



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## WUSD superintendent to resign

To the Editor:

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that I will be resigning from my position as the superintendent at the end of this school year. I am making this decision due to some deeply personal reasons. I have greatly enjoyed the time I have spent with each of you in Willits.

I will be assisting the board in making a smooth transition to the next superintendent once they are identified. We have some great momentum.

I know the excellent staff here will continue to carry this momentum forward into next school year and beyond. I am excited to see the heights that WUSD will achieve in the future! With deepest gratitude and respect,

Superintendent Joe Aldridge, Willits

*Editor's Note: This letter to Willits Unified School District staff and the community was posted on the WUSD Facebook page on Tuesday, May 3.*

## Thank you

To the Editor:

To the lovely people of Mendocino County: I had emergency hernia surgery last July 2021.

Dr. Dawson was my doctor. I can't say enough of him and his office for taking incredible care of me.

I was admitted to Howard Hospital and was treated like a queen ... by everyone, the nurses, nurses' aides, janitors, kitchen staff, X-ray people, and the people who take your blood, volunteers, etc....

We are so blessed and fortunate to have these incredible people in our county.

I never got to thank you all for your kindness and your integrity on the job. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Joann Vargis, Willits

## PG&E tree removal

To the Editor:

I like many in our area have seen trees being removed by PG&E. There are a list of reasons why, but one of them should be brought to your attention.

Many of the trees, mainly conifers, are infested with bark beetles. If the infested tree is removed, there will be beetles left over trying to establish a new home. They may move onto another tree on your property as well as your home.

PG&E may be informing owners to be aware of this, but if not please take the time to protect your environment.

These beetles will hitchhike on people as well as pets and livestock. Having them in your clothing and shoes can cause serious pain to those that are allergic to them. They don't bite, but can cause a serious rash.

Please take the time to become educated.

Denise Ford, Willits

## Was it worth it?

To the Editor:

As we reach a million deaths in the USA from Covid, I can't help but ask myself was it worth it? Was the masking, the shutdowns, the vaccinations, the isolation worth what we personally and we as a community got from it? The death rate relative to public health mandates, vaccinations, and

personal behavior tells me how many lives our county saved and how many more we could have saved if we had been more stringent.

In Mendocino County we have had 122 deaths which comes out to 140 per 100,000. This compares to the USA death rate of 298 and the California death rate of 227. Was it worth it? We should be proud of these lives saved. And every life saved is 10 less hospitalizations.

I will compare us to a comparable county Shasta in California, and a comparable state, West Virginia, chosen for similar rural nature and economic status. Shasta has had 345 deaths per 100,000 – 205 more deaths per 100,000 than Mendocino. West Virginia has had 379 deaths per 100,000 – 239 more deaths than Mendocino per 100,000.

Both Shasta County and West Virginia are well known to have lower rates of vaccination and restrictions than Mendocino County. Mendocino's vaccination rate overall is 68% compared to Shasta's 50% and West Virginia's 57%. Thus both Shasta and West Virginia had two to three times the death rate of Mendocino. That is not including a similar increase in hospitalizations and long COVID, with its effects on brain structure and function and the lungs, etc. Was it worth it?

And if we had been more stringent? We can look at Sonoma County with a death rate of 99 per 100,000 and a vaccination rate of 78% for all ages 95% for seniors. Our senior rate is 87% and our senior booster rate just 58%. That would calculate out to 36 fewer deaths in Mendocino with that Sonoma County level of vaccinations and restrictions – 30% fewer.

Remember when early on the watchword was to "flatten the curve"? Well we flattened the curve, and then when Omicron arrived, those with high vaccination rates, especially with a booster, had remarkably low death rates. This includes all of Western Europe where the booster rate is twice ours and the death rate about half.

If I were to make a change in our present situation, it would be to get the large percentage of seniors with vaccinations but no booster (59% vs 89%) to get a booster. Second I would have the ones with boosters get a second booster. 75% of the deaths in our country have been to those 65 and older.

And suppose we look at another country with similar climate in Europe with lower immunizations and restrictions. Bulgaria managed just a 29% vaccination rate. They have 527 deaths per 100,000. This would be over four times our death rate.

Do you think that vaccinations make a difference? It is now estimated that our country would be approaching 3 million deaths instead of 1 million without the vaccination.

