

Willits Weekly

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Thursday, July 25, 2024



Willits community saves Starbucks redwoods

By Matt LaFever, MendoFever.com

July 22, 2024 – A grassroots effort by Willits residents to save a pair of redwood trees from being cut down by developers building a new Starbucks has been successful.

A series of letters to the editor posted in Willits Weekly spurred action, informing community members that Starbucks was remodeling the former Jack in the-Box building at the 700 block of Main Street with the intention to remove two large redwood trees on the property.

The letter writers argued the loss of the trees would remove needed shade cover, air purification, and carbon sequestration. One letter also pointed out the irony of cutting down two healthy redwoods within sight of the town's iconic "Gateway to the Redwoods" sign.

At this point, a multitude of community voices joined in and began to reach out to the local officials to protest the removal of the redwoods.

Hal Wagenet, a former Mendocino County supervisor, told us:

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

Covelo residents fight off pot robbers

By Lt. D. Lorenzo for MCSO

On July 22, 2024 at approximately 3:11 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a property in the 24000 block of Shady Lane in Covelo for a report of an in-progress burglary. It was reported that residents interrupted multiple subjects stealing marijuana, who subsequently fled the location in a red pickup and a U-Haul box truck.

Law enforcement from numerous agencies throughout Mendocino County responded, including representatives from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, CAL FIRE Prevention officers, California State Parks, and Round Valley Tribal Police Department.

A short time later, the caller to Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Dispatch provided updated information that a U-Haul box truck had returned to the property on Shady Lane and the residents confronted two of the suspects in their driveway.

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



Photo by Maureen Jennison

Headed to Fair

Dayana Estrada, 18, is off to show at the Redwood Empire Fair with Percy the market goat

2024 marks Dayana Estrada's eighth year of attending the Redwood Empire Fair, and this year she is excited to take her Boer market goat, Percy, to show.

Percy was purchased from Angel's Camp and was bred there by past Willits FFA Ag teacher Catherine Acly.

"I have always taken a goat to fair, I've never changed it up!" laughed Estrada. "I love taking goats. I think they're so much fun to work with, and I've never wanted to take another animal."

Estrada graduated with the Class of 2024, and while she still is eligible to attend one more year of fair next summer, she's not sure that's in the cards, as of yet. During her senior year, she served as chapter president where she said she had lots of fun and a great way to end her senior year.

"After fair this year, I am planning to move to Rohnert



Photo submitted by Dayana Estrada

At top: Dayana Estrada enjoyed holding the Willits FFA Chapter president position for her senior year. Above: Estrada and Percy welcome buyers to this year's Redwood Empire Fair.

Park to attend Sonoma State University where I am going to pursue a degree in nursing," she said.

Estrada hopes to see everyone at the Redwood Empire Fair and Junior Livestock Auction, August 1 to 4 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds.

– Maureen Jennison



Above, from left: Dr. Jon Comedy Hypnotist will perform at the Willow Tree Stage during annual Redwood Empire Fair. The new Sea Lion Splash show will showcase these animals' amazing natural and encouraged behaviors – and funny personalities – as they do tricks and perform at the Circle Arena. Jeremiah Johnston and The Throw Zone will entertain event attendees as he juggles and balances his way down the fairway.



SEA LIONS, MAGICIANS, AND HYPNOTISTS

Redwood Empire Fair 2024 gears up with old favorites, and new attractions, for August event

Submitted by Redwood Empire Fair

The first weekend of August, the Ukiah Fairgrounds will transform into the home for the annual Redwood Empire Fair, happening Thursday, August 1 through Sunday August 4.

This year's theme is "Red, White & Ewe" and the fair will feature returning favorites and new surprises for event attendees. The grandstands will host the popular Monster Truck and Motorcycle shows; the Mudd Boggs, Junior Mudd Boggs, Boat Races; and of course the Truck and Tractor Pulls. Live music will be performed by Warehouse 21, While We're Young, and the Easy Street Band. The Ukiah Idols and Junior Idols performances will return, as will the Diaper Derby, Brad's World of Reptiles, and of course, Saturday's Junior Livestock Auction.

This year, a **Sea Lion Splash show**, complete with the amazing creatures showing off skills like balancing balls, shooting hoops, dancing, and doing a conga line, performing headstands and ring toss, and showing their pretty smiles. This is the only show in the U.S. to feature both California and South American sea lions, and there will be photo opportunities after the show to have a lasting memento, long after the show. Educational posters,

attractive displays, and helpful staff are available to help patrons learn more about these amazing creatures.

The Sea Lion Splash show will be held at the Circle Arena, located to the left, just inside the main gate. Shows will held on Thursday, August 1 and Friday, August 2 at 6 and 8 pm; and on Saturday, August 3 and Sunday, August 4 at 3, 6 and 8 pm.

Master of Illusion Sean Watson will be delighting attendees with his sleight of hand and magical talents during his shows, performed as he strolls the fairgrounds. Shows are scheduled daily at 5, 7:30 and 9:30 pm.

Sean's website describes: "Sean's extensive and diverse experience in the world of magic and entertainment is truly impressive. With over 30 years of magical expertise, he has not only honed his skills as a magician but has also established himself as a captivating entertainer who knows how to please a crowd."

Dr. Jon Comedy Hypnotist will perform at the Willow Tree Stage at 4 and 7:30 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with an added 2 pm show on Saturday.

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

Sherwood Corridor Benefit Assessment passes

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Property owners along the Sherwood Road corridor passed the Special Benefit Assessment to maintain the Willits Creek and Firco emergency access routes, it was announced Tuesday afternoon at the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting after the ballots were counted.

"We have completed the ballot tabulation for the Sherwood Corridor Special Assessment," Anna Macken, administrative analyst from the Executive Office, reported to board members at the July 23 meeting. "We had a total of 1,778 ballots cast, and with the weighted multiplier, the assessment passes with 6,680 votes in favor and 3,738 votes in protest."

"Given the results indicating there is not a majority protest," said board chair Maureen Mulheren, "may I have a motion on the resolution?" Third District Supervisor John Haschak moved approval of the resolution adopting the approved Sherwood Corridor Benefit Assessment, and all five supervisors voted "Yes."

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

Email review stalls criminal case against auditor Cubbison

by Mike Geniella, theava.com

July 24, 2024 – District Attorney David Eyster's high-profile criminal prosecution of the elected auditor of Mendocino County ground to a halt Tuesday, its outcome hinging on another hearing next week focused on thousands of disputed internal emails that once were declared missing and now are believed to exist.

"We are going to get to the bottom of this," declared Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman on Tuesday, July 23 after a second futile courtroom effort to unravel the email mystery in hopes that the contentious case can move ahead after months of delay.

Moorman is trying to make legal sense of conflicting accounts at the county level about how many thousands of internal emails might be relevant to the criminal case surrounding suspended Auditor Chamise Cubbison and former county Payroll Manager Paula June Kennedy.

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

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, July 25: Pork Tenderloin Sandwich w/ Loaded Mashed Potatoes

Friday, July 26: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll

Monday, July 29: Southern Fried Catfish, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Tuesday, July 30: Turkey Tetrazzini, Veggies, Garlic Bread

Wednesday, July 31: Carnitas Burrito, wet w/ Green Sauce

Thursday, August 1: Beef Stroganoff, Veggies, Roll

Friday, August 2: Hot Dogs, Chili, Mac & Cheese

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

Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, August 11 next month.

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.

Watch Duty now has real-time wildfire cameras

Posted by watchduty.org

July 24, 2024 - Real-time wildfire cameras from @ALERTWestCams and @ALERTCalifornia are now integrated directly into Watch Duty and viewable on our map at watchduty.org.

ALERTCalifornia incorporates more than 20 years of UC San Diego research into their state-focused camera network of nearly 1,100 cameras. Outside California, ALERTWest partners with other universities and stakeholders to operate hundreds more cameras in neighboring states, with the network constantly expanding.

It's an honor to partner with these two organizations to

Read the rest of [Watch Duty](#) Over on page 9

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Willits Rotary passes the Santa hat

Submitted by Willits Rotary Club

July 23, 2024 - After over a decade of raising funds and gathering gifts for needy children in the community, the Willits Rotary Club is passing the Santa hat to Willits Frontier Days. A long-standing and beloved feature of our community, the Willits Frontier Days will take over the Christmas for Kids Program in 2024.

