



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## “Blessing of the Animals”

To the Editor:

The annual “Blessing of the Animals” will be offered at Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church on Saturday, October 5, at 11 am. The church is at the corner of Commercial and Main streets in Willits, and we will gather under the arbor in the parking lot just north of the church.

All animals are welcome to come for a blessing; in the past there have been all kinds, from horses to insects. All animals must be on a lead or in a carrier, and must be accompanied by a human who can keep them safe. Children who do not have a live pet at home are invited to bring a favorite stuffy for a blessing. Animals who don’t do well with strangers can stay in their cars and we will come and bless them also.

The short service will begin at 11 am, and will include some prayers and thanksgivings for the animals, a time to remember those who we’ve lost, and a blessing for each one – and a blessing for the humans present also.

We do this each year at this time in memory of Saint Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is on October 4. Francis saw all the animals and all of creation, including all people, as his brothers and sisters, and joyfully proclaimed God’s love for all.

For questions, call Betsy at 459-3390.

**Betsy Bruneau,  
St. Francis in the Redwoods**

## Dreaming of trees

To the Editor:

For weeks I have been waking up after dreaming about trees, and the special kinship between humans and trees. What would San Francisco be without Golden Gate Park? Or New York City without Central Park? It seems that the most beautiful cities – and the wealthiest – pay attention to their shade trees and grassy green parks; our urban forests add economic value naturally. Furthermore, plants of all kinds, especially forests, moderate our climate, bringing rain and creating breezes. We can literally “grow rain,” practically for free!

Every week, when I go to the Farmers Market, I think back to the years when the market thrived in our City Park. The trees offered reliable shade and coolness. Farmers could pull up to the curb with truckloads of produce and sell along the sidewalk. We had maybe three times the vendors at the park as we have now at the old Rexall parking lot.

Kids ran around and played on the grass. Musicians jammed al fresco. Our mayor, Holly Madrigal, would plunk down a classroom chair with a small table desk and hold office hours. . . We’ve been waiting a long time for the new trees to grow tall enough for the Farmers Market to move back to our beloved park. Maybe the time is now.

My connection with the trees in City Park goes back to the 1960s. I grew up in Palo Alto. Every

two years we would visit my aunt and uncle’s ranch on the Smith River in Oregon. Mendocino County would be crazy hot, but we knew we’d be stopping in Willits for lunch, where the park would be cool and shaded. Along with sandwiches and watermelons, we’d pack a bag of small balloons to fill with water from the faucet in the bathrooms and start a water balloon fight – kids running all over, hiding behind trees, hoping to get hit.

Virginia Stranske remembers living in the beautiful old Victorian on the northwest corner opposite City Park back in the day, watching cars and RVs pull off Highway 101 to disgorge kids every summer afternoon. That park made Willits a destination. She estimates the older trees were planted around 1902, when that old Victorian was built.

Here’s a surprise. When Barrie Blattau lived in Willits, she shared with Virginia that our humble City Park was designed by her father, the famous architect who also designed Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Anyone with more of this story, please call me at 459-0155.

Now the City of Willits is making plans to build a pavilion in City Park to shelter the Farmers Market and other events. This issue is coming up for Willits City Council approval at their next meeting, Wednesday, October 9, starting at 6:30 pm.

The pavilion idea itself has merit – the trees planted on the north side of City Park several years ago to replace the older trees said to be diseased, are now stunted shoulder-height shrubs with no chance of growing into healthy shade. The pavilion is a quick way to supply that shade.

However, legally the structure must be ADA compliant, i.e., accessible to people in wheelchairs. Leaving the grass underfoot is not ADA acceptable. The grass would have to be replaced with a 40 foot by 80 foot cement slab, an idea most park lovers find objectionable. There are other differences of opinion to be considered, and not enough time to reach consensus on an overall plan.

Acclaimed landscape architects designed our small-town park, in ways that were harmonically pleasing – based on a musical motif, as I was told – and successfully created a comfortable mini-ecosystem for human critters. I hope we can come up with a design that honors and invests in that vision.

We might focus on replacing the stunted trees with 10-year-old trees ready to grow, and rethink the foundation of the structure. Perhaps we need to re-scope the placement and materials and/ or consider a no-pavilion option that allows the return of the Farmers Market to the park as-is, with canvas canopies, and the existing sidewalk for ADA compliance.

A few of us are already researching sources of suitable shade trees and what they would cost. Feel free to weigh in with further thoughts, ideas and questions moving forward. My phone number is 459-0155

**Robin Leler, Willits**

## Willits Community Coffee with Supervisor John Haschak and State Assembly Candidate Chris Rogers

Join Mendocino County Supervisor John Haschak and State Assembly Candidate Chris Rogers for coffee, cinnamon rolls, and a casual conversation about the issues that matter most to our community. Saturday, October 6 at 11 am at Lumberjacks, 1740 South Main Street, in Willits. “This is a great opportunity to ask questions, share your thoughts, and hear more about how we can work together for a better future in Willits, and all of Mendocino County.”

## 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, October 3:** Baked Chicken, Stuffing, Veggies, Roll

**Friday, October 4:** Fried Pollack, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

**Monday, October 7:** Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy

**Tuesday, October 8:** Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

**Wednesday, October 9:** Pepperoni Sausage Stromboli, Green Salad

**Thursday, October 10:** Italian Sub Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

**Friday, October 11:** Pork Tacos, Rice & Beans

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

**Pancake Breakfast:** Every second Sunday, October 12 this 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.

## Savings Bank’s #BanksNeverAskThat anti-phishing campaign

Submitted by SBMC

Savings Bank of Mendocino County and banks across the nation are joining forces with the American Bankers Association to educate consumers about the persistent threat of phishing scams. The FTC estimates that consumers lost \$10 billion to phishing and other fraud in 2023, an increase of 13.6% compared to 2022.

Beginning October 1 and throughout the month, Savings Bank will share consumer tips on social media to highlight common phishing schemes. The #BanksNeverAskThat campaign provides tips to empower consumers to identify bogus bank communications. It’s not just phone calls from suspicious numbers, or numbers that appear to be from a bank, it’s also emails, and text messages masked to look like they’re from your bank asking for sensitive information such as account numbers, passwords or PINs, and social security numbers.

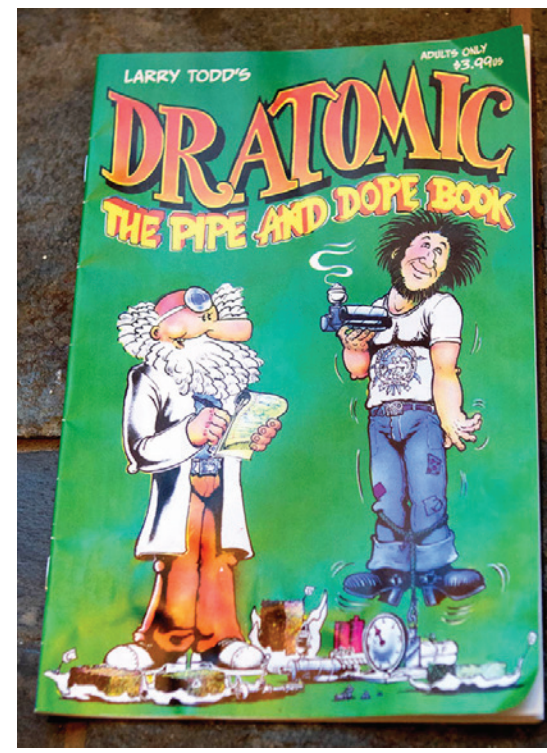
If you’re contacted by phone, email, or text and are asked for confidential information such as your account number, username, password, or PIN, this is definitely a red flag. End the call, delete the text, block and trash the email.

Watch out for emails and text messages with misspelled words, poor grammar, or that ask you to click a suspicious link or provide personal information. The sender may claim to be someone from your bank, but it’s a scam.

If you feel you’ve been a victim of a scam and may have provided personal or important financial information, here’s what to do next. Take a deep breath. You’re going to get through this. Change your passwords. Contact your bank immediately at their publicly listed number to let them know what happened.

Be sure to include any relevant details, such as whether the suspicious caller attempted to impersonate your bank and whether any personal or financial information was provided to the suspicious caller. Notify credit agencies and set up fraud alerts. Protect yourself moving forward by adding multi-factor authentication.

For information about phishing scams and how to combat fraudsters, follow Savings Bank of Mendocino County on Facebook and Instagram and visit [www.BanksNeverAskThat.com](http://www.BanksNeverAskThat.com). This year, the campaign is also offering a Spanish language version of the website, [www.BancosNuncaPidenEso.com](http://www.BancosNuncaPidenEso.com) and providing a host of other #BanksNeverAskThat consumer resources in Spanish.



From left: Photographer Robert Deines and publisher Beth Bosk attend the exhibit opening of Larry Todd, who was their friend and coworker for many years. One product that Larry Todd is known for is his series of “Dr. Atomic” comic books. A couple of Larry Todd’s whimsical sculptures made from oak pods.