When I look at the big picture in terms of individual freedom and individual protection and social obligation, there is no question in my mind that our individual investment and societal investment has been worth it. As individuals we have invested in protecting ourselves, our families, and our communities. Of course with the reaview mirror, I would do some things differently. But I am sure that everyone does not agree with me. Was it worth it?

John Glyer, MD, Willits

## Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$7.

**Thursday, May 5:** Chicken Enchiladas, Rice, Beans, Green Salad

**Friday, May 6:** BBQ Spare Ribs, Beans, Veggie, Cornbread

**Monday, May 9:** Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap, Chips, Fruit

**Tuesday, May 10:** Ground Sirloin, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Roll, Green Salad

**Wednesday, May 11:** Ground Beef Tacos, Rice, Beans

**Thursday, May 12:** Spinach Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

**Friday, May 13:** Beer Battered Cod, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll

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

## Sonoma Clean Power seeks advisory committee members

Submitted by SCP

If you are interested in climate change, renewable energy, and utility issues and are a customer of Sonoma Clean Power, then you are invited to apply by June 1 to join SCP's Community Advisory Committee.

SCP is Mendocino and Sonoma counties' default not-for-profit electricity provider and is actively engaged in addressing the climate crisis through clean energy. SCP provides electricity that is 49% renewable and 93% carbon-free. SCP also offers customers the option to purchase 100% renewable electricity made from local geothermal and solar resources through its EverGreen service.

The Community Advisory Committee is a group of volunteers representing communities in Mendocino and Sonoma counties that are served by SCP. Committee members meet monthly to make recommendations and provide feedback to the agency's board of directors on topics including budgets, rates, operations, and programs. Members serve four-year terms following appointment by the SCP board of directors.

For more information and to apply, visit <https://sonomacleanpower.org/community-advisory-committee>

## Savings Bank hosts shred events in May

Submitted by SBMC

Savings Bank of Mendocino County and Integrity Shred have teamed up to help prevent identity theft by offering the public an opportunity to shred outdated confidential documents.

Bring up to three 35-pound boxes of documents for safe, secure, on-site shredding.

Additionally, to help shred hunger, non-perishable food will be accepted at each event for local food banks.

Read the rest of **Shred** | Over on page 11



Above, from left: Bloomer's buttercup (*Ranunculus orthorhynchus*) grows in the pastures. The created wetlands in the upland-mitigation parcel named "Plasma" are full of water after the spring rains. Trillium (*Trillium albidum*) blooms in the Plasma woodland. Below: Male and female wood ducks swim along the shores of the wetlands.

# Welcome Spring Rains

By Marisela de Santa Anna

When Little Lake Valley gets significant rain in April or May (at least two or more inches), especially after having dry months of winter, I breathe a sigh of relief. The creeks fill up, the ground saturates, and we get some inundation in the north end of the valley.

This is important for the wetland plants and animals. For example, wood ducks that have begun their nesting process, laying their eggs in boxes or tree cavities, need the inundation to get their ducklings safely into the creeks in mid-to-late May.

The plants that sustain the adult ducks and the ducklings need that late moisture to grow robust and lush. The seeds that other birds and mammals depend on in the summer and fall need this late rain, too. Even though I always love the rain, it does help to consider the obvious and not-so-obvious benefits of late rains.

A wet spring means we have a longer break from thinking about fires, drought and excessive heat. If we do get the large amount of rain that is forecasted for this week and next, the valley may accumulate as much as 2-to-4 feet of water, a boost to the water table. The saying "April showers bring May flowers" is true, and we will be seeing the abundance of wildflowers increase and the length of the blooming period extended by the rain that falls now.

Then there is the amplification of our environmental aesthetic and reveling in the beauty of springtime. That is a wonderful thing. In the upland-mitigation parcel we call Plasma, there are two lovely woodlands nestled in the northwest corner. Walking through them in the pouring rain yesterday, my eyes feasted upon the wildflowers that grow in both the woodlands and the grassland pasture areas.

Throughout the woodlands the Trillium albidum is spectacular, as it has been the last few years. It grows amongst Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*) and Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum fendleri*) and other spring wildflowers.

The buttercups are plentiful in the pastures, but my favorite is the Yellowbeak Owl's Clover (*Triphysaria versicolor* ssp. *Faucibarbata*). There was a huge patch of it as I walked through the gate. The bright yellow and white of this wildflower is a wonder to behold. The deep and varied green colors are soothing and peaceful. We are fortunate to live in this valley where in the late winter and spring there are so many tones and shades of green.