Cathie Gernhardt, Willits 2023-24 Rotary president, announced that "We are pleased to see this great program going to a beloved organization in our community, the Willits Frontier Days. Willits Rotary knows that the Willits Frontier Days will carry on our tradition of giving gifts to children in our community this holiday season."

Marcy Barry, a Willits Frontier Days board member, has been a significant part of the Christmas for Kids Program over the last several years. Not only has she helped to raise money and actually purchase the gifts, but she has taken a leading role in the program's success through her participation. With thanks in major part to her efforts, Willits Rotary will be passing over a well-known and highly anticipated program to the Willits Frontier Days.

Over 1,000 children have received gifts through the Christmas for Kids Program. Willits residents and businesses are familiar with the Christmas tree tags located in several businesses throughout the city. Willits Rotary Club encourages you to contribute again this year by taking a tag (or multiple tags!) off of the Christmas trees and donating gifts for the kids in the program. We appreciate the community support and look forward to another successful season of gift giving to our local children!

Executive Office's highlights of the July 23 BOS meeting

Submitted by the Mendocino County Executive Office

During the July 23, 2024, meeting, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved significant milestones aimed at advancing community infrastructure and services. Key highlights include:

Psychiatric Health Facility Construction: The board approved the construction of a Psychiatric Health Facility to bolster mental health services in Mendocino County. The \$13.3 million contract was awarded to Midstate Construction Company, with a projected timeline of 420 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed.

Fire Districts Funding: Funds from the Essential Services Sales Tax (Measure P), Proposition 172, and the Mendocino County Camping Transient Occupancy Tax (Measure D) for Fiscal Year 2023-24 were allocated to support local fire agencies and the Fire Safe Council.

Read the rest of [Highlights](#) Over on page 11

City says Starbucks redwoods won't be removed

Posted by City of Willits

July 18 - The Willits Community Development Department has confirmed that the 2 redwood trees at the new Starbucks site will not be removed. The department appreciates Starbucks' understanding of the community and the city's desire to keep the trees.

We would like to inform our community that the City of Willits is in the process of creating a new Tree Ordinance.

Thank you - Community Development Department

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Food Bank Summer Fund Drive update

To the Editor:

We appreciate all of the support the community has given to the Willits Community Services and Food Bank for our summer drive. We need to raise \$100,000. With all of your help we have almost reached the halfway mark by raising \$48,000.

We want to thank our donors: the City of Willits, Jeanene Abbot, Gayle & William Bradley, Robert & Sherri Cronin, Thomas Demarchi, Karen Gridley & Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, Tracey & WC Beards, Maude Honemann & Bruce Jackson, Peggy Randrup, Mary Ziady & Richard Christopher, Karen & Gordon Oslund, Carolyn & Gene Stewart, St. Francis in the Redwoods, Henry Rued, D.D.S., James & Jeanne King, Jan Stephens, Laura Wagner, Glen Kahiara, Rosamond Crowder, Margie Handley, Monty & Kayo Levenson, Lynne & Keith Matheny, Keith & Jane Ronney, Katharine Rohrs, Amy Elliot, Alex & Barbara Carlon, Richard Jeske, M. Hawkins, Willits Mini Storage, Martha Ann Seifert, B&P Yoxall, David & Laura Smith, Ronda Landes, Peter & Laura Koch, Sheryl Smith, Gary & Diana Mann, Robin Goldner & Marc Komer, Allen & Marna Garcia, Carolyn Smith, LMFT, Calicos Investments, Inc., Linda & David Beebe, Keith & Linda Baker, Kacy Knudsen, Daniel & Barbara Elsberry, Carolyn Ponikvar, Bethellen Levitan, Elizabeth Hart, Peter Dal Poggetto Trust, Tom & Susan Walz, John Jeavons, J. Francis Schatz, Jean Morawski, E.A. Padula Lumber Company, Inc., Debbie McCubbins, and Nika Patterson & Christopher Brown.

Thank you so much for your generous donations. It makes such a difference in the lives of those we are serving. Your donations are appreciated so much! We still have \$52,000 to go to be able to remain solvent and desperately need each one of your help. Whether small or large donation it will all add up and help those in need so much so please consider giving to the Willits Community Services at 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. We appreciate all of you so very much!

We would also like to thank Wes Wade and his crew for all of the work Wes and his crew did to move our freezer to our new location, fix our refrigeration, and waiving his bill for all of the work they did for the food bank. Wes' sacrifices are so appreciated by the Board of Directors, myself and the staff.

All of those we serve will greatly be impacted by Wes' selfless sacrifices, and we want to publicly thank him and his crew for all of their contributions. We could not have made this move without them. Wes Wade is so appreciated and his kindness will never be forgotten.

Kim Tippitt, executive director, Willits Community Services

Sponsors sought for Willits Coloring Book

Submitted by Willits Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Willits is collecting photographs of Willits which will be transformed into 8.5 x 11" coloring book pages for the first-ever Willits Coloring Book.

We intend to print 5,000 copies which will be given to local elementary and pre-schools, the Willits Library, the Museum, the Skunk Train Depot, the Chamber of Commerce office, hospital and doctors' office waiting rooms, and maybe your office or business.

We are still looking for sponsors to advertise in this one-of-a-kind fundraiser for, and about, our community.

We hope you will consider joining us on Friday, August 16 for a Dessert Buffet with After Dinner Liqueurs from 6 to 8:30 pm at the Mendocino County Museum, where we will display the photos which will be included in this inaugural coloring book.

Read the rest of [Coloring](#) Over on page 9



Photos by Mathew Caine

Walking Moai

Flourish and Flow partners with Blue Zones and CalFresh to promote group walks on Saturdays at the Brooktrails Par Course

"We're partnering up with Flourish and Flow to offer a free walking moai to the community," explained Tina Tyler-O'Shea, executive director of Blue Zones Project for Mendocino County. "Moai is an Okinawan term meaning 'gathering for a common purpose.' Our common purpose is getting out and enjoying this beautiful place we call home, here in Brooktrails, getting some movement, activity, fresh air, connecting with others, and making new friends."

For the past few weeks, interest and participation has been building for a series of gentle Saturday walks at the Par Course in Brooktrails Township. Originally organized by Flourish and Flow, a yoga and movement studio in the Evergreen Shopping Center, the walk now is being promoted in a partnership between the yoga studio, Blue Zones and CalFresh. The goal is to encourage people to get outdoors, and participate in movement and group activity, which are some of the practices that are part of the Blue Zones Power 9 set of steps to a healthier lifestyle.

On Saturday, July 20, at 11:30 am, 15 women, one girl, and three dogs came together to enjoy the fresh air and amiable path of the Par Course, past the old ball field, two picturesque wooden bridges, and a grove of redwoods, in order to enjoy some outdoor time and walk with friends, both old and new.

"We just started these walks last month," said Erin

Corley, owner of Flourish and Flow Wellness and Fitness Studio. "We want to get people outdoors and moving their bodies and build community. We're partnering with Blue Zones and CalFresh. CalFresh can help with providing fruits and vegetables for our events. They helped provide the fruit for our water at the rodeo. We're starting to partner with them for events."

"At 8:30 on Tuesday mornings will be a dance moai, which is kind of like a Zumba class, starting on July 23," explained Corley. "Amy Bozzo is going to be teaching that. On Sundays at 10 am, we're doing yoga and sound healing in Recreation Grove Park. Annie Everts is doing gentle yoga for about 45 minutes and then I end with about 15 minutes on the crystal sound bowls and do a little sound healing."

"It's been really nice in the park, under the trees. It's nice and shady. We're doing that and the hike while the weather is still good. The dance moai is going to be for 10 weeks. We may extend the outdoor activities if the weather is good."

"Slowly but surely, the attendance for these walks has been building up," said Corley. "It started with just me and one other student and slowly we've gotten more and more. The numbers have been growing. It's great getting people outside."

Read the rest of [Moai](#) Over on page 9

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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6				7	2				

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!

The rest of Cubbison

From page 1

A long-awaited preliminary hearing for the two veteran county employees was scheduled to begin this week but after hearings last week and again on Tuesday, Moorman formally granted a defense motion to continue the preliminary hearing to an uncertain date.

"We are going to gather in person in court next week and figure out a solution. I am not going to let this case drift along," Moorman admonished attorneys.