Below, from left: Attendees take turns becoming a part of Todd’s whimsical artwork. Todd’s take on Grant Wood’s “American Gothic.” Sadly, Larry Todd passed away a couple of hours prior to the opening of the exhibit.

At bottom, left: One of Larry Todd’s pages from the “New Settler Interview” magazine was on display. At bottom, right: “Recipe for Disaster” is a great example of ‘70s art.



# Style and Satire

Comics and paintings by local cartoonist Larry Todd add some playful humor to the walls of Willits Center for the Arts this month

There was just one thing missing from the gallery opening last Saturday evening at the Willits Center for the Arts. As a sad coincidental misfortune, the artist, Larry Todd, whose work has been a fixture in the world of underground comics for decades, had passed away a mere two hours prior to the opening of his exhibit. But it was not a time to mourn but rather to celebrate the vast volume of eclectic output of this pioneer of the comic genre and to explore the many different, mostly satirical paintings, inks and sculptures of this prolific man.

**Mathew Caine**  
Features Writer  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

“He will be here in spirit. We will be thinking of him, of course, and we wish him to rest in peace,” said WCA Curator Gary Martin.

“Larry is all over the board with his artwork. He’s most famous for his cartooning, which was his Doctor Atomic series. He did sculptures. He did paintings. He did illustration, beautiful pen and inks, remarkable works. He is so diversified in his work. He’s famous for ‘Doctor Atomic’ in particular.”

The exhibit was created by the insistence of Phil Jergenson, creator of the Willits business Proto Pipe, who befriended Todd many years ago. “It’s tough to know even where to start,” said Jergenson. “I met Larry in 1975. He was working on his latest comic, called ‘Doc Atomic’s Pipe and Dope Book.’ We had to walk through a house in Oakland, walk through a garage, climb over the hood of a car, to get to his drawing table. Any place where there was a space to put up an easel to paint or draw, Larry would do it. He lived to create art.

“Larry is one who never really had an ego about anything,” Jergenson said. “He signed his comics Lou P. de Loupe. Both Larry and I were born in the Year of the Rat, so we both leave messes. Larry would leave a treasure in the midst of that trash. He was one of a kind. Larry was our internet before there was an internet. You could ask Larry just about anything and he would give you a really good answer.

“He joined our company [Proto Pipe] in 1976,” explained Jergenson. “When I saw what terrific graphics he did, we just had to make him a partner. I put him up for the last three or four years at our workshop. He spent a lot of time up in Covelo. Larry hitchhiked for about 30 years. I believe the Indians called him ‘He Who Plays in Traffic,’ or something like that. He was always out hitchhiking.”

Todd’s work was represented in the front gallery, mostly through mounted panels of a selection of his comic strips, which had appeared over many years in the popular underground publication, “New Settler Interview,” published by Beth Bosk and photographer Robert Deines. “One of the main reasons that people bought the magazine was for his cartoons,” said Bosk. “They were more than cartoons. They were depictions of life in Mendocino. The back-to-the-landers in the 1970s was a sudden rehabilitation. We were part of it.

“We were just a mom-and-pop operation,” explained Bosk. “I couldn’t

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



At left: Keith Rutledge peruses one of Todd’s paintings of the back-to-the-land era.



Below, left: Lou Celaya takes time to read some of the mounted comics. Below, right: Larry Todd’s alien “Persephone” is both sublime and out-of-this-world.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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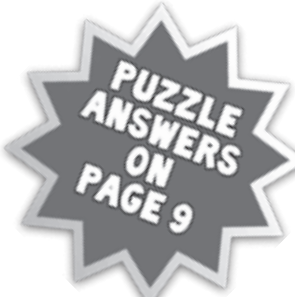
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# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

Level: Beginner

## 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!

## IT'S ALL RELATIVE WORD SEARCH

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

ADOPTIVE	CHILD	GUARDIAN	PARENTS
AUNT	COMPANION	HEREDITARY	PATERNAL
AUTHORITY	COMPASSION	HOUSEHOLD	PETS
BABY	DAD	IMMEDIATE	RELATIVE
BIRTHDAY	FAMILY	LESSONS	SISTER
BROTHER	FOSTER	LINEAGE	TRIPLETS
CARE	FRIENDLY	MATERNAL	TWINS
CELEBRATE	GRANDFATHER	MOM	UNCLE
CENSUS	GRANDMOTHER	NURTURE	UNIT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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17				18							19		
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23				24			25			26			
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38				39					40			41	
42			43		44				45				
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49	50								51		52	53	54
55				56		57	58	59		60			
61				62					63				
64				65							66		
67				68							69		

## CLUES ACROSS

- Separate with an instrument
- Slate clearly
- One-time MLB speedster Gordon
- Broad in scope
- Lacking social polish
- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Caps
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Checked
- One-sided
- Having an extreme greed for wealth
- Potted plants
- We all have one
- Lake north of the Kalahari
- Unidentified flying object
- Aging persons
- Small amount
- Mother of Perseus
- Ornamental waist box
- Officials
- Uncertain
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish

- Extensive, treeless plains
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Consumer advocate Ralph
- Notable Spanish sports club
- Body part
- One's responsiveness
- Woman (French)
- Ready and willing to be taught
- Muslim ruler title
- Unhappy
- Gradually disappeared
- Able to think clearly

## CLUES DOWN

- Brushed
- Water sprite
- Ones to look up to
- Monetary units
- We all have one
- Marine invertebrate
- One who institutes a legal proceeding
- Outer
- Parallelograms
- Uncomfortable feelings
- Cross to form an X

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

September 23 to September 29

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **84 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

### Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

#### September 23

7:45 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:20 pm: JOHNSON, Michael Joseph (64) of Willits was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 240 PC (Assault), 242 PC (Battery), and on misdemeanor charges of criminal threats.

#### September 24

11:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street.

#### September 25

3:27 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

4:00 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

3:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road and issued a citation.

3:46 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

#### September 26

10:35 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of McKinley Street.

12:00 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Walnut Street and Locust Street.

12:26 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

3:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Alder Court.

10:13 pm: GOFORTH, Brady Kevin (58) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

#### September 27

12:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 500 block of South Main Street.

12:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Madrone Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Commercial Street and South Main Street and issued a citation.

1:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

4:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Noth Main Street and issued a citation.

4:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

5:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:26 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:02 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:11 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

9:19 pm: ANGUIANOLOZANO, Jessie (27) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of North Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of driving under the influence of alcohol (4th or subsequent violation within 10 years) and violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a suspended or revoked license, DUI while on probation, and violation of probation.

4:38 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Alder Court.

8:28 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

10:22 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of East Valley Street and Railroad Avenue.

11:01 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:52 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

6:50 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

8:24 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of West San Francisco Avenue.

8:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

9:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Madrone Street and issued a warning.

9:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Madrone Street and issued a warning.

9:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Madrone Street and issued a warning.

9:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Madrone Street and issued a warning.

#### September 29

1:02 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

1:33 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

1:58 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:09 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning.

7:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

## CHP 'pit maneuver' ends reckless evasion chase

Posted by UPD

On September 27, 2024, at approximately 11:45 pm, a Ukiah Police Department officer was on routine patrol when he observed a white Toyota Corolla fail to stop at the controlled intersection of Talmage Road and Babcock Lane. As the Toyota rolled through the stop sign, it almost collided with a vehicle that was traveling westbound on Talmage Road.

The UPD officer initiated a traffic stop on the Toyota, and the vehicle yielded to the side of the road across the street from the Arco Gas Station on Talmage Road. The officer approached the driver's side of the Toyota, determined that the vehicle contained two male occupants, and quickly observed the handle of a firearm sticking out of the driver's pocket. The officer requested assistance, and the driver put the Toyota in gear and fled onto Highway 101 northbound.

The UPD officer returned to his vehicle, initiated a vehicle pursuit, and broadcast that the driver of the fleeing vehicle was armed with a handgun. An additional UPD officer was close by and joined the pursuit immediately as the vehicles merged onto Highway 101 northbound.

UPD requested assistance from

the California Highway Patrol and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and continued to pursue the suspect vehicle as it traveled northbound on Highway 101. The pursuit reached speeds in excess of 100 mph, and the suspect exited the highway on two separate occasions, but got right back onto the freeway and continued northbound.

The suspect took the Highway 20 East off-ramp and continued eastbound on Highway 20, and then took the Potter Valley exit. Once in Potter Valley, a CHP unit caught up and took over the pursuit. A short time later a second CHP unit joined the pursuit, and UPD trailed to assist if needed.

In the 10000 block of East Side Potter Valley Road, a CHP vehicle was able to perform a "pit maneuver" (bumping of the rear quarter panel of the vehicle), which caused the driver of the Toyota to lose control and spin off the road. The driver fled from the vehicle, but was quickly apprehended.

