

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
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August update from Little Lake Fire board

Annie Evarts
Reporter
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Chief Eric Alvarez discussed his progress updating the current fee schedule at last week's meeting of the board of directors for the Little Lake Fire District. Little Lake Fire's fee schedule outlines what services it charges for and the cost of each of those services to the community. Service fees are not actually a source of revenue for the fire department, rather they're a reimbursement for Little Lake's overhead. For example, the cost of taking a Little Lake Fire vehicle out on a site inspection includes fuel, maintenance, and having that vehicle insured.

Alvarez has been reaching out to other local agencies in Ukiah and Redwood Valley to better understand how they're calculating their own fees, but this is research into the process and not a determinant as to what updated fee prices should be.

Board member Tony Madrigal clarified for the rest of the board, "We can't compare ourselves to Ukiah because [our fees are determined] by what we pay our fire marshal and what

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Brooktrails hears ideas for energy efficiencies

Barbara O'Reardon
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On August 13, Brooktrails board President Tina Tyler-O'Shea was excused due to a job-related responsibility. In her absence, Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board Vice President Rick Williams convened the meeting.

General Manager Tamara Alaniz provided information about the upcoming Brooktrails Flea Market which will be held at the Brooktrails Fire Station on Saturday, October 5, from 8 am to 1 pm. Fire Chief Jon Noyer added that there will be 20 identified stalls for vendors to rent for \$20 per space or \$30 for 2 spaces. Several spaces have already been rented. The deadline for space rental is September 21. Anyone interested in renting a space may call: 707-459-4441.

First up on the evening's agenda at the Tuesday, August 18 meeting was the "Review and Approval of the Accounts Payable Report." The board voted unanimously to approve the issuance of checks payable in the amount of \$95,527.60.

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



Photo by Maureen Jennison

Above: Directors pose together to welcome students back to school including, from left: the Director of Willits Elementary Charter School Charlene Bredder; the Executive Director of La Vida Charter School Ann Kelly and one of the two directors of Willits Charter School, Sarah France. Not pictured: The other director of Willits Charter School Erin Vaccaro.



Messages from Willits Elementary, La Vida and Willits charter schools, and from the Waldorf School, school calendars and more

A letter from ...

The Executive Director of La Vida Charter School **Ann Kelly**

Dear Willits community:

There are two new things I would like to share that La Vida Charter School is implementing this new school year 2024-25. Our theme this year is "Back to Basics" and the first item is directly linked to the theme. Surveyed parents said they were willing to give a Reading and Math Intervention Program a try. My Path, one of the online offerings of Imagine Learning, is a supplemental curriculum that students participate in twice a week. It is designed to serve at the personal level of each student based on assessment results and automatically creates lessons. Since La Vida is a home study model, the My Path program will be completed at home.

La Vida is very pleased that students are achieving the school's academic growth goals as measured by the MAP test. The majority of students are growing academically. However, too many are below grade level, and it is the hope that consistent participation in My Path, students will make strides to being more in step with their peers.

Another new program offering this year is the introduction of guest artist intensives. These are coming about through a community partnership with Leyna Lightman, a museum educator and community builder who has received two recognitions by the City of Los Angeles as an Impact Maker to Watch, and who recently moved to Ridgewood Ranch, here in Willits. <https://www.leynalightman.com/>

With the help of some Arts Grant Funding, three artists will provide two-day intensives for La Vida students. The Willits Arts Center will also host public events.

On September 24 and 25, Niki Livingston Tsukamoto and Yusuke Tsukamoto will visit and work with elementary

students one day and high school students the second day.

Niki, a plant dye artist, and Yusuke, a graphic artist, do commissions for some extremely famous Hollywood folks, we are told. Students will go out on the ranch to collect and identify dye plants, dye fabric, and spin a little wool from Ridgewood Ranch sheep, and learn about weaving. The artists' professional website is lookoutandwonderland.com

The November session is with Pape Douf (Pape pronounced like pop) who teaches drum circles, which are very enlivening as he weaves in storytelling. He is a Senegalese musician and will be joined with another percussionist. <https://actaonline.org/profile/dethie-pape-diouf/>

The last session in February will be a culinary experience with one of the chefs from Tiyya, an organization created by refugee women that has become an award-winning non-profit that builds communities for displaced people. One of their programs is a restaurant, the Michelin Bib Gourmand Restaurant. International cuisines rotate and are curated by refugee chef participants. Our chef is a refugee. See <https://www.tiyya.org/>

The onsite high school program will continue this model of specialty intensives two days at a time.

Twice per month students will have an opportunity to deep dive into a project. Some of the intensives planned include Hummingbird Robotics, Digital Storytelling with sound engineering with a focus on Seabiscuit, Using the Zspace Virtual Reality computers to do 3D printing creations, CPR training, a solar power project for the bus, floral creations and more.

The year kicks off this week with a full faculty and staff in-service, and next week is Parent Orientation, August 27 to 29, and the first day of school is August 30.

It is a pleasure to be working in Mendocino County with so many wonderful schools, talented people, and dynamic programs. Enjoy your year!