Public Defender Mary LeClair, representing Kennedy, urged Moorman to continue the preliminary hearing to a date uncertain until the email issue can be resolved. Also appearing in court was Deputy County Counsel Brina Blanton, who acknowledged the situation is "confusing" but said her office was prepared to help find resolution.

Special Prosecutor Traci Carillo, hired by Eyster to prosecute Cubbison and Kennedy after he stepped back from the case, appeared Tuesday remotely via video, as did Cubbison attorney Chris Andrian of Santa Rosa, county hired attorney Madeline Cline of a San Francisco law firm, and Cubbison civil attorney Therese Cannata of San Francisco.

Initially it was attorney Cannata's quest in her civil litigation to retrieve emails surrounding Cubbison's abrupt dismissal by the Board of Supervisors in October 2023 that triggered disclosure that thousands of internal county documents prior to 2022 were not available because an old archival system has been "corrupted."

Then prosecutor Carillo unexpectedly learned that law enforcement investigators later gained access to thousands of the missing emails. Since then, county representatives and their attorneys contend that critical communications among the case principals were in fact "preserved" all along.

Nevertheless, in a July 15 letter to county-hired legal advisors in San Francisco and provided to Judge Moorman, Carillo said the email snafu has led to "significant complications" clouding evidentiary issues.

Deputy County Counsel Blanton, however, told Judge Moorman it might take an extraordinary effort to review emails for relevance and redact confidential information involving county personnel not linked to the criminal case.

"Well, you may have to do that," said Moorman, citing laws that require defense attorneys to be presented with all material related to criminal defendants.

Of particular concern to defense attorneys, and now Prosecutor Carillo, are the existence of emails involving retired Auditor Lloyd Weer, who was still in office when the alleged criminal acts began to unfold in late 2019.

Weer has refused to respond publicly about his role in the high-profile case and reportedly has retained an attorney. He is suspected by defense attorneys of possibly having "third party culpability" in the case.

District Attorney Eyster in earlier court filings claimed the former auditor told investigators he never talked to Cubbison or Kennedy about a special arrangement during the COVID pandemic that garnered Kennedy about \$68,000 in extra pay over a three-year period.

As a result, Cubbison and Kennedy were accused by Eyster of a single felony

charge of misappropriating government funds stemming from certain unauthorized compensatory time off payments allegedly paid between October 2019 and August 2022. Kennedy insists the extra pay was for time worked. There is no evidence Cubbison personally benefited from the pay.

In his initial court filings Eyster contended that Kennedy and Weer agreed in interviews with investigators that it was Cubbison who came up with a scheme to utilize an obscure pay code. Cubbison counters that Weer was still in charge of the office when the extra pay began, and that she believed he and Kennedy made the special arrangement, and she was aware of it but not a party to it.

The Cubbison/Kennedy case is laced with county politics.

Eyster publicly quarreled with Cubbison when she questioned his office spending, including annual dinners at a local steakhouse that he labeled staff "training sessions" although friends and spouses of DA employees were in attendance.

Eyster took the extraordinary step of blocking Cubbison's interim appointment as auditor when Weer stepped down early. She was later elected Auditor/Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector by county voters after the county Board of Supervisors forced a consolidation of two offices led by independent elected officials.

During that tumultuous period, it was county administrators and some board members who upon learning about the unauthorized county payments to Kennedy took their suspicions about Cubbison to DA Eyster.

The Sheriff's Office investigated, but it took Eyster a year to file the criminal case against Cubbison and Kennedy.

Cubbison refused an Eyster plea offer of a misdemeanor criminal charge in return for her resignation. After Eyster filed charges, the Board of Supervisors rushed to immediately suspend the auditor without pay and benefits.

Special Prosecutor Carillo, a former Deputy DA and now defense attorney in Sonoma County, suggested Tuesday to Moorman that a way out for attorneys and the trial court is to reach an agreement to protect confidential county employee information while reviewing thousands of emails for relevance to the Cubbison/Kennedy case.

Defense attorneys Andrian and LeClair were hesitant.

In her motion for delay, LeClair argued to Moorman that the "failure of the county and/or law enforcement to ensure that Mr. Weer's communications were preserved is an issue that now must be investigated."

LeClair said that she does not believe the case should proceed "until I have received, or at the very least, have had my retained expert review all 174,000 emails recently found to exist."

Andrian noted that his special IT investigator Chris Reynolds discovered that only a few hundred emails among Weer, Kennedy and Cubbison were accounted for in the first critical years of the extra pay, and then the number surges into the thousands after the fact.

"How can I possibly believe I have seen all the material that is relevant to my client?" asked Andrian.

The rest of Passes

From page 1

California's Proposition 218 requires that special benefit assessment votes be weighted "in proportion to the amount of the assessment each property owner would pay." For example, the Legislative Analyst's Office explains: "If homeowner Jones would pay twice as much assessment as homeowner Smith, homeowner Jones' vote would 'count' twice as much as homeowner Smith's vote."

Ballots were sent to property owners in Brooktrails, Spring Creek, Sylvandale, and the Gates subdivisions inside the Special Benefit Assessment area. Developed lots in the assessment area will pay \$30.88 a year, and undeveloped lots will pay \$1.39 a year for a 20-year term.

Total estimated revenues will be an estimated \$63,039 a year to maintain the emergency routes. The earliest the special assessment could appear on the tax rolls would be fiscal year 2024-25, and the assessment sunsets after 20 years. The annual assessment will be adjusted

according to the Consumer Price Index.

According to the resolution the board approved Tuesday: "The proposed assessment is set to recover immediate road repairs needed for drainage and to install, repair, and maintain culverts, perform roadside fuel clearing, and install new gates and turnouts in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 State Minimum Fire Safe Standards and includes costs for ongoing routine maintenance such as vegetation firebreak maintenance and road surfacing and drainage conduit function."

The Willits Creek and Firco routes are gated routes across private property, and are not for public use or egress. The routes were used for emergency responders' access during the 2020 Oak Fire, with Brooktrails residents successfully using both lanes of Sherwood Road to evacuate down the hill to town.

Have something to say?
Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com



Above, left: The Willits chapter of Scouts, BSA Troop 42 puts American flags up along Main Street on most major holidays. Above, right: Willits Scout Gracie Crook carries the U.S. flag to be raised along Main Street on Memorial Day 2024.

Troop 42 Scouts thank Flag Program sponsors

The young men and women of Scouts, BSA Troop 42, and their leaders, would like to thank our local businesses and community for the support of our scouts and Flag Program. The flags are maintained, put out, and brought back in as a voluntary service on most major holidays.

Your donations not only help maintain the Flag Program, but also help the scouts with their many scouting activities throughout the year, as well as help send our scouts to summer camp.

Willits has always shown great support to our youth, and we are very proud and thankful to be part of this Willits community.

We would like to specifically thank the following local businesses and community members for their support!

Gold Sponsor, \$100 or more: 101 Trailer & RV Supply; Onward Auto Repair; Taqueria Bravo; The Book Juggler; Body Works Gym; Carter Rich PC; Selzer Realty; Willits Power Equipment; Ace Copy; Brown's Corner; Family Tree; and Sparetime Supply.

Silver Sponsor, \$50: NorCrawl; Good Guys Gym; Loose Caboose Cafe; Baechtel Creek Medical Center; Little Lake Auto

Parts; Mariposa Market; Scoops; Glen Mark Self Storage; and Imagination Station.

Bronze Sponsor, \$25: Rio's Fish and Chips; Cat's Meow; Healing Central; Happy Donuts; Auto Mart; Wild West Express; The Old West Inn; Summit Realty; Tall Tree Engineering; Brickhouse Coffee; Best Western Inn; James Angell; Restaurant El Mexicano; CA Express Services; Randy Huss; Delicias Sweets; Salon 707; First Nails; Adams Nails; and Earthlab Energy.

If you would like to support the Scouts of Troop 42's flag efforts, you can send your donation to PO Box 2415, Willits, CA 95490.

Scouts, BSA is for boys and girls that are age 11-17. Our Troop 42 meets Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 pm at the Scout Hut in the Recreation Grove, on the corner of Commercial and Lenore streets. You can contact Ken Pedersen (707) 972-3286 or Kara Garvin (707) 245-2755 for more information.

Thank you for your support of Troop 42 and our Flag Program.