The driver was identified as Daniel Holmes Jr., a 31-year-old Ukiah resident who was on Post Release Community

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

## COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

### WHS varsity football continues to win; girls soccer holds first in division; volleyball plays aggressively despite losses

#### Football

On September 20, WHS Wolverines football met the Lower Lake Trojans on their home field for their second league game. Junior Porter Garman returned after an injury for a stellar performance of tackles and runs, along with senior Kolbe Bufardeci, junior Ryan Carter, and junior quarterback Corey Rockey. Defense had some tough tackles with junior Jayden Schlegel, freshman Zain Marshall, and junior Lincoln Nass. Wolverines varsity took the victory, with a final score of 41-22. JV also took a win, with a final score of 30-24.

The next morning, after playing a strenuous game against Lower Lake, Coaches Brandon Norbury and Matt Moratti awakened the varsity boys at the crack of dawn for a monumental day of watching football. They set out on a alumni north to Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon to support alumni Jacob Arms, who plays college football for Idaho. Southern Oregon University gave our team tickets, a tour of the university, and let the boys kick it on the field during warm-ups.

"Jacob Arms was part of the first team I coached back in 2019," said Norbury. "He has continued to help Willits High football during our summer program. He is an outstanding football player, but an even better human being! I feel blessed to be a part of his journey. He is going into the service as a nuclear engineer after football."

A significant shout out of appreciation to the coaches for taking the time to give these boys such an amazing experience, and to Southern Oregon University for their exceptional hospitality! We wish you the very best, Jacob Arms!

On September 27, WHS Wolverines football met up on home turf with our longtime rival Ft. Bragg for their second league Homecoming game, and the inaugural Skunk Bowl. The coaches from each town held a motivational conversation, and turned the Willits versus Ft. Bragg duality into an awesome bowl they will hold annually. The winning team will receive a trophy!

This year the Wolverines and Timberwolves battled hard back and forth with some edge-of-your-seat football! A turning-point fumble recovery in the first quarter by Marshall led the Wolverines in the right direction. Rockey held a steady arm with his talented passing skills, along with scoring a 2-point conversion.

Bufardeci, Moratti and Garman led with some amazing catches and show-stopping runs! Garman, Nass, junior Donald Glenn, and Marshall held it down with some burly tackles while Damian Reiter showed us an excellent field-goal kick! The Wolverines proudly pulled off the win, with a final score of 29-20, making their current record 3-0! Congratulations on an unforgettable Homecoming win, and great start to the season!

WHS football's next game will be another home game tomorrow night against Middletown, JV at 5 pm; varsity at 7 pm. See you on Maize Field for Friday Night Lights with our local legendary Carl Bertelsen announcing! The community sure appreciates all you do up there in the booth, Carl! Thank you!

#### Girls soccer

The WHS girls soccer team is blazing a trail of awesome athleticism and good energy this season! With junior goalie Arion Martin rarely missing a beat. The tough and ruthless defenders are senior Madison Boutillier, junior Natalie Hernandez, and freshman Madison Winters. Strongly holding the midfield, while running the ball with fierce tenacity and scoring, are senior Nora Martin, freshman Aihana Diaz, junior Kate Winters, and junior Ava Holmen. The last couple of games, the defensive line and goalie have been solid.

"It's been a great experience this year coaching this program for the first time," said Coach Juan Diaz. "Our team is currently in first place in our division and number four in the North Coast section. We have a great group of seniors that are really good leaders for our younger players on the team."

"I commute from Ukiah every day," shared Diaz. "I took the challenge of changing this program and teaching the real fundamentals of soccer. The team is great and we are on the right track. Next game is Tuesday [October 1] away in Lower Lake, and Thursday [October 3] is our home game versus Clear Lake." See you on Maize Field to cheer on WHS girls soccer! Go Wolverines!

#### Volleyball

"This week was busy with honoring our varsity volleyball seniors Shiloh Moyer, Kayden Paullus and Mia Chavez on Wednesday at the Homecoming night rally," said Coach Jon Jessup, "plus playing two of our toughest league matches on both Tuesday and Thursday nights. In both Roseland University Prep, and Sonoma Academy's games we played competitively, but lost both matches. I was incredibly proud of our aggressive play."

"During Thursday's away match against Sonoma Academy," said Jessup, "we had many great moments. Cecily Potter really shined throughout the match. She was dynamic in her serving, setting, blocking and hitting roles, a definite stand out in our game, both offensively and defensively!"

#### Recognized athletes of the week:

Varsity football: Junior #4 Corey Rockey

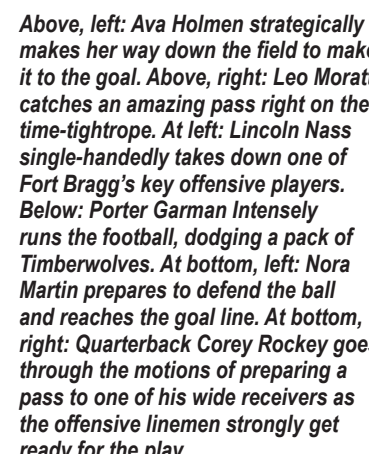
JV football: Sophomore #56 Bradley Perez

Varsity volleyball: Junior #20 Jazmyra Henson

JV volleyball: Freshman #11 Ember Hetherington

Girls soccer: Senior #6 Madison Boutillier

Boys soccer: Junior #14 Angel Cabrera



Above, left: Ava Holmen strategically makes her way down the field to make it to the goal. Above, right: Leo Moratti catches an amazing pass right on the time-tightrope. At left: Lincoln Nass single-handedly takes down one of Fort Bragg's key offensive players. Below: Porter Garman intensely runs the football, dodging a pack of Timberwolves. At bottom, left: Nora Martin prepares to defend the ball and reaches the goal line. At bottom, right: Quarterback Corey Rockey goes through the motions of preparing a pass to one of his wide receivers as the offensive linemen strongly get ready for the play.



Photos by Ava Dockins



Photo courtesy of Willits High School Football

Above: The WHS varsity football team poses for a photo at Southern Oregon University: from left, Coach Matt Moratti, Coach Bill Norbury, Porter Garman, Aaron Diaz, Adrian Lopez, Corey Rockey, Ryan Carter, Leo Moratti, #21 College of Idaho player and WHS alumni Jacob Arms, Kolbe Bufardeci, Ayden Thrillkill, Chase Tonne, Isaac Silva, Zain Marshall, Coach Brandon Norbury and Assistant Coach EP Beltran.

Thursday, October 3

Bereavement Support Group: offered by Avenues to Wellness, starting Thursday, October 3. This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the symptoms of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward. Starts Thursday, October 3, 2 to 4 pm. Free-of-charge; space is limited. Please call Suzanne to register at: 707-456-9676. Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, October 3, 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. Plus new first-of-the-month "Meet the Library" event, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm.

WHS Soccer: Willits High School Wolverines play Girls and Boys Soccer games against the Clearlake Cardinals on Thursday, October 3. Girls at 5 pm; boys at 6:45 pm. WHS Maize Field, 299 North Main Street.

Friday, October 4

WHS Football & Cheer: Willits High School Wolverines play the Middletown Mustangs on Friday, October 4. JV at 5 pm; varsity at 7 pm. WHS Maize Field, 299 North Main Street.

Big Sticky Mess at Shanachie: Davis-based trio plays funky originals: "A kaleidoscopic mix of extraterrestrial hooks, vibrant grooves and potent beats, purely for your entertainment." Jah Work Presents; Friday, October 4, 8 to 11 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, October 5

Brooktrails Firefighters Association Fall Flea Market: Support your Brooktrails Volunteer Firefighters at the annual Fall Flea Market, set for Saturday, October 5, from 8 am to 1 pm at the Brooktrails Fire Station, 24860 Birch Street. All vendor spots have been sold, and firefighters will be offering smash burgers and hot dogs on the grill. More info: 707-459-4441.

"Blessing of the Animals": Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church offers its annual "Blessing of the Animals" in memory of Saint Francis of Assisi, on Saturday, October 5, at 11 am. All kinds of animals welcome; must be on a lead or in a carrier - or stay in their car for a blessing - and must be accompanied by a human who can keep them safe. Children who do not have a live pet at home are invited to bring a favorite stuffy for a blessing. The short service includes some prayers and thanksgivings for the animals, a time to remember those who've lost, and a blessing for each one - and a blessing for the humans present also. For questions, call Betsy at 459-3390.

# What's Happening Around Town

2nd annual Friends of the Museum Fall Fest: Celebrate our Mendocino County Museum at the 2nd Annual Friends Fall Fest, Saturday, October 5, 4 to 6 pm, with food, live music by 2 Much Fun, and friends, 400 East Commercial Street. Admission is free for current members of Friends of the Museum; memberships start at \$20; join online https://mendocinocountymuseumfriends.org/ or at the door. "Your membership supports the Museum's efforts in preserving and sharing Mendocino County history with our community."

