (how often fire would naturally occur on a landscape), and more.

The decision to implement a planned prescribed fire is based on thoughtful analysis of current environmental and operational conditions – including temperature, humidity, wind, vegetation moisture, and smoke dispersal conditions. Availability of primary and contingency resources are also considered. While fall and winter typically bring cooler temperatures and precipitation ideal for prescribed fires, the final decision is assessed shortly before a burn.

For regional happenings, follow the Pacific Southwest Region on Facebook, X and Instagram.

The rest of Votes | From page 1

developed lots in the assessment area at \$30.88 a year, and undeveloped lots at \$1.39 a year.

If more than 50% of the property owners who vote approve the special assessment, the proceeds, estimated at about \$56,700 per year, will fund maintenance, drainage, and flood control for the FirCo and Willits Creek emergency access routes.

These were the emergency routes used during the Oak Fire in 2020 to allow access for emergency vehicles, firefighters, and first responders, so residents could use

The rest of Abatement | From page 1

him, is not taking on any fire abatement responsibility around his home. "His yard is a fire hazard to my property," said Meyer. "Blackberries burn good, and the blackberries are so thick, you can't see through them, and they're 5 feet from the building my treasures are in."

There are bound to be other folks in the community who can relate to Meyer's plight. He's understandably worried about the preservation and safety of valuable possessions that represent a lifetime of work and hold a great deal of meaning for him. But what can the City of Willits and/or County of Mendocino actually do for someone if they themselves are taking all the right action to protect their property against the threat of fire, and their adjoining neighbor simply is not?

Third District Supervisor John Haschak weighed in on the topic. He reminded the Little Lake Fire directors that the county used to have a fuel abatement ordinance. "What we found," said Haschak is that the ordinance didn't have any teeth, and to go into a parcel and to do the work ... by the time you go through the court action it's costing \$15,000 a parcel." An unsustainable sum to be sure.

However, Haschak said that that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, that very day, made the decision at their earlier meeting to repurpose a \$290,000 grant that would, "look at that ordinance and put some teeth into it."

"Though," Haschak conceded, "it's not going to be a quick fix for Max's problem." Haschak suggested that maybe Meyer's neighbor would be accepting of some kind of help from the Mendocino Fire Safe Council.

The Mendocino Fire Safe Council or MFSC, is a non-profit organization with the mission to, according to its website, "inform, empower and mobilize county residents to survive and thrive in a wildfire-prone environment." Though there is the necessary element of a willingness to participate in its programs, if a property owner seeks the support, the MFSC offers quite a bit of assistance.

Likely a good place to start for anyone in need of fire abatement advice, but especially for those that have taken no steps at all, would be the MFSC's free home assessment program. Among other things, it would guide the owner on a walk of their land and identify where improvements are

both lanes of Sherwood Road to evacuate.

Ballots may also be dropped off at the official ballot boxes at the Brooktrails Township CSD Office, 24860 Birch Street (open Monday-Friday, 8 am-5 pm) or the Mendocino County Registrar of Voters, 501 Low Gap Road in Ukiah.

For more information about the benefit assessment, including a map showing which parcels are inside the benefit assessment area, visit: www.mendocinocounty.gov/business/economic-development/special-benefit-assessment.

most necessary. From its own description, it is a "non-judgmental, non-binding, non-regulatory, risk free, educational experience" for those who might not know where to begin.

The MFSC also has a Defensible Space Assistance Program for the income eligible which encourages anyone who is, "physically and financially unable to maintain the state-mandated 100 feet of defensible space around their homes," to apply for free help.

There are guidelines to qualify for this program, but for those that do, it offers brush and tree trimming, cutting of tall grass, roof and gutter cleaning, and several other services. The MFSC also started a Fire Safety Micro-Grant program for Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils, and their website offers clear directions on how to start a NFSC in your community, should your neighborhood not have one yet.

The functions of a NFSC are varied and dependent upon the members. It could be as simple as a once-a-month meeting where residents get together to talk about fire preparedness strategies and make a safety plan or start a phone tree. NFSCs can do much more than that though, and there are a lot of resources available to them through the MFSC. Additionally, as a unified organization, a NFSC would likely be a more persuasive force to a landowner in their community who is failing to adhere to state and local mandates.

If, like Meyer, you're struggling with how to keep approaching a neighbor whose property is a hazard to your own, and you are not a member of a NFSC, you might consider offering them the contact information for the Mendocino Fire Safe Council. Their website is: firesafemendocino.org and their telephone number is: 707-462-3662.

Willits, and basically all of Mendocino County, is in what CAL FIRE deems a moderate to high fire hazard severity zone. A more tactical strategy could be to make a complaint about an offending property to CAL FIRE, though Meyer said he also did this without much success.

It does sound like the county's fire abatement ordinance is getting a second life, however, and in these types of matters, persistence is key when it comes to protecting your treasures from the threat of wildfires, people included!

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3 new Heavy Fire Equipment Operators at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit

Posted by CAL FIRE MEU

Please join us at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit in congratulating Juan Beltran, Shane Elder, and Jeremy Sneed for successfully completing Heavy Fire Equipment Operator Academy.

Heavy Fire Equipment Operators with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection play a crucial role in wildfire control and forest protection. They perform a variety of tasks such as operation of bulldozers, motor-graders, and heavy-duty transports for fire suppression work, road maintenance, and wildland protection projects.

Mendocino Unit is proud to welcome them to the team! A special shout out to new HFEO Elder for having the highest overall score and receiving top honors academically.

To keep up with CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, follow www.facebook.com/CALFIREMEU



Above: Congratulations to CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit's Jeremy Sneed, left, Juan Beltran and Shane Elder, right, who have completed Heavy Fire Equipment Operator Academy training.



Above: Adventist Health Northern California Service Area President Eric Stevens helps Howard Hospital's Administrator Linda Givens reveal the new 5 Star banner. Below: Hospital staff and volunteers smile with the new sign.

Adventist Health Howard Memorial receives Five-Star CMS Rating

Submitted by AHHM

Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital has received the Overall Hospital Quality Five-Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the highest possible rating a hospital can achieve.

"This amazing achievement is one that is owned by our entire team and wouldn't be possible without all of their incredible work, and commitment to patient-centered care," said Linda Givens, administrator of Adventist

Health Howard Memorial. "Every team member plays a part in this incredible acknowledgment and award, and their commitment to excellence is truly inspiring. We are here for our patients and community to provide the best quality care possible to each person who walks through our doors."

According to CMS, the Overall Star Rating summarizes a variety of measures across five areas of quality into a single star rating for each hospital. The measures include mortality, safety, readmission, patient

experience, and timely and effective care. Each hospital has a star rating that ranges from one to five stars, with five stars signifying the highest quality.

Of the 4,600 hospitals evaluated by CMS, Adventist Health Howard Memorial is only one of two hospitals in the Northern California area to achieve this five-star rating. Only 10% of hospitals nationwide have earned five stars.

For more information about Adventist Health Howard Memorial, visit www.AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Willits Weekly
Online & In Print

ESTD. 1993

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