— Troop 42 Scoutmasters Ken Pedersen and Kara Garvin

Below, left: One of the U.S. flags that the Willits Scouts put up along Main Street on a past Memorial Day. Below, right: Willits Scout Sebastian Carrillo holds one of the U.S. flags to be put up during the flag-raising program on Memorial Day this year.



**COVELO'S 41st ANNUAL
BLACKBERRY
FESTIVAL
AUGUST 17-18**
www.roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com

Round Valley Blackberry Festival coming up, August 17-18

Submitted by RVBF Committee
Save the date for the 41st Annual Round Valley Blackberry Festival, happening Saturday, August 17 and Sunday, August 18 this year. A not-for-profit event sponsored by the Friends of the Round Valley Public Library.

Above: Rory Martion poses with the billboard in Round Valley for the 41st annual Blackberry Festival.

41st Annual Round Valley Covelo, Ca
Blackberry Festival
August 17-18, 2024
Saturday 10am - 6pm
Sunday 10am - 5pm
Music, Arts & Crafts • Wine Tasting • Food • Kids Activities • Blackberry Delicacies
Sponsored by the Friends of the Round Valley Public Library
www.roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com

Our Master of Ceremonies Mickey will kick things off at 10 am on both days. The festival runs through 6 pm on Saturday and 5 pm on Sunday, with over 30 vendors offering arts & crafts and food booths, including delicious berry treats made with the Round Valley delicacy, Mendocino wine tasting, and live music both days.

Come join the community for this family event – children's activities promise fun for the entire family – and enjoy an art show in the Round Valley Library Commons adjacent to the festival grounds. Annual car and motorcycle show is featured on Sunday.

We hope to see you there! Admission is free. NO PETS are allowed on the festival grounds. More info: www.roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com/ or www.facebook.com/RoundValleyBlackberryFestival

REDWOOD EMPIRE FAIR
★ 2024 ★
Red, White & Ewe
August 1-4
RedwoodEmpireFair.com

EXCITING FAIR ATTRACTIONS

**NEW THIS YEAR!!
Sea Lion Splash!**
Cody Williams Balloon Artist
Master of Illusion, Sean Watson
Brad's World of Reptiles
Dr. Jon Comedy Hypnotist & more!

NIGHTLY MOTORIZED SPORTS ACTION

Thurs: 8/1: Side-by-Sides, Motorcycles and Monster Trucks
Fri: 8/2: Mudd Boggs, Side-by-Sides, Motorcycles and Monster Trucks
Sat: 8/3: MLM Truck & Tractor Pulls
Sun: 8/4: Boat Races & the Junior Mudd Boggs

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE WILLOW TREE STAGE

Thurs: 8/1: The Easy Street Band
Fri: 8/2: While We're Young
Sat: 8/3: Warehouse 21
Sun: 8/4: Banda Pacifica

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Saturday, August 3, 2024
at 10:30 am
Racine Pavillion

Fair Admission
Adults: \$10
Seniors 65+: \$8
Child 6-12: \$8
Child 5 & Under: Free
Parking: \$10
Carnival \$37 wristbands

CLUES ACROSS

- Nasal mucus
- Hairs on the back of a dog
- Ones who build anew
- Consume too much food
- Praised
- Provides weapons
- Become less lively
- Engine additive
- Thought or suggestion
- South Korean city
- Midday rests
- Expression of acidity or alkalinity
- Group of rockers
- Very fast airplane
- One who is paid to do something
- Buzzing insect
- Monothestic religion founder
- Strong dark beer
- Blood type
- Square measures
- Honorific titles in NW Semitic languages

CLUES DOWN

- No seats available
- Russian river
- A European river
- Phrase
- Idol
- Keyboard key
- Prefix indicating mutual
- Kilometers per hour
- Set an example
- It's among the 'Great' ones
- VVV
- Murdered
- Icelandic poems
- Field force unit
- Famed cartoonist

CLUES ACROSS

- Partner to 'Ma'
- Equal to one quintillion bytes
- Speak incessantly
- Disquiet
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
- S. American plant
- Monetary unit of Thailand
- Regions
- Baseball legend Yogi
- Ancient Egyptian notion of spiritual part of humans
- Fishing net
- Tinseltown
- MacBeth's wife was one
- Took a spill
- Adversary to pets
- Town in Galilee
- Secret racist society (slang)
- About aviation
- Longing or yearning
- Hawaiian dish
- Field force unit
- Partner to 'Pa'

Thursday, July 25

Dungeons and Dragons at the Library: The final July event, Thursday, July 25, 10 to 11:30 am. For beginning players and veterans alike. No experience or materials necessary to join. Drop-in players welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolib.org or 459-5908.

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, 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.mendolib.org or 459-5908.

Tastes Like Chicken at Shanachie: Local Willits band Tastes Like Chicken puts out an eclectic mix of songs guaranteed to get you moving. With Joe Swearingin, Paul Haley, Charlie Vally, Keni Fink, David Woodle and guest drummer Blair Rowland. Friday, July 26 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

What's Happening Around Town

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

Craft Saturdays in July: Join the staff of the Willits Branch Library for the final July Craft Saturday event, with fun for the whole family. Saturday, July 27 from 11 am to noon. "Our final Saturday will be an animal-themed story time and craft with special guest, Casey the therapy dog." All ages welcome. Willits Library Meeting Room, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolib.org or 459-5908.

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 White 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 electronics, & Tommy G. on bass

Saturday, July 27 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, July 28

Grange Pancake Breakfast: Join your friends at the monthly Little Lake Grange Breakfast on Sunday, July 28, from 8 to 11 am. "Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods: All you can eat pancakes (choose our Sourdough Wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-free), Beeler's Quality Bacon, Organic Local Farm Fresh Scrambled Eggs, Real Butter, Juice, Organic Coffee or Tea." \$10, \$9 for seniors, \$5 children under 10. Also: extra sides of Organic Fruit \$2, Amish Organic Maple Syrup \$1, Fresh-made fruit syrup \$1 Extra Beeler's Bacon \$1. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of Main Street).



Saturday, August 3

Community Read-Aloud-Athon: Join Willits 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 has 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.mendolib.org or 459-5908.

WCA Opening: Willits Center for the Arts opens the August art exhibition featuring Jody J. Johnston and Don Ponte, with a Meet the Artists reception on Saturday, August 3, between 6 and 9 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm.

SUNQ at Shanachie: Electronic space rock duo SUNQ is J Young Sun (guitar & vocals) and Guinevere Q (bass & vocals), with an original sci-fi musical story called "Intercepted Transmissions" about astronauts, love, and resistance. Saturday, August 3 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Wednesday, July 31

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 31 event is: "Stuck on You - Magnet Remix." 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.

Thursday, August 1

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, August 1, 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.