"High Fashion" at WCT: an absurdly sublime performance art improv fashion show created by Pearl Maril in collaboration with local talent, takes place at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, October 5 at 6:30 pm. Models, actors, dancers, singers, and comedians performing in the show will include Bavy Ducharme, Deanne California a.k.a. Bunny, DJ Franco, DJ Bartender Boi, Faith Atenanu, Gurr, Jeshboogie and Halesbailes, Matrix, Pearl Maril, and Prana. 18+. Tickets are \$20 and available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org.

Sunday, October 6

Pumpkin Succulent Centerpieces: Sparetime's Gardener's Pantry presents Pumpkin Succulent Centerpiece Building Classes on Sunday, October 6 from 1 to 2:15 pm and from 2:30 to 4 pm. Come enjoy an afternoon of hands-on fun and take home your own stunning creation. Space is limited; pay and reserve your spot via Venmo: account. venmo.com/u/thegardenerspantry. \$25 each; \$40 Mommy & Me Bundle (2 pumpkins)

Local Candidates Forum: A Candidates Forum for three local contested races is set for Sunday, October 6, at 4 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Candidates for Willits City Council (5 candidates for 3 seats: Matthew Alaniz, Thomas Allman, Gerardo Gonzalez, Robin Leler, and write-in Saprina Rodriguez), to start shortly after 4 pm. Also, District #3 rep to the Mendocino County Board of Education, with 2 candidates, Michelle Hutchins and David R. Strock, vying for 1 seat, will start at about 5 pm. Also, Willits Unified School District Board, with 3 candidates, April Lamprich, David Liiker, and

Dianne M. McNeal, running for 2 available seats, starting around 5:20 pm. Plus info tables about the Tuesday, November 5 General Election ballot. Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Mendocino, Little Lake Grange, Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, WELL (Willits Economic Localization), and the Willits Chamber of Commerce. People can also attend (but not participate) by Zoom, at https://tinyurl.com/WillitsCandidatesForum.com Questions? contact judiberdysz@yahoo.com or mstrong827@outlook.com.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS Presents Art Talks 19th Century Friday, October 11, 2004 71 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95499 willitscenterforthearts.org This is a FREE event

WCA October Art Talk: Art historian Gary Martin gives the monthly free Art Talk on Exploring 19th Century Art, Friday, October 11 at 6:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts. The talk will feature "key movements and artists of the era, including the celebrated Hudson River School and the renowned painter Winslow Homer. Attendees will gain insights into how these artists shaped the artistic landscape of the time and contributed to American art history." 71 East Commercial Street, next to the Noyo Theatre. More info: willitscenterforthearts.org or 707-972-3326

Wednesday, October 9

History Makers at the Museum: The Mendocino County Museum presents after-school family friendly themed crafts and activities inspired by the permanent gallery exhibits on Wednesdays in October from 2 to 4:30 pm. The Wednesday, October 9 activity is "Bookmark Design." 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, October 10

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, Thursday, October 10, 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 and drinks, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Friday, October 11

North County Friends of Mendocino College Chamber Mixer: Support access to education in Northern Mendocino County. Willits Chamber of Commerce and the North County Friends of Mendocino College host a fundraising event, Friday, October 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm with hors d'oeuvres and a live auction. For sponsorships for high school students from Willits, Laytonville, Leggett, and Covelo to attend a six-week college summer session with free meals, transportation, and a \$300 scholarship for all students who are academically successful in their courses. Mendocino College's North County Center. 372 East Commercial Street.

MUSEUM History Makers at the Mendocino County Museum Every Wednesday! 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. October - After School Crafts Wednesday, October 2 - Key Chain Creation Wednesday, October 7 - Bookend Design Wednesday, October 14 - Build a Fairy House Wednesday, October 21 - Bandana Printing Wednesday, October 28 - Reflective Truck - Treat Bag DIY

PUMPKIN Succulents LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE SUNDAY OCTOBER 6TH 1 - 4 PM 2:30 - 4 PM SCAN HERE TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT venmo

WILLITS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NORTH COUNTY FRIENDS OF MENDOCINO COLLEGE Friday, October 11th, 2024 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Fundraising Event

Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: A local Mendocino County jam band, "sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community. We're the Cosmic Family Band and so are you." Friday, October 11 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, October 12

Ranch Rodeo 2024: Willits Frontier Days 13th Annual

RODEO Saturday, Oct 12 2024 - 13th Annual Willits Frontier Days Mary Burgess Memorial Ranch Sanctioned with Western State Ranch Rodeo Association

Gustavo Amaral & Kyle Madrigal at Shanachie: Starting October 12, every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, Kyle Madrigal and/or Gustavo Amaral will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sit-N-Sew: Second Saturdays at the Willits Library, October 12 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in - bring your sewing project and have fun. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolib.org or 459-5908.

Taco Rampage to benefit Willits Area Cyclists: Willits Area Cyclists will be serving up fresh fish tacos, enjoying some local beer, hanging out, and watching the best riders in the world compete in a big screen showing of Red Bull Rampage on

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am. Sunday, October 13 this month, at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Menu choices: 1. All-you-can-eat pancakes with 2 eggs, choice of sausage or bacon, and cup of coffee, milk or juice, or 2. Biscuits & gravy with side of eggs only. \$12; \$11 Senior Center members; \$8 children under 8. Extra sausage, bacon, eggs and juice for additional cost.

"Stone Stories" at Laytonville Cemetery: Mendocino County Museum's "Stone Stories" program returns, with dramatized obituary readings by local volunteers, this time at the Laytonville Cemetery on Sunday, October 13, starting at 3:30 pm. This year additional stories will be shared by special guest Atta Stevenson, member of the Cahto

Tribe. Also a tour through the historic portion of the cemetery, at 1325 Branscomb Road in Laytonville. Volunteer cleanup day set for Wednesday, October 9 from 9 am to 12 pm. Friends of the Mendocino County Museum is hosting the program, and attendance is free and open to all, but parking is limited. More info: call the Museum at 707-234-6365.

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.

Senior Dance Hall: Willits Library has resumed the Senior Dance Hall, Fridays from 2 to 3 pm. Seniors ages 55 and older are invited to bring your dancing shoes to enjoy jazz, pop, swing, and ballroom selections. Don't feel like dancing? Please come and enjoy the music, catch up with friends new and old, and share some light refreshments.

Story Time: Friday mornings each week, 10:30 to 11 am. 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."

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!

Pumpkin Patch at J&J Pumpkins, weekends through October 27

J&J Pumpkins, at 19606 Walker Road, south of Willits, hosts its Pumpkin Patch, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through October 27. Bring the family to enjoy a Mini Corn Maze, Ring Toss, Face Painting, Petting Zoo, Mini-Roller Coaster, Jump Zone, Photo Props, Food Vendors, Giant Jenga, Corn Pit, Pumpkin Picking, Cornhole, Tic Tac Toe. This weekend (October 4-6), food vendors include Dynamite Kettle, Pizza Trailer (with burgers and other options, too), Sugar Mama Italian Shaved Ice, and more. Visit J&J Pumpkins on Facebook for more details.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES "The Wild Robot" The Story: Feature length, science fiction comic/melodrama of life's joys and sorrows. In the future. On an island somewhere on Earth. A Robot switches to "ON." It blinks awake to find itself confronted over time by all sorts of noisy North American critters. There are owls and foxes and possums and others, also there's a big grumpy bear, and a few thousand butterflies. The Robot has an existential dilemma. It is programmed to solve problems, but there is no one around to give it problems, or even directions. There's only the furious chaos of beasts. So, our hero Robot sets off on a quest to find problems to solve all on its own. But then: the Robot meets a baby goose. Success! A baby goose! The baby goose is an orphan. Goose has to learn to behave. Goose has to learn how to swim. Also, baby goose has to learn how to fly! Our Robot hero decides it will teach baby goose all these "how to" life lessons. Educating a goose is problem enough, at least a lifetime's worth. My Thoughts: "Educating a goose." Sounds to me like a metaphor for the human condition. I loved this movie. It is silly, thrilling, occasionally heartbreaking because, after all, a baby goose will grow up, and it will have to fly away. This flick got a rare 98% rating by Rotten Tomatoes. (I don't have a clue as to the 2% who didn't like it.) It was produced by DreamWorks Animation, and kudos to them. Parents: This is a wonderful children's movie. (At last!) Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

STONE STORIES AT THE LAYTONVILLE CEMETERY Sunday October 13, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. The Mendocino County Museum's Stone Stories program returns, featuring an afternoon of dramatized obituary readings by local volunteers at the Laytonville Cemetery. This year additional stories will be shared by special guest Atta Stevenson, member of the Cahto Tribe. Museum volunteer Carla Cox has dug into researching the legacies of those buried at the Laytonville Cemetery and has uncovered fascinating stories about the lives of its residents. Friends of the Mendocino County Museum are hosting the program and attendance is free and open to all, but parking is limited. Event held at the Cemetery located at 1325 Branscomb Rd., Laytonville. For additional details call the Museum at 707-234-6365.