Rainfall coming down in all its delightful glory Saturday.
Photo by Maureen Jennison

Saturday Soaking

The quick, but valuable, deluge of rainfall Saturday afternoon delighted the dry ground and lots of people, too, when the sky opened up and dumped quite an impressive flow of water.

A rain gauge on the west side of Willits had recorded .25" on Sunday morning.

Even with the bit of rain, Brooktrails Fire posted a humorous reminder on Facebook Saturday afternoon: "Yes it is raining currently, NO you can not burn. If caught burning, you will be cited or worse!"

We still have some summer to go, but this was a nice reminder of the rains hopefully to come.

- Maureen Jennison

City Council hears new plans for City Park

By B.B. Kamoroff

New plans for Bud Snyder Park, also known as City Park, were presented to the Willits City Council at their August 14 meeting by Willits Community Development Director Dusty Duley. Three major proposed changes involve a new pavilion with a concrete driveway through the park, the children's playground, and the restrooms.

The biggest change in plans is for the pavilion, now proposed to be a 40 foot by 80 foot structure with a concrete foundation, and a

Read the rest of **Park**

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School board ready for the new year

Addison Alvarado
Reporter
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On the evening of August 8, the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees convened for their monthly meeting, welcoming everyone back for the 2024 / 2025 school year. The agenda consisted of comments from the director of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation, the Willits Teachers Association president, WUSD Superintendent Mark Beebe, and the board members, accompanied by a lengthy consent agenda and an open discussion of the district-wide Cell Phone Policy.

Read the rest of **Ready**

Over on Page 11

Four candidates to run for city council

Submitted by City of Willits

August 15 - As of Friday, August 9, 2024 only one of the three Willits City Council incumbents up for election had filed their Candidacy Papers. Therefore, the deadline was extended to Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

As of this date, four candidates have filed their candidacy papers for seats on the Willits City Council: Incumbent Gerardo Gonzalez and newcomers Robin Leler, Matthew Alaniz, and Thomas Allman. The general municipal election will be held Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Inquiries regarding the upcoming election should be directed to City Clerk Delores Pedersen at dpedersen@cityofwillits.org or by calling 707-459-7113.



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NORTH COUNTY CENTER

Nicole: Wed. & Thurs.: 4 pm - 6 pm
Steve: Tue.: 9 am - 1 pm & Thurs.: 1 pm - 5 pm

Lake County Center and Coast Center counseling times also available. Contact Mendocino College for more information.

Don't wait! Schedule your session today and take the first step towards a brighter future. www.mendocino.edu/enrollment-services/counseling

- Posted by Mendocino College

Mendocino College students ride for free on Local 9 Evening Bus Service in Ukiah

Submitted by MTA

Calendar grid for July 2024

Calendar grid for August 2024

Calendar grid for September 2024

Calendar grid for October 2024

Calendar grid for November 2024

Calendar grid for December 2024

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR WILLITS ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL

SCHOOL BEGINS / SCHOOL ENDS August 21, 2024 - First Day of School

NON-ATTENDANCE DAYS FOR STUDENTS August 12-20: Teacher Work Days

TRIMESTER ENDINGS FIRST TRIMESTER: November 22, 2024

During severe weather conditions, please listen to local radio stations for information regarding district school closures or you may call:

Calendar grid for January 2025

Calendar grid for February 2025

Calendar grid for March 2025

Calendar grid for April 2025

Calendar grid for May 2025

Calendar grid for June 2025

Mendocino Transit Authority is delighted to announce the restoration of the Local 9 Evening Bus Service in Ukiah, beginning on August 19.

It's been a long time coming, and we are excited to bring back the Evening Bus Service. MTA is grateful for the support from our board of directors, Mendocino Council of Governments, and Mendocino College.

This essential service provides a vital transportation option for the Ukiah community, offering a safe, reliable and comfortable way to travel during the evening hours.

A special benefit of this service is that all Mendocino College students can ride for free, making it easier than ever to commute to campus, run errands, or simply enjoy the evening without worrying about transportation costs.

"Transportation is a basic need for Mendocino College students. Being able to access free bus lines in the evenings is essential for many of our students," said Ulises Velasco, vice president of Student Services at Mendocino College.

The Local 9 Evening Bus Service is an excellent way to beat the heat and travel safely in comfort. Whether you are heading to class, shopping, or visiting friends, the Local 9 bus is here to make your evening commute hassle-free.

For more information about the Local 9 Evening Bus Service, including routes and schedules, please visit www.mendocinotransit.org or call 1-800-696-4MTA.

Join us in celebrating the return of this valuable service and take advantage of the free rides for college students. We look forward to seeing you on the Local 9 bus!

The Director of Willits Elementary Charter School Charlene Bredder

Willits Elementary Charter School (WECS) is excited to begin the new school year. This year, our focus is "Student Voice and Student Choice," in areas of student leadership, campus culture, and in learning.



Charlene Bredder.

offer nutritious meals to all students free of charge, regardless of income level. We offer a healthy brunch and hot lunch each day. We are committed to wellness for our students, and our meals focus on whole grains, proteins, fresh fruits, and vegetables.