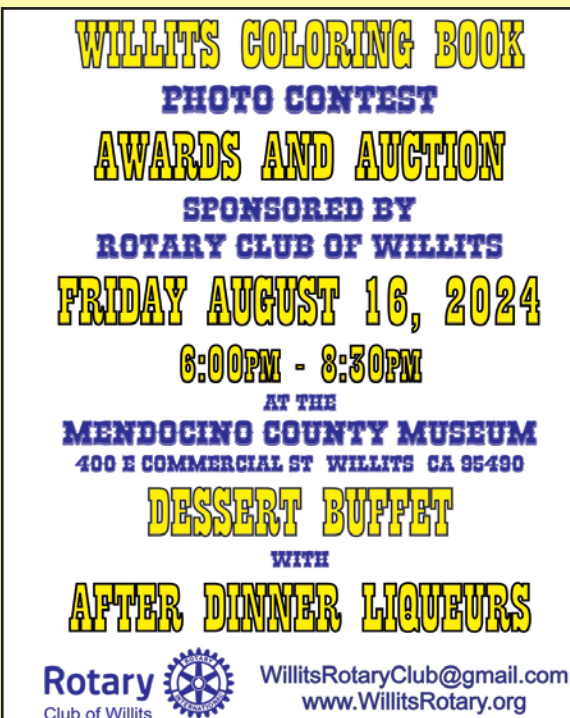
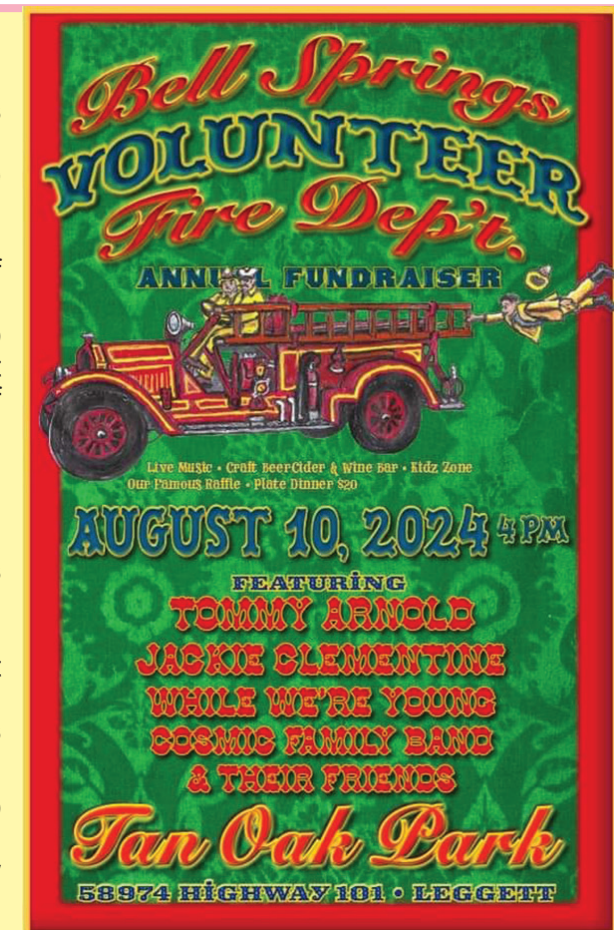
Friday, August 2

Welcome West at Shanachie: featuring Mandolin Manny & Friends, a modern take on a bluegrass band, dipping into many influences from their eclectic collective of musicians. Friday, August 2 at 8 to 11 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



Sunday, August 4

Afternoon Concert Fundraiser at WCA: Willits Center for the Arts host a concert by Abigail Summers and Jenny Watts, Sunday, August 4 from 2 to 4 pm. "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." Tickets are \$20, will benefit the WCA, and are 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.



ONGOING EVENTS

Willits Community Services & Food Bank: WCS offers food grocery distributions to families in need twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. 344 Railroad Avenue. Please bring an I.D. We are looking for volunteers for our warehouse, window, food delivery drivers, and fundraising volunteers. For information call: (707) 459-3333

WCA July Exhibit: Last weekend for Willits Center for the Arts' dual art exhibition featuring the contrasting yet complementary styles of Robert Louis Permenter and Patsy Brixie. Closes Sunday, July 28. "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, first and third Thursdays, at 1250 Blosser Lane. Info: outreach@bfdbank.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@saber.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 707-354-0565.

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.

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

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-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:00 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 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
Confessions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at
707-459-2252

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

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Twisters'

The Story: They get crazy high on adrenaline! Storm chasers, like death junkies, hunt the monstrous tornadoes that rip across the Oklahoma plains. Huge twisters, birthed from above in darkness and storms, descend on homes, smash farms, suck living people out into the sky, rip apart whole towns, smash everything.

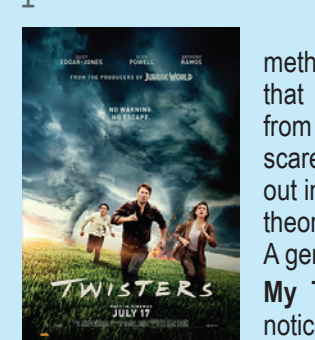
One former storm chaser, our quite-frightened, unstupefied heroine Kate (Daisy Edgar-Jones) is an expert on tornadoes. Kate has developed a theory, a method using common chemistry, that just may stop the twisters from forming. Though she's scared-near-to-death, she goes out into gigantic storms to test her theories. Wow! And double wow! A genuine, non-stupid, hero story.

My Thoughts: The first thing I noticed about this flick is that I cared about the buildings that got destroyed. Let me compare this movie to Marvel Universe or, for that matter, Godzilla disaster flicks. In the Marvel/ Godzilla movies, huge buildings, sky scrapers-even, get knocked over and crushed - but I just didn't care.

Whereas, in "Twisters" I did care about the death and destruction. I felt the loss as if it were personal. I witnessed the disasters, and it was as if I were seeing the real homes of friends and neighbors in my real world being destroyed. And thus, the grand finale and confrontation between terrified human beings and Nature's monsters had, at least for me, emotional impact.

This is a first-rate movie-movie. The good guys are brave in the face of real danger and real chaos. Their courage is clear and manifest. And also, things explode. The whole flick is one long, old-fashioned, "Welcome to the movies!" I loved it.

Parents: Little kids might be too scared because this movie is genuinely scary, and tornadoes are real. *Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.*



Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.
Info: www.mendolib.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.mendolib.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!

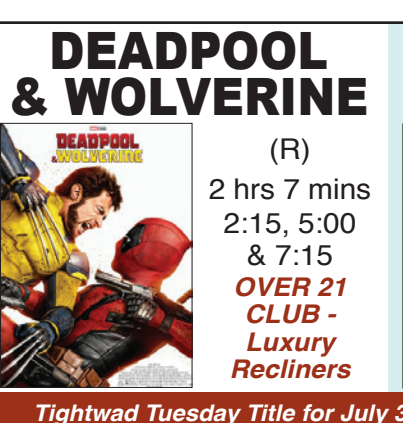
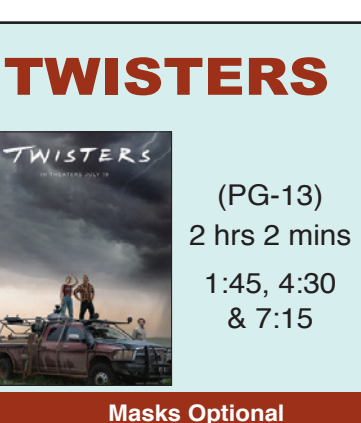
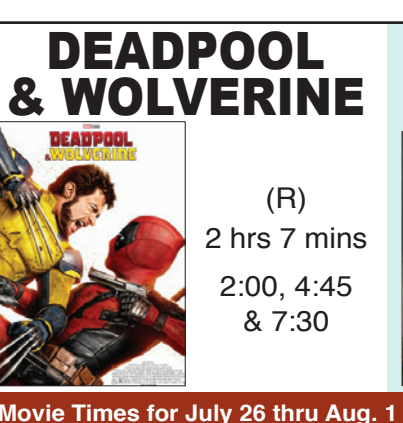
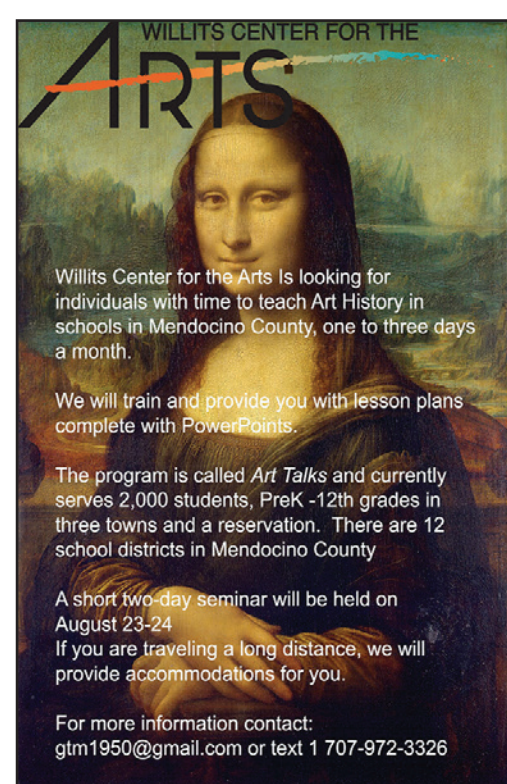
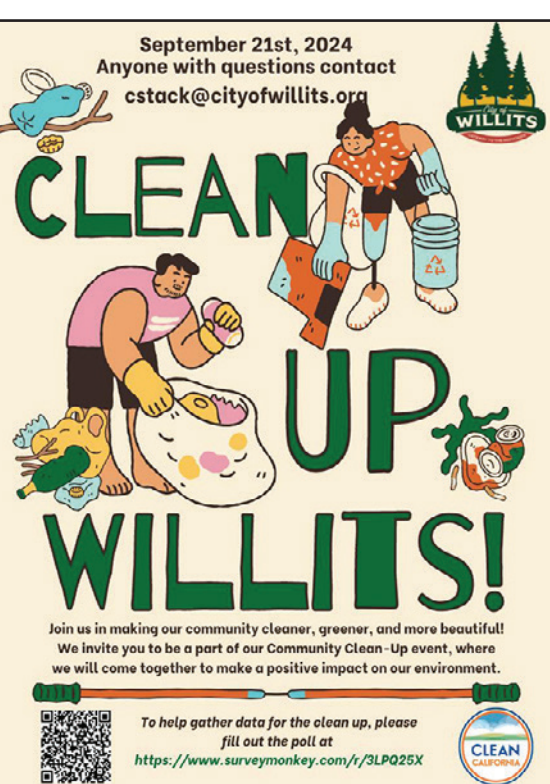
Art in the Gardens, Fort Bragg