THE WILD ROBOT

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

Caring Kitchen PROJECT Fall Feast Fundraiser Tickets at www.ncoinc.org TUES, OCTOBER 8TH Yokayo Ranch 4:30-7:30 PM \$100 WE'RE BUILDING A NEW KITCHEN! CELEBRATE OUR GROWTH WITH A FARM FRESH DINNER LIVE MUSIC BY BACK PORCH TRIO AND A SILENT AUCTION

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events 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.

JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX (R) 2 hrs 18 mins Fri.: 5:00 & 8:00 Sat.-Sun.: 2:00, 5:00 & 8:00 Mon.-Thur.: 4:00 & 7:00

JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX (PG) 1 hr 42 mins Fri.: 5:15 & 7:45 Sat.-Sun.: 2:45, 5:15 & 7:45 Mon.-Sun.: 4:15 & 6:45

WILLITS AREA CYCLISTS' TACO RAMPAGE WAC will be serving up fresh fish tacos, enjoying some local beer hanging out, and watching the best riders in the world compete in a big screen showing of Red Bull Rampage. Admission is FREE, but bring plenty of money for food, drinks, and auction items. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go directly towards replacing our recently stolen art and tools, which were part of trail building and mountain biking in Willits. Please call for more info.

LAYTONVILLE HARVEST & ARTS Street Fair Local Art Vendors Food Vendors - Kids Zone Beer & Wine Garden (as-Allowed) Live Bands on the Company Stage SATURDAY OCTOBER 19TH 11am - 5pm DOWNTOWN LAYTONVILLE

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS Pet Portrait Watercolor Masterclass with Nancy Collins Everyone will be painting your beloved pet! The first Saturday we will be getting your drawing together and starting each student's pet. Then the next Saturday we will work/finish your pet. For more on Nancy Collins' illustrious career, see https://nancycollinsart.com \$250 Oct 26 and Nov 2 Register online at www.willitscenterforthearts.org

WILLITS FFA CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT OCTOBER 12TH, 2024 STARTS AT 10:00AM

HIGH FASHION AN ABSURDLY SUBLINE PERFORMANCE ART FASHION SHOW

Library Fall Book Sale October 17th - 20th at the Willits Branch Library Conference Room

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA 57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-6660 www.noyotheatre.com

FOWL Fall Book Sale Friends of the Willits Library presents the Fall Book Sale. Starts Thursday, October 17, with "members only" hours from 5 to 7 pm - sign up at the sale to join FOWL and support your local library. Also, Friday: 10 am to 5 pm; Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm; and Sunday: 10 am to 3 pm - Bring a bag and fill it for \$3.

JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX (R) 2 hrs 18 mins Fri.: 5:00 & 8:00 Sat.-Sun.: 2:00, 5:00 & 8:00 Mon.-Thur.: 4:00 & 7:00

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS Pet Portrait Watercolor Masterclass with Nancy Collins

JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX (PG) 1 hr 42 mins Fri.: 5:15 & 7:45 Sat.-Sun.: 2:45, 5:15 & 7:45 Mon.-Sun.: 4:15 & 6:45

WCA Halloween Gala, October 19 Willits Center for the Arts will kick off the Halloween season with its 2024 Halloween Gala, "an eerie evening for everyone over 21," on Saturday, October 19 from 7 to 11 pm. Rock out with the Steven Bates Band, win a prize with your spooky costume, enjoy yummy bar bites and splendid libations! Support your Art Center Fundraiser. Tickets to benefit the Art Center are \$30/each or 2 for \$50. For more info or to buy tickets online, visit https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org and click the "Buy tickets" button under the Gala info.

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.agapebilechurch.com

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

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 265 Margie Drive Willits, CA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacramento 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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church 61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadam Mass times: Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. Saturday-5:30 pm. Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English 10:30 a.m. - Spanish Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m. Or by appointment at 707-459-2252 https://santhonywillits.org/saintanthonywillits@gmail.com We welcome All Willits 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 Brunneau

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



Above, from left: Valerie McCourtney shares some thoughts with Tiffany Tucker after the talk. A rapt audience listens to Tucker tell of her life. Suzanne Picetti of Avenues to Wellness introduces Tiffany Tucker.

Below: Tiffany Tucker talks about her life and tribulations and some queer history.

Further below: Jennifer Sookne and Raghdah Zacharia speak with Tiffany Tucker after the lecture.

At bottom: Some members of the audience get together for a photo.

Photos by Mathew Caine



**Mathew Caine**  
Features Writer  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

# Coming In

## Tiffany Tucker gives Avenues to Wellness talk about making the transition from male to female

During Tiffany Tucker's talk for Avenues of Wellness, at the Willits Center for the Arts, she discussed life as a trans woman. She expressed regret for her early life and joy at her newfound identity, even though she waited until the age of 47 to begin her hormone treatments. Now, she is happier than any time in her life and takes a voracious amount of selfies, having found the self that was hidden within her.

Suzanne Picetti, of Avenues to Wellness, the organization which sponsored the talk, introduced Tucker. "I am extremely proud to introduce our guest speaker for tonight, Tiffany Tucker, who will be telling her story of coming in to her true self as a woman," said Picetti. "I acknowledge her courage in doing this and I'm very grateful. She has worked to improve our community for over 20 years.

"She was in the US Navy," said Picetti. "She has served as a board member on the Covelo Community Services District and the Round Valley Unified School District. In 2016, she ran for Mendocino County supervisor and, currently, Tiffany is a trainer for Redwood Community Services, providing mental health education."

As she spoke to the audience, Tucker illustrated some of her points with a Power Point presentation of her early life, her current persona, and illustrations of the various forms of sexual identity, of which there are many.

"I understood at a very young age that love was conditional," Tucker explained. "In order to receive the love that I needed, I had to play a role, a role that didn't fit me. I would never be loved simply by being me. I knew I was

different. I knew at this age that my parents and everyone around me was going to require me to play a role in order to receive their love.

"I had to practice being a boy," said Tucker. "I had to follow the rules. I did my best to imitate everything. I got picked on. I was teased for acting like a girl. I was teased for being a sissy. And all the time, I was screaming 'let me out.'"

"There's not a single time I came out. I don't even know how many times I came out. I screamed 'somebody please let me out!'"

"Coming in includes the experiences and implications of finding community and achieving a sense of belonging. The concept of sexual self-discovery or gender identity is a lifelong process. Sexual orientation and gender identity are fluid, dynamic, and situational rather than static, arriving at a place of acceptance. Coming in is coming into your own awareness and we do this for years."

The audience was accepting, rapt and polite, until one male individual came in during the question-and-answer period and began to make statements about very young children having their genitals removed, which is only the case in very extreme medical circumstances. He was insistent in his assumptions, illustrating the glut of misinformation that is put forth. He was asked to leave after disrupting the session.

Tucker proved to be an intelligent and caring human who has found and created the life that she believes is the most proper for her personal happiness.






**The Brooktrails Firefighters Association**

Presents a

**Fall Flea Market**

**Saturday, October 5**

**(8 a.m. to 1 p.m.) at the Fire Station**



**LONG VALLEY HEALTH CENTER DENTAL CLINIC**

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**Mendocino County invites applications for:**

**Account Specialist III**  
\$46,633 - \$56,700

**Animal Facility Attendant**  
\$37,564 - \$45,676

**Corrections Deputy**  
\$58,136 - \$67,308

**County Health Officer**  
\$185,224 - \$225,139

**Department Analyst I**  
\$61,588 - \$74,838

**Deputy Probation Officer I & II**  
\$55,577 - \$74,505

**Deputy Sheriff-Coroner**  
\$84,323 - \$102,460

**Network Systems Analyst I/II**  
\$77,064 - \$98,363

**Registered Veterinary Technician**  
\$54,704 - \$66,497

**Sheriff's Services Technician**  
\$37,564 - \$45,676

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

**Supervising Health Program Coordinator**  
\$75,920 - \$92,268

**Supervising Public Health Nurse**  
\$113,609 - \$138,091

**Youth Corrections Officer**  
\$55,348 - \$67,267

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs)  
EOE

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**Willits Weekly can run legal notices including fictitious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and more.**

Contact us for more information at [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

WW508

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

2024-F0425

The following person or persons are doing business as Pet Projects, 23700 Reynolds Highway, Willits CA 95490; 415-302-5511.

Registered owner: Jim Hinkle, 23700 Reynolds Highway, Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on September 3, 2024.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 3, 2024.

/s/ James R. Hinkle  
Publication dates: September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2024

**ONGOING CALENDAR 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

**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@bffoodbank.org; 707-964-9404

**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.

**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.

**Literacy Volunteers of Willits:** We teach adults to read! Free personal tutoring at the library. Call or email to make an appointment: LiteracyWillits@gmail.com or 707-456-7729

The rest of **Chase** From page 4

Supervision for a previous violation of 2800.2(a) CVC (Recklessly Evading). The passenger was cooperative and confirmed that Holmes Jr. had been armed with a handgun, but Holmes Jr. had thrown the gun out the window during the pursuit. UPD officers searched for the firearm along the side of the road, but were unable to locate it.