Walking in the rain with an umbrella is a fun springtime activity which I recommend highly. Get out and notice the variety of green-colored plants and look for some wildflowers, too.

Read archives of de Santa Anna's blogs here: <https://mcrd.org/author/marisela>. To read entries by other authors on the Little Lake Valley Restoration Blog, visit: <https://mcrd.org/category/willits>.

The above is a blog entry written by Marisela de Santa Anna and posted on April 14. The blog post, titled "Welcome spring rains," is part of the Little Lake Valley Restoration Blog on the Resource Conservation District of Mendocino County website. The online version can be found here: <https://mcrd.org/blog/welcome-spring-rains>.



## Spring tour of the Willits Mitigation Lands

Submitted by Marisela de Santa Anna

On May 21, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District will be having a free public tour of the Willits Mitigation Lands as part of our monthly tours. The focus will be on spring in the Little Lake Valley, we will go out to see the "sea of purple": the wild camas blooms, and other wildflowers in the north end of the valley. We will learn springtime bird songs, maybe get to see some tule elk in velvet, and talk about the conservation and restoration efforts happening on the mitigation lands. RSVP is required because we have a 20-person limit. Contact Marisela de Santa Anna at [marisela@mcrd.org](mailto:marisela@mcrd.org) to sign up.



Above, left: A Bullock's oriole pecks for food on the branch of a tree. Above, right: A bright bluebird sits upon a post in the Willits Mitigation Lands. Below: Camas blooms create a sea of purple in the meadows.



## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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## Congrats Willits Weekly's 9th anniversary

Willits Weekly's first edition was published May 3, 2013, so we'll be starting our ninth year of business with this May 5, 2022 edition.

That's a good record for a new locally owned and operated print newspaper in the 21st century. We'll look forward to celebrating 10 years in 2023.

For now, a special thanks to all our advertisers (it's the advertising revenues that pay the bills), and thanks to all our subscribers, readers and contributors over the years. It's all of you – and our crew of reporters and feature writers – who make Willits Weekly a "community supported" newspaper.

Jennifer Poole and Maureen Jennison, Willits Weekly

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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# CANDIDATES FORUM

**SUNDAY • MAY 15th, 2022 • 2:30 - 5 PM**  
In-person @ LITTLE LAKE GRANGE, Pine & School Streets, Willits

**Meet the candidates . . . ask questions! Be prepared to vote June 7th.**  
NOTE: This election will be FINAL in any race where a candidate receives 50% or more of the votes cast for that office.

<b>FOR OTHER INFORMATION:</b> Judi @ (707) 459-4444	<b>2:30 PM COUNTY SHERIFF:</b> 1 Seat Matt Kendall (uncontested)	<b>3:15 PM COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:</b> 1 Seat Michelle Hutchins (incumbent) Nicole Glentzer	<b>4 PM SUPERVISOR, 3rd DISTRICT:</b> 1 Seat John Haschak (incumbent) Clay Romero
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Available live on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86886311390?MeetingID=86886311390>  
Meeting ID: 868 8631 1390, Passcode 123710  
Will also be available on video afterward via Channel 3 on-line

## Church of the Nazarene

**Sunday Worship 11:00 to 12:00**  
20690 S. Main St. Willits  
(Across from Brown's corner.)  
Come As You Are to Worship Our Creator

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707.459.5193

# JOHN FORD RANCH

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No hormones, fastured in Willits, California