August 3-4

The 31st annual Art in the Gardens at Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens will take place on Saturday, August 3 and Sunday, August 4. Join us in a celebration of creative expression and gorgeous gardens; 2024 featured artist is Linda Shearin. Mingle with more than 50 artists and enjoy live music, entertainment, and dramatic summertime blooms. Food, craft brews, and wine will be available for purchase. 18220 North Highway 1, Fort Bragg. See full details and purchase tickets at www.gardenbythesea.org/calendar/aig-2024/



At right: "Garden of Joy," the 2024 Art in the Gardens Featured Artwork, by Linda Shearin.



Skunk Train's Chiggen steam engine returns August 3 through September 8

Submitted by the Skunk Train

The Skunk Train is excited to announce the return of a sensational experience that will transport visitors on an unforgettable journey through time and immerse them in the beauty of the redwoods. Prepare to be captivated by the historic Chiggen steam engine.

The Chiggen, a legendary steam locomotive that graced the tracks of the California Western Railroad just last year, is making its return to the Redwood Route this summer. Weekends in August and September, adventurers of all ages can step aboard this remarkable piece of history and embark on a one-of-a-kind voyage through the heart of the redwoods.

Pulled by an authentic, historic California steam locomotive, passengers will relish a scenic 7-mile round trip along the stunning Pudding Creek Estuary. Immerse yourself in nature's wonders and perhaps catch blue herons gracefully gliding over the waters, ospreys hunting, and elegant egrets like small sculptures against landscape. Departing from our Fort Bragg depot, this enchanting journey lasts one hour and 15 minutes round trip, with a captivating stop at Glen Blair Bar.

Transporting you back to the days of steam, the Chiggen mirrors the original locomotive that traversed these very tracks in 1885. Beginning its service in 1909, the Chiggen is over a century old, and with only a handful of these historic locomotives still in operation, their numbers are sadly diminishing. This makes the opportunity to ride one of these rare trains even more special.

Experience the nostalgia and grandeur of the era as you travel in authentic passenger cars from that time, including an open-air car that allows you to breathe in the fragrant air of the towering redwoods. This remarkable expedition through history promises to be a cherished memory for everyone on board.

Tickets for this experience are \$79.95 per person, visitors will experience a living testament to locomotive engineering and history. Don't miss your chance to step into a bygone era and experience the wonders of the Chiggen steam engine.

Book your tickets now through www.skunktrain.com/days-of-steam and be prepared to embark on an extraordinary adventure that will leave you with memories to cherish for a lifetime.

About California Western Railroad / Skunk Train

Located in the redwood forests of Northern California's Mendocino County, is a heritage railroad that has been operating both freight and passenger service since 1885. Initially used to move redwood logs to the Mendocino Coast sawmills from the rugged back country, the Skunk Train has become a beloved institution touted as one of the "10 Best Rail Tours in the Country" (USA Today), and a "Top 10 Family Activity in California" (National Geographic Traveler).

The Skunk Train journey covers 40 miles of scenic delights and 30 bridges, all while retaining its original charm – minus the historic pungent aroma that once preceded its arrival. Operating year-round, this multi-generational experience welcomes passengers to bring along their families and even their dog, ensuring a memorable and inclusive adventure.

FAMOUS CHICKEN FACES

Can you match them?

- CHICKALETTA
- SHELDON
- CHICKEN
- CORNELLUS THE ROOSTER
- FOGHORN LEGHORN
- ERWIE THE GIANT CHICKEN
- ROBOT CHICKEN
- FEATHERS MCGRAW
- CAMILLA

ANSWERS: A 4 B 6 C 2 D 3 E 8 F 9 G 1 H 7 I 5

Start having some Chiggen fun with this little game! Look in next week's paper for two pages of special "Chiggen" deals at 16 Willits and Fort Bragg businesses who will be participating in the Chiggen fun through September 8! Below: Get your tickets now for the Skunk Train's Chiggen steam engine, running August 3 through September 8.



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- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Primary Care

Learn more at AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org



Presale carnival wristbands for upcoming Redwood Empire Fair are available now at Ukiah retailers

Submitted by Redwood Empire Fair

Skip the line and get ready to ride the Zipper, the Super Slide, and more by purchasing a presale ride wristband now for the carnival at the upcoming Redwood Empire Fair, held August 1 through 4 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds.

Wristbands are available now for \$30 each, and entitle the wearer to one day of unlimited carnival rides. These presale bands are available for sale now until 2:30 pm on Thursday, August 1. After that deadline, wristbands will be available at the fair, for \$37 each.

Get your presale bands now from these Ukiah locations: Mendo Mill, Raley's, Taco Bell, Creative Workshop, and Chavez Market.

The rest of Attractions | From page 1

Friday, the only show will be held at 2 pm.

Dr. Jon's website describes: "Dr. Jon works across the country from Maine to Hawaii, including the Caribbean and Canada. He's an accomplished entertainer, speaker and educator with hilarious hypnosis skills that never fail to delight." According to Dr. Jon, "the art of hypnosis is simple: it is a heightened state of suggestibility that relaxes your conscious mind and allows your subconscious to be 're-tuned' so that positive changes can happen."

Jeremiah Johnston and The Throw Zone will perform his comedy juggling and variety shows and strolling entertainment on the fairway on Thursday, August 1 at 4, 7, and 9 pm; on Friday, August 2 at 4, 6 and 9 pm; and Saturday and Sunday at 2, 3:30, 6, and 9 pm.

Johnston's website says he holds "two medals in the world championships of juggling. Jeremiah's performances feature thrilling stunts, big laughs, and fantastic displays of dexterity and balance that will captivate audiences of all kinds." He does "comedy juggling and variety shows, polished stage acts, stunning fire performances, mind boggling L.E.D. light shows, engaging strolling entertainment," and more.

Admission to these, and all the fairway and grandstand shows, is included in the main fair admission price.

The rest of Moai | From page 3

Each of the participants had their own reasons for going on the walk.

"I'm doing this to get out and walk. I go to the classes every week but it's kind of a nice get together with everyone outside the studio. It also gets my dog out for a walk," said Maggie Young.

"I'm on this walk to get healthier," Anne Hammond added. "I go to Flourish and Flow during the week. I take dance fit, flex fit, tai chi, and today I did yoga. These are the people who do the classes and I enjoy being with them. It's nice to be part of a community."

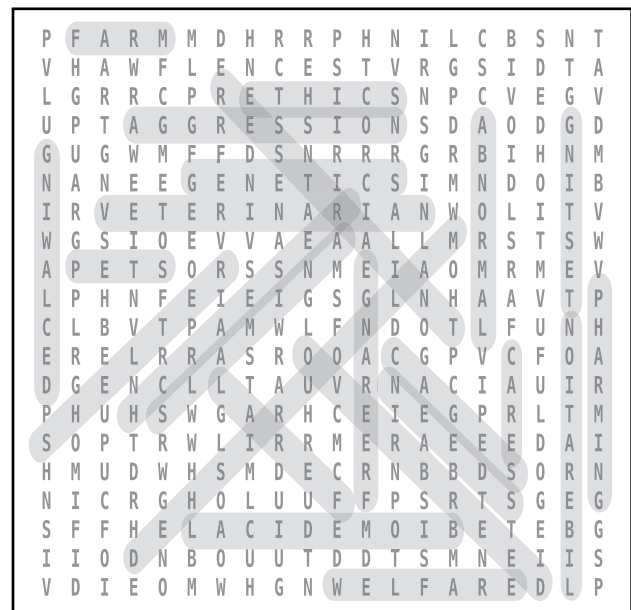
Valerie Boman wants to increase her fitness. "I really believe in physical fitness. I don't do workout classes anymore, but I walk as much as I can. I have a dog who loves to go for walks. We weren't sure if this was going to be dog friendly so I left her at home, but I will be bringing her in the future."