Holmes Jr. was determined to be under the influence of alcohol and drugs, and was arrested by CHP for violations of: 2800.2(a) CVC – Recklessly evading in the wrong lane of traffic (Felony); 3455(b)(1) PC – Violation of Post Release Community Supervision (Felony); 23152(g) CVC – Driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol (Misdemeanor); and 11377(a) H&S – Possession of a controlled substance (Misdemeanor).

Holmes Jr. was booked and lodged at the MCSO Jail. The passenger was released with no charges.

*Editor's Note: As of press time on October 2, the jail booking log still reported Holmes Jr. as detained on \$50,000 bail.*

**LEGAL NOTICES**

WW510

**NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed under the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at public auction by competitive bidding on the **19th day of October 2024, at the hour of 10 a.m.** on the premises where said property has been stored and which is located at **Willits Mini Storage, LLC, 26 Franklin Ave., Willits, CA, 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California**, the following:

**Britany L Short C-02**  
**Jessica E Tomakin P-23**  
**Emily A Smith N-25**  
**Sergio Mendoza Olvera N-31**  
**Nicole D Flores M-38**  
**Billy Gonzalez Carvajal G-42**  
**Patrick E Garcia D-21**

The goods are described as miscellaneous household items & boxes (contents unknown), clothes, furniture, tools and miscellaneous articles. Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as-is where-is and must be removed at the time of sale. Sales are subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

Dated this 3rd and 10th of October 2024 by Marie Maddux Willits Mini Storage LLC, (707) 459-2529 - Bond # 62731701  
Publication Dates: October 3 and 10, 2024

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**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

**Rental Wanted**  
Willits Rental Wanted: Good local rental history. Local management and one-story unit please. 707-354-2798, leave message.

**For Sale**  
60 to 70 Used Boxes! XL, L, M, S. Mostly Home Depot, heavy duty and regular. For moving, storage. \$0.95 to \$1.50 each or \$65.00 for all. Send Inquiries to: GoodStuffGoingFast@yahoo.com

**Two Surplus Ford Rangers**  
Will be auctioned at the Brooktrails Township's parking lot Saturday, October 5th at 10:00am. Winning bidder(s) will complete paperwork and remove vehicle same day. 1986 Ranger and 2008 Ranger, registered, not running.

**Huge Yard Sale**  
Huge Yard Sale, 84 School Street, Willits. October 5, 9 am to 5 pm. October 6, 9 am to 4 pm. A little bit of everything.

**RV/Trailer Space for Rent**  
Space for RVs and Trailers - starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tp>

**Indoor Yard Sale**  
Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, October 19** from 8 am to 4 pm

**Yard Sale**  
Big family yard sale: Home decor, iron bed, household items, baseball cards, clothes. 123 Madden Street, Willits. 9 am to 3 pm. Saturday, October 5.

**John Ford Ranch Feed**  
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)

**Yard Sale**  
Yard Sale on October 5 and 6 from 8 am to 2 pm at 555 Mill Street, Willits. No Early Birds. Selling Sports Cards, Sports Plates etc. Men's, Women's, Kids' Clothing and Shoes, Kitchen, Housewares, Christmas and Halloween decor.

The rest of **Artist** From page 3

write, so I did interviews, and we had a real magazine. What made it a real magazine is that we had a full-page comic strip. Our magazine was a perfect match with Larry.

"We were so different in terms of lifestyle and personality but somehow it worked," Bosk recalled. "I would tell him who I interviewed and some of the characteristics of the people and he would just create. He would just create a story, a perfect story, for each. I published him for 32 years."

Todd was an underground icon. His biography posted in the Willits Center for the Arts gallery reads: "Widely known for his vivid imagination and cutting-edge style, he has been a significant figure in the world of underground comics since the 1960s. Best known for his collaborations with Philip K. Dick and his work on the popular 'Dr. Atomic' series, Todd's art blends science fiction, satire, and socio-political commentary. His unique approach to storytelling has earned him a devoted following among comic-book enthusiasts and art lovers alike."

In the back gallery, Todd's work exhibited a strong sense of style and satire, with sardonic homages to such artists as Picasso, with a black-light "Guernica," Monet's "The Cleaners," and several other pieces, many with counter-culture and cannabis motifs. His ability to create realistic depictions of waves and water was in evidence with his pieces, "Sea of Beer," and "Sea Weed," the latter of which depicted seagulls pulling apart packages of marijuana that had been dumped by smugglers being chased by the coast guard. There were also some fanciful sculptures of weird and colorful critters.

Larry Todd will be missed, both the artist and the man.

The exhibit runs through October 20 at the Willits Center for the Arts, located at 71 East Commercial Street. The gallery is open 11 am to 5 pm, Friday through Sunday. For more info, visit [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org) or call 459-1726.

In addition to the galleries, the WCA hosts classes on art and dance, a monthly lecture by Curator Gary Martin, and much more. The annual Halloween Gala will be held October 19.

## Gorgeous Rini

Rini came to the shelter while pregnant with a litter of kittens. She has since kissed her baby-making days goodbye and is ready for a fresh start and a home of her own. Rini is friendly with people and may be able to live with other feline-friendly cats.



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.mendocinomalshelter.com](http://www.mendocinomalshelter.com). Call 707-467-6453 for more information.



## Lively Gypsy

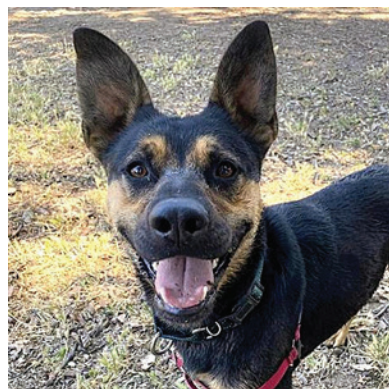
Here comes Gypsy! This bundle of joy in motion is everything a puppy should be: playful, loving, curious and smart. Gypsy loves to leap, chase and run. She loves humans, and would

love to find a home of her own with her special people. Gypsy loves her food and toys. She is always looking to see what is going on and get in on the action. Gypsy would be a great puppy to grow with a family. She is ready for you. Are you ready for her?

To learn more about Gypsy, or to view other adoptable animals, visit [www.milofoundation.org](http://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.

## Swimming Brother

Brother is a sweet dude and a very nice size! He won't get too big, and he is ready to start meeting new people. He hopes to find his family soon!



Brother has done well in playgroups here onsite and has loved hanging out with staff and volunteers. Brother is a pro at fetch and is a super-star swimmer in our kiddie pools! Make sure to keep his kiddie pool filled up or you could find him attempting to swim in his water bucket!

Brother is also looking for a foster home. If you're not signed up to foster, stop by and we will get you set up to give him a break from the shelter.

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](http://www.mendocinohumanesociety.com), on our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



Above, left: Artist Niki Livingston Tsukamoto shows kindergarten and first-grade students how to fold cloth for the shibori dyeing. Above, right: La Vida students dip their folded and tied cloths into natural dye.



## La Vida students learn about nature's bounty through wild plant dyes

Submitted by Ann Kelly, La Vida Charter School

La Vida Charter School hosted its first Guest Artist Intensive last week. Students learned about the wild plants on Ridgewood Ranch, where the school is located, and how the plants can be used to create color and dye fabric.

The guests travelling from a forest above Los Angeles, were Niki Livingston Tsukamoto and Yusuke Tsukamoto, who are such down-to-earth and generous people, it is easy to miss how accomplished they are in their fields of fiber arts, fashion, and symbolic image making, all of which are informed with a life-affirming philosophy.

The experience they provided to the students was a model of what integrated learning looks like. There was art, nature, science, chemistry, botany, geometry, history, culture, planning, adventure, social engagement and more. Lots of smiles all day long and into the next. There was so much engagement and pride of accomplishment.

Meeting the plants on the ranch entailed taking the funky bus down to the Gardens and Orchard area, which was an adventure unto itself. Once there, the students found indigo and saw its amazing properties along with a host of other specimens.

Other topics introduced were weaving on a loom and

Below: Participants in La Vida's recent wild plant dye workshop. At right: Third-grade student Slayton Rutler proudly shows his work.



spinning wool from Ridgewood Ranch sheep on a spinning wheel. The culminating event was folding a bandana-sized fabric in patterns and tied off with rubber bands, much like tie dye, but in the Japanese shibori method.

Three dye pots of colors were made from plants, a yellow from Coyote Bush, a rusty brown from Yellow Dock, and a bright red/purple from Cochineal bugs. Parents participated too and reported learning a lot.

All this was made possible by Leyna Lightman, a museum educator who hails from major California museums and beyond. She loves getting people with something to share together with others, and seeing the magic happen. She was twice recognized by the City of Los Angeles as an "Impact Maker to Watch." She recently moved to Ridgewood Ranch, and La Vida is so grateful to partake in the imagination and opportunities Leyna brings to the community.