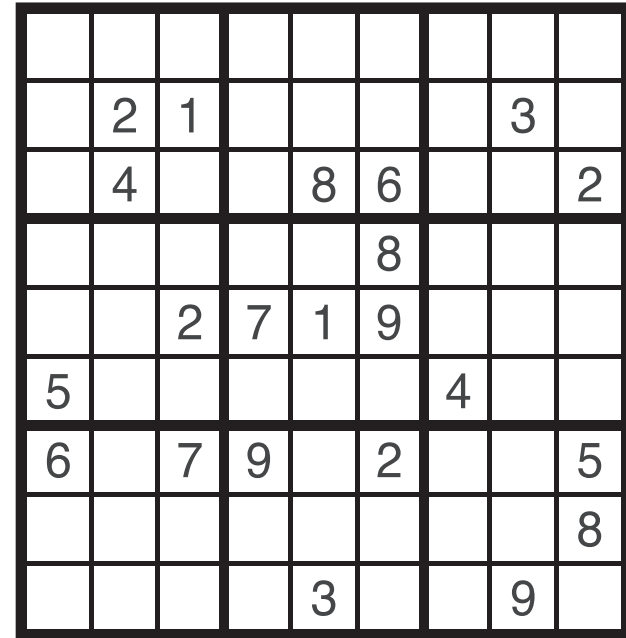
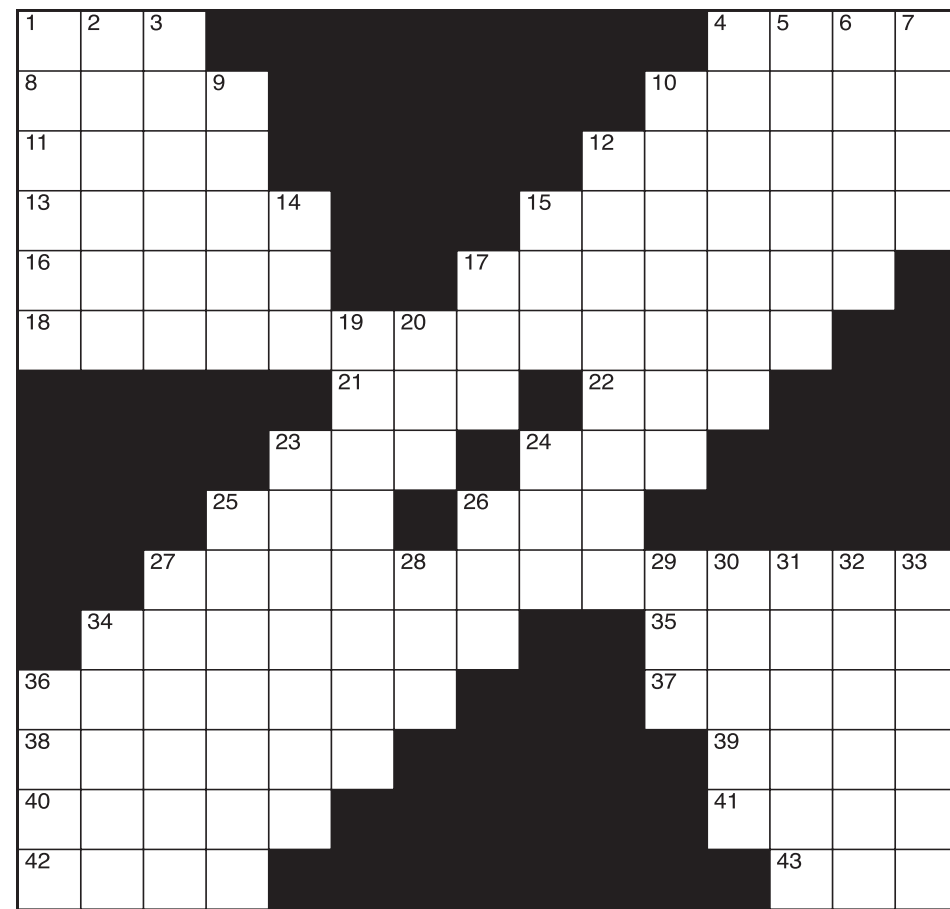
# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

**PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 9**

## 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!



## MOTHER'S DAY WORD SEARCH

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

AFFECTION	FOSTER	PRESENTS
AUNT	GATHERING	RELAXATION
BREAK	GRANDMOTHER	REST
BREAKFAST	GREETING CARD	RESTAURANT
CARING	HONOR	SISTER
DEDICATED	HUGS	SPA
DESSERT	MATERNAL	VACATION
FANFARE	MOM	WOMAN

## CLUES ACROSS

1. A power of perception
4. Slotted hinged metal plate
8. Popular crop
10. Siamese fighting fish
11. Larval crabs
12. South American mammal
15. Occur as a result of
15. Slavic language
16. An electric underground railway
17. Transporting
18. A direction
21. Opposite of start
22. Mock
23. People love and hate it (abbr.)
24. A people of Myanmar
25. A Queens ballplayer
26. Southern Thailand indigenous person
27. Famed actress

## CLUES DOWN

1. Skin condition
2. Earlier
3. Right away
4. Vomiting
5. Go to
6. 'The Police' frontman
7. Bullfighting maneuver
9. Pacific island
10. A system of algebraic notation
12. A room used for the activities of a group
14. The longest division of geological time
15. Car mechanics group
17. A barrel of liquid (abbr.)
19. Bound to do
20. Explosive
23. Ridicules
24. Adult male
25. Military personnel
26. French and Belgian river
27. Found in the sea
28. A share lost in default (abbr.)
29. Type of medication (abbr.)
30. City on the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. They're in martinis
33. Get away
34. Wampum
36. Lacking brightness

Lane and issued a warning.