Michelle Hutchins, the Blue Zones Project organizational lead, explained the idea behind the organization and their reason for partnering with Flourish and Flow: "Essentially, we are trying to make healthy choices easier. We're working with schools, worksites, restaurants and grocery stores. We're homing in on that, as well as policy at the city level and at the county level, and also working with people, which is what we're doing today."

"By focusing on those three areas," said Hutchins, "we're affecting where people spend 90 percent of their time outside of their home. You might go to work, or to school, or grocery shopping, go out to eat, or you might go out and have some fun. In those areas, we try to – where people are – to affect the policy or the workplace policy, to help it be possible for people to make healthier choices in their lives. It's things like parking farther away from your worksite. You can gain an extra 30 steps a day, or 60 round trip. Over time, that can be a lot."

Jennifer Lutge, acting senior program specialist with CalFresh, participated in the walk and commented: "What I do is provide education on nutrition and physical activity within Mendocino County, so it's focused on getting the community involved with healthy activities to prevent chronic illnesses like obesity and diabetes, heart disease. We share a lot of the same goals with Blue Zones, which is making a healthier choice the easier choice and trying to shape policy in an environment that is in front of you and make it easier to make the right choice."

Visit the following websites for more information on the programs mentioned above: <https://mendocinocounty.bluezonesproject.com/>, <https://www.flourishandflowmendo.com/>, <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/food-nutrition/calfresh>.



The rest of Coloring | From page 2

and vote for the cover photo. We will also auction off the full-color back page advertisement and the remaining full-color advertising spaces available on the inside covers.

For information about sponsorships, contact Cathie Gemhardt, 707-535-9500 or PrintssCathie@gmail.com

Thank you in advance for supporting Willits Rotary as we continue to make a difference in our community one project at a time.

The rest of Watch Duty | From page 2

provide you with the most actionable wildfire information available.

Once you've updated your app, open the "Layers" drawer found in the top right-hand corner of your map and select "Live Wildfire Cameras." When you zoom in you will see the cameras appear. Clicking on one allows you to view in real-time as well as a 6-hour time-lapse.

Editor's Note: If you prefer to visit Watch Duty via a browser window, go to www.watchduty.org and select the "Use on Web Browser" option. When the Watch Duty browser window opens, you can zoom around the map or search for your preferred location. Then follow the above instructions using the "Layers" icon to see the ALERT cameras on the map.

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW500
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JULIUS TROUSDALE SADLER III, aka JULIUS T. SADLER III, aka JULIUS SADLER III, aka JULIUS SADLER, aka JASON SADLER

CASE NO. 24PR00118

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: JULIUS TROUSDALE SADLER III, aka JULIUS T. SADLER III, aka JULIUS SADLER III, aka JULIUS SADLER, aka JASON SADLER.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by GARRETT SADLER in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that GARRETT SADLER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: August 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: Alexander C. Rich, CARTER RICH PC, 716 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490 Telephone: 707-456-9210
Publication Dates: July 25th, August 1st, and August 8th, 2024

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

Do you make curtains?
Seeking someone to make curtains for 9 windows of various sizes - two-bedroom home in Willits. 510-395-2667 or kauaimike@live.com

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

The Fruit Group
The Fruit Group's trucks have tomatoes! Slicing tomatoes and Roma's are \$39 for 30 pounds. Peaches and Nectarines, \$38 a lug. For other fruits, or to order, contact Cressie at 707 459-2713 or dobbins99@SBCGlobal.net. Pick up, usually every other Friday, at Napa Auto Parts.

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)

Rohlicek Yard Sale
Rohlicek Yard Sale: 399 Penn Street, Willits. 50+ years of Treasures: Antiques, Costumes, & useful items. When: Saturday, July 27 and Sunday, July 28, 9 am to 4 pm both days.

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/p>

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Mendocino County invites applications for:

Animal Protection Officer I
\$37,876 - \$46,030

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

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner
\$76,648 - \$93,142

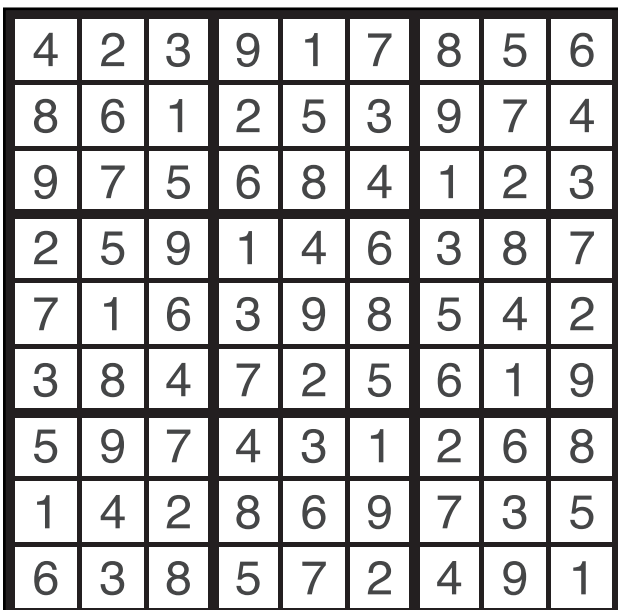
Eligibility Specialist III
\$53,851 - \$65,457

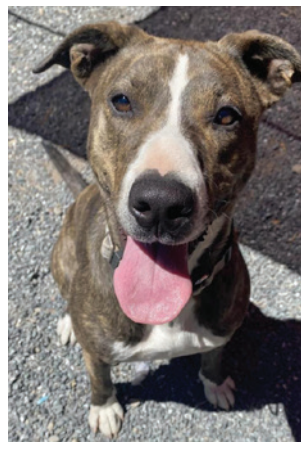
Secretary
\$45,864 - \$55,764

Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D
\$51,729 - \$97,448

Staff Assistant III
\$43,388 - \$52,728

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





Happy Cheyenne

When you enter Cheyenne's kennel with a pocket full of treats, you will soon hear the soft thumping of her tail wagging. Shortly after that you'll have a sweet Cheyenne snuggled in your lap! Chey - what we've been calling her - can't hide her love for people who speak kindly to her and bring extra yummy treats. She likes the company of other dogs and has shown us she's a fan of tennis balls and toys! Chey's joy is contagious. You won't want to miss out on this girl!

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.

Relaxed Phantom

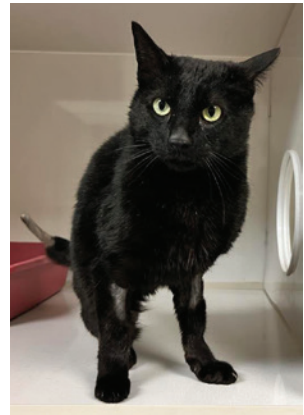
This dignified little senior pupper is your next couch buddy in waiting! Phantom loves getting up next to a friendly person to pass the time away napping and / or getting pets and love. He is well behaved, house broken, and well past his puppy phase.



To learn more about Phantom, 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.

Vex the Survivor

Vex has had a rough go at life so far. He came to us with a few wounds and injuries, but our awesome clinic staff has since cleaned him up and he is all fixed up and ready for a fresh start! Vex is happy to meet people and though he only has three legs, he seems to get around just fine! We think he would do best in a home with older children.



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.mendocinoinimals.com. Call 707-467-6453 for more information.

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At top: Owners of Cocina Picante, Yiping Hsieh and Felix, bring authentic Mexican salsas, tamales, and other savory treats to local farmers markets. Above: A sign lists all of the choices of salsas available at Cocina Picante. Below: The couple likes to try different creations, like this bean dip with Mexican cheese.



At top: Yiping Hsieh fills a salsa order for one of their regular customers. Above, left: Yiping Hsieh does out samples of one of their many choices of salsas. Above, right: Felix makes tamales as well as salsas.