For more information, see the websites: [lookout.wonderland.com](http://lookout.wonderland.com), [leynalightman.com](http://leynalightman.com) and [lavidaschool.org](http://lavidaschool.org)

The next guest artist intensive will be a drum circle with Senegalese storyteller and percussionist Pape Diouf on November 19 and 20. A reception with seasonal refreshments will follow.



Photos by Yusuke Tsukamoto.

## The rest of LAFCo From page 1

Alaniz continued: "We wrote a letter of support for the Ukiah Valley Trail Group. They're proposing a grant application to work with Willits Area Cyclists and do projects similar to those that WAC is doing in our area. This is going to be a grant fund, and we wrote a letter of support for that and it fell between board meetings. It was a simple letter and I provided that on behalf of the district."

Alaniz further stated: "After our last meeting, we had our onsite kickoff meeting with Carollo Engineering on the water reuse project. We were able to go down to the City of Willits wastewater treatment plant and met with the staff down there. Everything went really well, and we had a very productive meeting. We will be working closely on the requests for information now that Carollo has everything from water quality, quantities and volume; all of these things that will be used for the planning study."

Alaniz also had a couple of other updates to provide regarding Brooktrails water facilities. She said: "There was an emergency project done at the Spring Creek tank, because it was failing. We are going to have that tank taken down, and temporary tanks are up and ready to go and already are online and working brilliantly. The foundation will start to go in within a couple of weeks from now. The new tank manufacturing itself is still quite a few weeks out until completion. We are going to be getting the site ready and prepared for when the tank's completed."

Further, she said, "Inundation mapping that's been required by DWR, the Department of Water Resources – the Department of Safety of Dams – has been done." Director Horrick said, "This is important in the event that we have a dam failure, right?" Alaniz agreed, saying: "That's correct. If we had a seismic event or an operational failure, we have to map out what that would look like to the downstream areas."

Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer stood up and said: "I want to remind you all that Saturday, October 5, the Annual Flea Market is happening from 8 am to 1 pm. All spots have been sold, and we are going to be serving smash burgers and hot dogs, and those will be ready after we get the grill started up."

Next up, the board voted to unanimously approve the Consent Calendar Accounts Payable in the amount of \$59,191.05.

Finally, the one agenda item for the evening: "Consideration of License Agreement for Emergency Access Route Along the Firco Road" was introduced by the general manager. "This item before you is really just a rerun of the previous agreement that we already had for Firco Road, and this is just cleaning up after the passing of Rich Padula. We've now been able to get agreement with the trustee, Nancy Coffman," Alaniz said, "to revise the agreement and bring it up to date and that's what's before you here."

"This serves the same purpose as the previous agreement," she continued, "whereby Firco Road provides access to emergency vehicles in situations such as those that require evacuation where both lanes of Sherwood Road are used to evacuate residents, and emergency vehicles will use Firco Road to come up."

Brooktrails attorney Chris Neary pointed out that the county will be doing the maintenance work on Firco Road which the board was glad to have noted.

The board then gave unanimous approval to the revised License Agreement for the Firco Road Emergency Access Route."

## The rest of Cubbison From page 1

DA Eyster did not respond to requests for comments, nor did Special Prosecutor Traci Carrillo, an outside Sonoma County attorney hired earlier this year to manage the prosecution of Cubbison and Kennedy. Carrillo agreed on a contract to serve as special prosecutor and was provided by Eyster with a \$10,000 retainer and an hourly rate of \$400.

Kennedy's attorney, Public Defender Mary LeClair, said she had no comment "at this time" on Cubbison's motion for her case to be dismissed.

A hearing on the motion is scheduled for 9:30 am, November 13 in Judge Moorman's court.

Andrian's motion reveals that Cubbison triggered a county review of the disputed extra pay for Kennedy, and not administrators, as claimed last October by the county Executive Office, some county supervisors, and DA Eyster.

In fact, according to Andrian's motion, Cubbison turned over to the County Counsel's Office in September 2022 an email sent by Kennedy threatening to quit her payroll post because she had not been compensated for 400 hours of work during the COVID pandemic. Cubbison said she alerted county officials because she suspected Kennedy might sue if she followed through on her threat. Kennedy then was a highly skilled salaried employee working remotely at the time because many county offices were closed to the public.

DA Eyster was embroiled in a public dispute with Cubbison during the same period, over Cubbison questioning his office spending practices, including staff dinner parties violating county policies. Eyster attempted to get Cubbison to resign her post in exchange for filing only a misdemeanor charge. He filed a single felony charge of misappropriating public funds against Cubbison after she decided to fight the allegations against her.

Eyster ignored Cubbison's contentions that former Auditor Weer might have instigated the unauthorized extra pay agreement involving Kennedy. Weer was questioned but not charged in the case.

An investigation conducted by Sheriff's Lt. Andrew Porter and then reviewed by Eyster's investigators revealed that Kennedy eventually collected about \$68,000 in extra pay over three years. Cubbison said she believed it resulted from an agreement between Kennedy and Weer before she took control of the office. Kennedy claims Cubbison agreed to the extra pay after she took over the office but would never put it in writing.

According to investigative reports, Porter said Weer denied making an extra pay deal with Kennedy. Still, he later acknowledged in an interview with former chief DA Investigator Kevin Bailey that he had discussed fundamental pay issues with the payroll manager, including her contentions that two other salaried county employees had "figured out how to get more pay."

According to a "statement of facts" submitted by Attorney Andrian to the court, Weer told Bailey that he advised Kennedy to find out "what forms the two employees were using, and maybe they could be used to benefit Ms. Kennedy." Weer said they did not speak of it further, and that he never heard from her again.

"It does not appear any follow-up investigation was done by Bailey regarding this information," according to Andrian's filing.

Andrian said DA Eyster, who initially refused to recuse himself from the Cubbison case despite his past public disputes with her, alleged in October 2023 that the suspended auditor had authorized the extra pay for Kennedy when, in reality, retired Auditor Weer was Cubbison's supervisor during a portion of that period.

"Through attempts by the defense to obtain relevant emails between the three parties, it has become apparent that the emails were compromised, with many missing or deleted and not preserved," according to the defense motion.

Andrian said it also became apparent that Lt. Porter was at one point granted access by the county's IT Department to all of the requested emails while conducting his investigation. However, it was later discovered that he "failed to preserve the emails, and they have since been compromised or destroyed, with no way to truly know what was lost."

It appears, according to Andrian's motion, that "no attempt was made to preserve Lloyd Weer's emails despite his obvious involvement in the ongoing investigation, as he was the auditor-controller when the suspicious activity began, and he admitted finding an alternative means to find Ms. Kennedy a way to get appropriately compensated."

Andrian declared that: "In this case, three individuals pointed the finger at each other regarding how or whether Ms. Kennedy received authorization to use the additional pay code (labeled '470' in internal documents).

"It seems clear that interoffice emails would be relevant with regard to what communication might have taken place and when, and how the office was run in general."

The lead sheriff investigator Porter "must have understood this," Andrian continued "as he requested and was granted access to all three email boxes for the entirety of the relevant time period. The emails were in his possession, and he had a duty to preserve them."

However, Andrian declared: "Instead of preserving the emails, he apparently did nothing. As a result, many emails were lost that may have been and likely were relevant."

## Rural County Representatives held annual meeting in Sonoma County

Submitted by RCRC

Sacramento – On Friday, September 20, the Rural County Representatives of California concluded their Annual Meeting, held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Sonoma County. This year, over 300 local government representatives attended the meeting, representing RCRC's 40 member counties.

The event featured experts sharing their knowledge on issues pertinent to rural governance. This included engaging panel discussions with specialists in clean energy, regenerative agriculture, politics, sustainable forest management, short-term rentals, as well as a message from California State Senator Mike McGuire.

"At RCRC's Annual Meeting, we witnessed the power of collaboration and the shared commitment to advancing rural communities across California. This event is a testament to the strength and resilience of our local leaders, who come together to address pressing challenges and celebrate innovative solutions," said RCRC Chair and Monterey County Supervisor Chris Lopez.

"Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the panelists whose expertise illuminated our discussions, and to every attendee whose engagement and dedication drive meaningful change for our rural communities."

In addition to the panel discussions, attendees were treated to an inspiring session with a delegation from Rikuzentakata, Japan, sharing their remarkable story of resilience and leadership in the aftermath of the 2011 Tsunami, as well as the enduring and unexpected bond they formed with the high school students and leaders of Del Norte County.

During the event, attendees also

participated in the RCRC Annual Auction and Basket Drawing, where county-themed baskets are auctioned off to support a select number of charities in the county of the RCRC Chair. The event concluded with a meeting of rural county administrators and a joint meeting of the RCRC Board of Directors with its affiliate entities Golden State Finance Authority and Golden State Connect Authority.