On campus, leadership positions will give students opportunities to interact with their peers and the wider community through daily responsibilities and projects that they develop.

We will continue to hone our implementation of a robust literacy program that provides targeted interventions to all students who need help with reading. We are so pleased to see the growth of student progress in developing reading skills and will continue explicit phonics instruction in kindergarten through third grade.

In math, we will focus on developing ways for students to demonstrate their thinking through math journals and exploring mathematical problems to promote critical thinking. We will use the Big Ideas curriculum as a base to further explore concepts.

As in the past six years, WECS will

We will continue our focus on developing empathy for others and responsibility for our own actions. Students participate in daily morning meetings, where problems and challenges are discussed and we grow as a community.

WECS continues to offer strong science, music, art, and Spanish programs. WECS has quality, low-cost before and after school programs. Our Summer Fun program was very successful, with a space theme and loads of activities and projects that students completed.

WECS is a free, public, K-5 charter school for Willits and other local school district students.

We look forward to a year of joyful learning, lots of leadership from our students, and new projects that enrich our school and wider community.

In gratitude for the continued support of the Willits community,



Above: Waldorf students work on an art project, an important element of Waldorf Education.

A letter from ...

The Administrator of Waldorf School of Mendocino County Maya Stuart

As we gear up for the 2024-25 school year, we're excited to welcome the children back into our campus. This is a time for creativity and adaptability, and we're here to ignite a love of learning, and to support our students in thinking independently and engaging confidently with the world around them.



Maya Stuart.

like cooking and cleaning. They spend plenty of time outdoors, gaining a deep respect for the environment, overcoming typical challenges of childhood, and learning to assess risks.

By first grade, they start to link academic subjects to their creative experiences, making reading and math come alive. As they continue, they receive a well-rounded education that includes music, movement, entrepreneurship, and practical skills, setting them up to be active and engaged community members.

Since 1919, Waldorf schools have been all about offering meaningful, beautiful, and excellent education that goes beyond just meeting economic expectations. For us, education is a blend of passion, imagination, care, and joy - elements that often aren't part of traditional classrooms. At the Waldorf School of Mendocino County, we strive to make learning heartfelt and engaging, so that children connect deeply with their subjects, and most importantly, with each other. We help students see the world as something they can shape and improve.

From preschool on, children at WSMC explore and learn in a nurturing, warm, and safe environment. They get to be creative through play, stories, crafts, painting, and music, while also picking up practical skills

practical skills, setting them up to be active and engaged community members.

We're accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year, from preschool through eighth grade. If you're interested in exploring whether Waldorf Education is a good fit for your family, we'd love to hear from you! Give us a call at 707-485-8719, email us at enroll@mendocinowaldorf.org, or check out our website: www.mendocinowaldorf.org to learn more and schedule a tour.

Looking forward to another great school year! 1-707-485-8719



A letter from ...

The Directors of Willits Charter School Sarah France & Erin Vaccaro

We are so excited for the upcoming 2024-25 school year at Willits Charter School! This year promises to be a remarkable one, filled with new opportunities for accelerated learning and personal growth.



Sarah France.

Our commitment to providing a robust educational experience is highlighted by several key programs. We are proud to offer college dual-enrollment classes, which allow high school students to earn college credits while still in high school, setting them on a path to academic and career success.

Additionally, our innovative Flex Block offers personalized support, helping students catch up in areas where they may need extra assistance or providing enrichment



Erin Vaccaro.

opportunities to further their strengths.

With our small class sizes, we ensure that each student receives more individualized attention, allowing for a more tailored educational experience. This approach helps to meet each student's unique needs and fosters a more engaging and effective learning environment.

We look forward to another fantastic year of growth and achievement and are excited to welcome both new and returning families to WCS!

Go Sasquatches! To learn more about Willits Charter School or to schedule a tour, please contact us at 707-459-5506 or wcs@willitscharter.net. Our website is www.willitscharter.org. We can also be found on Facebook.

Health Fair advertisement: Sponsored by the Willits Seventh-day Adventist Church. FREE Health Fair. Downtown Willits! Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Includes dental care, health screening, foot care, massage, hair cuts, and free Bibles & prayer.

Willits Charter 2024-25 YEAR WELCOME BACK SASQUATCHES! IMPORTANT DATES: NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION GRADES 6 & 7 AUGUST 21ST 5-6 PM; NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION GRADES 8-12 AUGUST 22ND 5-6 PM; HAPPY FIRST DAY AUGUST 26TH @8:30 AM; GET YOUR WILLITS CHARTER SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR! WWW.WILLITSCHARTER.ORG

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"Chiggen" Salad Sandwich

Grilled Chicken, Cranberries, Celery, Mayo, Raspberry Mustard, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion on a Croissant

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Sparetime Supply

208 E. San Francisco Ave. | Willits

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The historic steam engine 1909 Portland Cement #2 was purchased in 2006 by Efstathios I. Pappas, current GM at the Skunk Train. It is affectionately known as "the Chiggen" for its time as a billboard for a fried chicken restaurant.



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