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The rest of Saved

From page 1
"According to my sources, the city advised Starbucks that the tree removal would be expensive and a very unpopular project in this area. After further exploration, Starbucks agreed with that opinion and decided to leave the trees in place. The city was accessible and cooperative on this issue."

"Saving these highly visible redwoods was the smart choice by Starbucks," said Greta Kanne, a member of the Willits City Council. "The amount of community ill-will they'd have faced if they had gone forward with the tree removals would have been a poor start to the beginning of their tenure here in our city."

Kanne emphasized the broader environmental benefits of preserving the trees. "It's also a win for those who recognize that the value of trees extends beyond property lines and that they provide real benefits to our environmental health."

However, the initial proposal to remove the trees was aimed at expanding the drive-thru capacity, Kanne noted. "My understanding is that the tree removal had been proposed to expand the drive-thru capacity at that location, as Starbucks is expected to have significantly more traffic than Jack in the Box. I hope they've found other ways to use their space in order to minimize disruption to traffic patterns at that busy and important corner. I know city staff have been vocal in sharing their concerns with Caltrans (who signed off on the traffic plan presented by Starbucks) and appreciate their efforts to solve anticipated problems before they impact our residents."

The issue has highlighted the need for a tree ordinance, something the council has been discussing for the better part of three years. "I hope this episode creates the needed push to get this necessary piece of city code over the finish line," Kanne said. "I'm cautiously optimistic that we can craft an ordinance that protects trees of a certain size or community importance, but that also respects property owner rights and doesn't place an undue burden on those who've invested in our town."

Dusty Duley, the City of Willits's Community Development director, praised the collaboration between the city and Starbucks. "I think it's as simple as staff anticipating, recognizing, and sharing the community's desire to see the trees remain," he said. "Yes, staff did a good job advocating for the trees and otherwise communicating with Starbucks on this matter, but ultimately Starbucks should be appreciated for hearing us and choosing to keep the trees."

Duley highlighted the deep community ties within the Community Development Department. "Nearly the entire staff in the Community Development Department was born and raised in Mendocino County, has chosen to raise our families in Willits, actively volunteers our time to different community groups, and is very much intertwined with the community fabric of Willits." Thanks to Matt Fever of MendoFever.com who gave Willits Weekly permission to reprint this story.

The rest of Robbers

From page 1
Sheriff's Office dispatchers then heard what they believed to be firearms being discharged over the phone line, and the resident reported there was an exchange of gunfire between the residents and the suspects. The residents physically subdued two of the suspects until law enforcement arrived, while several other suspects fled the area.

Residents were listed as three adult males, ages 18, 23 and 44, and one juvenile male, age 16.
Law enforcement personnel arrived and detained 34-year-old Gary Casdell Fite from San Francisco, and 28-year-old Marcel Jamarie Earl Patterson from Richmond. Fite and Patterson both had significant injuries to their faces, heads, and extremities, which were reportedly caused by the residents prior to law enforcement arrival at the scene.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office detectives were summoned to the scene to assist with the investigation. Fite and Patterson were transported to Howard Memorial Hospital to be treated for injuries sustained during this incident. Fite was arrested on felony charges for 213 PC (robbery), 29800 PC (prohibited person in possession of a firearm), and 12022.53 PC (armed with a firearm during the commission of a felony). Fite was booked into the Mendocino County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bail.

Patterson was unable to be incarcerated due to the significance of his injuries and was subsequently airlifted to an out-of-county hospital for further medical treatment. Charges against Patterson are pending while he is hospitalized for his injuries.

At this stage of the investigation, law enforcement does not believe the suspects or victims were shot during the exchange of gunfire that occurred while law enforcement personnel were responding. This case is actively being investigated by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and additional information will be released as it becomes available.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is encouraged to call the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center at 707-463-4086. Information can also be provided anonymously by utilizing the non-emergency tip-line at 707-234-2100.

The rest of Highlights

From page 2

These allocations, proposed by the Mendocino County Fire Districts Association of Elected Officials and the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association, will be executed quarterly based on final revenue assessments. The board will review any surplus revenues to ensure prudent financial management. These funding allocations are estimated to be close to \$5 million for FY 2023-24.

BOS Salary Increase Approval: In a decisive move aimed at ensuring equitable compensation for essential county leadership, the Board of Supervisors voted to approve a salary increase. This decision, though met with some controversy, balanced many factors including statutory obligations, and ensured that future increases are tied to the Department Head MOU, Article 11, section 1, of the California Constitution states that a county's Board of Supervisors shall prescribe by ordinance the compensation of its members, a responsibility undertaken with careful deliberation.

Like other exempt county leaders, board members in Mendocino County dedicate themselves tirelessly to constituent welfare. The salary increase acknowledges the demanding nature of their roles, involving continuous oversight and advocacy for all county residents.

State Controller's Audit Report: The board received the State Controller's audit report covering the period from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022. The audit findings will guide ongoing improvements in governance and financial management. Several steps have been taken since Fall 2023 to course-correct the issues. Nonetheless, a future agenda item will include an action plan to address findings requiring longer-term correction, ensuring transparency and accountability.



Above: This photo by local photographer Jenny Senter shows the Wednesday morning fire behind the Willits Safeway. Photo courtesy Jenny Senter

Fire in town Wednesday morning contained in minutes

Sirens started blaring in Willits right after 7 am on Wednesday morning, as emergency vehicles started making their way to an unknown type of fire that was first reported as a possible residential fire.

Mendocino Action News on Facebook reported from scanner communications that there was a black column of smoke showing from "behind Safeway /Homeless Camp by Creek." The call went out at 6:57 am, and the first responder was at scene at 7:02 am. The fire was reported contained at 7:08 pm, and controlled at 7:19 am, with crews cutting a line around it.

You can find the Mendocino Action News report on the July 24 fire, including a photo from the Ridgewood Grade 2 camera, and a video from a neighbor in the comments, at www.facebook.com/groups/mendocinoactionnews/posts/1479403636029344/

"Not what I want to see with my morning coffee!" said local photographer Jenny Senter, who posted this photo of the fire on Facebook. "Luckily we have two great fire departments, Little Lake Fire Department and Brooktrails Township Fire Department.... Thank you, firefighters everywhere, once again for all you do!"

Adventist Health offers an online Community Health Survey

Submitted by AHHM

Adventist Health Howard Memorial and a group of nonprofit organization partners are working together to conduct a survey of community health and well-being. Part of Adventist Health Howard Memorial's Community Health Needs Assessment, aka CHNA, the short, anonymous survey gives residents the opportunity to weigh in on the quality of life in our community. Completing the health needs survey will help shape the strategies and programs that address our area's most pressing health issues. Results of the survey are used to improve the health of the community.

"As a nonprofit healthcare organization, it's essential for us to ensure we're effectively serving our community. This survey allows us to hear directly from our friends and neighbors about their top health needs," says Eric Stevens, Northern California Network president. "We are dedicated to collaborating with our community to build a healthy and happy future for everyone who calls Mendocino County home."

Community Health Needs Assessments are conducted every three years by nonprofit hospitals such as Adventist Health Howard Memorial. In addition to the survey, the hospital and its CHNA steering committee members host focus groups and listening sessions and look at data from multiple sources to create a comprehensive community needs assessment. The assessment is used to build strategies to address health needs; the hospital reports on these efforts every year.

The survey is open through August 23, and community members can anonymously contribute their thoughts at AdventistHealthCHNA.org/Mendocino

Adventist Health is also partnering with Mendocino County Public Health,

MCSO warns about telephone fraud scam

Posted by Mendocino Sheriff

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office has received numerous reports of fraudulent phone calls where a person claimed to be an employee of the Sheriff's Office and requested payment over the telephone for fictitious fines.

The most recent examples were a subject claiming to be a lieutenant with the Sheriff's Office who asked the people on the phone to verify their personal identifying information because they missed a Grand Jury appearance.

Do not release personal identifying information to anyone on the telephone, and do not agree to pay any fines electronically or by using gift cards or payment apps.

No deputy, sergeant, lieutenant, or captain will ever call you from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office asking for money or payments.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office does not receive payment for anything using methods such as online payment apps or gift cards.

If you receive a suspicious telephone call or letter, contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office directly at 707-463-4086 to report the incident.

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-PIETRO-
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APRIL 1, 1946 – JULY 12, 2024