"It has been an honor to host RCRC's Annual Meeting in Sonoma County, a pivotal event for rural leaders across California. This meeting not only highlights the fortitude and ingenuity of our communities but also fosters critical dialogue and partnership," said James Gore, an RCRC board delegate, resident of the National Association of Counties, and a Sonoma County supervisor. "Thank you to everyone who joined us in this endeavor, as your contributions are essential in shaping the future of rural California."

RCRC's Annual Meeting provides a venue for rural leaders to gather and engage on important issues affecting rural counties. To learn more about RCRC, visit [www.rcrcnet.org](http://www.rcrcnet.org).

The Rural County Representatives of California is a 40-member county service organization that champions policies on behalf of California's rural counties. RCRC is dedicated to representing the collective unique interests of its membership, providing legislative and regulatory representation at the state and federal levels, and providing responsible services for its members to enhance and protect the quality of life in rural California counties. To learn more about RCRC, visit [rcrcnet.org](http://rcrcnet.org) and follow @RuralCounties on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

# STONE STORIES

## AT THE LAYTONVILLE CEMETERY

Museum presents  
'Stone Stories'  
at Laytonville  
Cemetery, October 13

Submitted by Mendocino County Museum

This fall, the Mendocino County Museum's "Stone Stories" program returns, featuring an afternoon of dramatized obituary readings by local volunteers at the Laytonville Cemetery on Sunday, October 13, starting at

3:30 pm. This year additional stories will be shared by special guest Atta Stevenson, member of the Cahto Tribe.

Museum volunteer Carol Cox has dug into researching the legacies of those interred at the Laytonville Cemetery and has uncovered fascinating stories about the lives of its residents. Museum volunteer David Pierce will guide guests through the historic portion of the cemetery, which is located

at 1325 Branscomb Road in Laytonville.

In preparation for the event the Redwood Cemetery District is hosting a volunteer clean-up day at the Laytonville Cemetery, in partnership with the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum, on Wednesday, October 9, from 9 am to 12 pm. All are invited to participate.

Friends of the Mendocino County Museum is hosting the program, and attendance is free and open to all, but parking is limited. For additional details call the Mendocino County Museum at 707-234-6365.

### Kathleen Kirkpatrick



Kathleen Kirkpatrick, 80 years of age, passed at home in Willits, California on Saturday, August 17, 2024.

Kathleen was born in Kingsburg, California to Melvin and Marguerite Rieffel. She was the eldest of their three children.

Kathleen was raised in Bakersfield, California. After completing high school, she attended the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) where she earned her B.A. in Art History in 1966 and a University Recommended Standard Teaching Credential in 1968.

She made many friends while at UCSB, particularly her college roommates Carole, Nancy, Paula, and Peggy. These friends gathered annually throughout their lives to celebrate what they called "Happy Camp".

After college Kathleen became the Visual Arts Teacher at Terra Linda High School in Terra Linda, California, 1968-1970. Kathleen traveled in Europe and North Africa, 1970-1972, where she sought-out all the great museums. The thrill of viewing works of art in-person, instead of on the printed page, never ceased to delight and awe Kathleen.

After returning to the U.S., Kathleen moved to Willits, California. She first worked at the Mendocino County Museum and was an active member of the thespian community with memorable performances in Drac-u-la-la and The Miracle Worker. Kathleen met the love of her life, Bob Kirkpatrick, while they both performed in The Miracle Worker. After a whirlwind romance, Kathleen and Bob were married early in 1983. Their marriage would become the overlying passion of their lives.

Bob was truly smitten with Kathleen. He charmed and adored her every day they were together. "Whatever Kathleen says" was a frequent utterance of his. They built a charming open-beamed home in Willits with extensive gardens that were complemented with Bob's ceramic bird houses, whimsical quotes, and sculptures. Kathleen contributed many painted garden gnomes and Tole painted folk art that were charming and admired.

Kathleen was the Visual Arts Teacher (1982-2007) and Chair of the Performing and Visual Arts Program (1985-2007) at Willits High School. It was there that she established a culture (her legacy) of inspiring, enchanting, and educating the multitude of students who came through her classroom. Many of those students were astounded when their own inner creativity was coached to life by Kathleen. Kathleen was also a part-time Visual Arts Instructor at Mendocino College, 2001-2014. Even after years of retirement, Kathleen still corresponded with many of her former students.

In addition to Bob and teaching art, Kathleen also loved a long parade of Rottweilers and Bernese Mountain dogs. Her four-footed companions were spoiled and admired. Many of their portraits were on walls of Kathleen's home.

Another love of Kathleen's life was Apple Technology. She said: "Steve Jobs is a creative genius!", more than once. Kathleen prided herself on knowing how to navigate and utilize every Apple product. She attended several presentations by Steve Jobs. She took part in many technology workshops and read many books and manuals. After retirement she started her own business helping others with their Apple products and made many new friends.

Art, in all its forms, never ceased to fascinate Kathleen. Many works by local artists were found hanging on the tall walls of her home. She constantly tinkered with the hues, shapes, and objects around her house. Bold colors of every kind greeted visitors, followed by a brief oration on primary, secondary, and tertiary colors.

Always ready for a good time, Bob and Kathleen started a cooking club called "Gourmand Anon". Along with their friends, they drank and dined at near and far-flung restaurants. They also had a rotation of potlucks of various cuisines with everyone cooking their own interpretations.

Kathleen is preceded in death by her husband, Bob; parents, and two siblings.

Kathleen is survived by her stepson Rob Kirkpatrick and stepdaughter Kathy Kirkpatrick; Rob's wife, Ruth Kirkpatrick; their children Sean and Mackenzie Kirkpatrick; Sean's wife, Savannah Dills, and sister-in-law Elizabeth "Betty" Vrenios.

Rob and Ruth Kirkpatrick are planning a memorial for Kathleen Kirkpatrick during Spring 2025. If you are interested in attending such a memorial, please email Rob and Ruth Kirkpatrick at robnruth25@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Visual Arts Program at Willits High School in Willits, California.

## STONE STORIES AT THE LAYTONVILLE CEMETERY



Sunday October 13, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

The Mendocino County Museum's Stone Stories program returns, featuring an afternoon of dramatized obituary readings by local volunteers at the Laytonville Cemetery. This year additional stories we will be shared by special guest Atta Stevenson, member of the Cahto Tribe.

Museum volunteer Carol Cox has dug into researching the legacies of those interred at the Laytonville Cemetery and has uncovered fascinating stories about the lives of its residents.

Friends of the Mendocino County Museum are hosting the program and attendance is free and open to all, but parking is limited. Event held at the Cemetery located at 1325 Branscomb Rd., Laytonville.

For additional details call the Museum at 707-234-6365.



OBITUARY |

### Chris Johnson

Our dad Chris Johnson passed away unexpectedly Monday morning, September 23, 2024. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Terry, his two sons John and Steven, and his two grandchildren Clayton and Natalie. He had been a resident of Willits and in Mendocino County for 50 years settling here during the '70s after graduating college and serving the U.S. Airforce in Vietnam.

Born in Sweet Home, Oregon on July 7, 1947, he resided there for only six months before returning with his parents Bill and Patty Johnson to the Bay Area, where he stayed until adulthood. He attended both UC Santa Cruz and University of Pacific, graduating from the latter with a business degree.

He was an avid outdoorsman, fisherman, and hunter. He spent his entire career working in the local timber business as a lumber salesman. He enjoyed nature and its abundance; and was truly happy in the woods. He loved watching his grandkids play sports and supporting them through their many endeavors.

He had a very strong work ethic, maybe too strong, and found pleasure in the small things. He did a good job raising us boys and will be missed until we see him again.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.



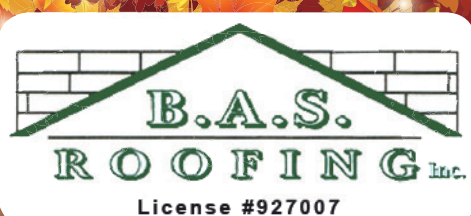
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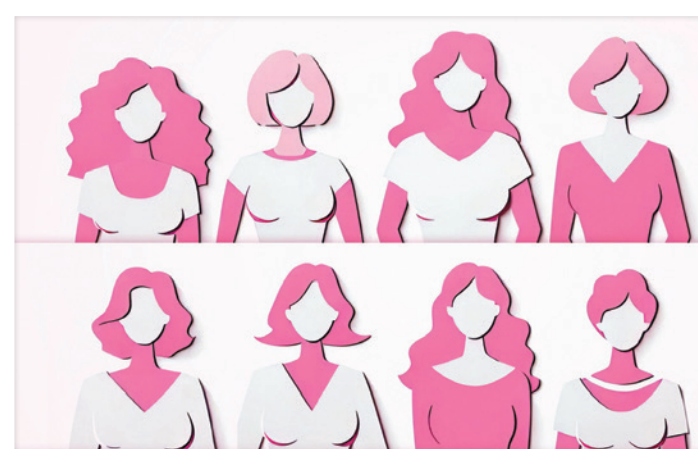
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