11:27 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road.

11:28 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:47 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

### April 28

No incidents to report.

### April 29

11:10 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of North Main Street.

5:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:12 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Wood Street and issued a warning.

### April 27

6:59 pm: SALAMONE, Ronnie Ira Pack (33) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of South Humboldt Street

and East Valley Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), on felony charges of violation of parole, and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

9:01 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

10:22 pm: GREEN, Russell Austin (36) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of Elm Lane. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and violation of probation.

### April 30

12:11 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of East Commercial Street and North Lenore Avenue.

12:28 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 300 block of McKinley Street.

10:23 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism near the intersection of East Commercial Street and North Lenore Avenue.

3:48 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

## WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

April 24 to April 30

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 97 incidents in this 7-day reporting period.

### Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

#### April 24

1:31 am: WILKINSON, Mallory Ann (33) of Willits was contacted in the 500 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges pursuant to 23152 (A) VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol) and 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher).

9:42 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of School Street.

11:29 am: BARNETT, Kristopher Dane (24) of Finley, California, was contacted near the intersection of Coast Street and

Highway 20. He was arrested on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon.

12:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

1:45 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of Coast Street and issued a citation.

#### April 25

10:48 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Madden Lane.

#### April 26

2:01 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

#### April 27

10:07 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Barbara

The rest of COVID From page 1

We can all limit contagion with a few simple steps:

- Continue **masking indoors** in public places. Masks are still required for everyone in some settings, including public transit and long-term care facilities.
- Keep **gatherings** small (less than 25), outdoors if possible, especially if food is served.
- **Test** using PCR or Rapid Antigen Test before travel, gatherings or visits. Tests are available over the counter, through your provider, or at county test sites.
- **Stay home** if you test is positive, or if you have symptoms. If you might have COVID, call your medical provider quickly for a very effective antiviral **prescription**.
- Follow the **guidance** regarding isolation to prevent further infection.

We are now at the beginning of a new wave of COVID. While it is difficult to predict if our hospitals will be overwhelmed, severe infections are still possible, especially for the elderly, those with immune compromise

or chronic disease, and those who are not vaccinated. The new wave of variants (BA 2.12.1) is almost twice as contagious as the original COVID infection, and new variants from overseas may cause more severe disease. Recently completed vaccine research shows efficacy is waning, but is still most effective in preventing severe disease. Those who have had COVID have some immunity, but not as strong or long-lasting as immunity from vaccines, and they should get vaccinated. Boosters are still strongly recommended for those who have been vaccinated. To review current California requirements for masking, please visit the California Department of Public Health website: [www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx) For local questions about where to find a vaccine or testing, please call Mendocino County Public Health at 707-472-2759 or visit the Public Health website at: [www.mendocinocounty.org/covid19](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/covid19)

The rest of Arrested From page 1

determined to be under the influence and was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol and causing injuries to the driver of the Honda. Garcia Luna was transported to Howard Memorial Hospital, where he was treated for minor injuries and then was subsequently booked into the Mendocino County Jail. The southbound lane of US-101 was closed for approximately one hour for the investigation, clean-up and vehicle recovery. Garcia Luna was booked at the Mendocino County Jail on the following charges: 23153(a) VC - Felony DUI of alcohol resulting in injuries to another person; 23153(b) VC - Felony DUI of alcohol with .08% BAC or higher; 12500(a) VC - Unlicensed driver; 23578(a) VC - DUI with BAC .15% or greater. The California Highway Patrol would like to thank Caltrans, Laytonville Fire Department, and Cal Fire for their response and assistance at the scene. The collision remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol, Garberville Area.



Three generations: Cindy, Caterina, Shanna and Calleigh



Beautiful mothers, four generations: Grandma Wilma Falge; Mom Jane Gutierrez; Me Michelle Gutierrez; and My Daughter Jessica Smith.



Happiest Mother's Day to you Amber! We hope you know how much you're loved! Love Always, Shailyn, Steve, McKenna, Colton, Jack, Ryann, & Tanner.



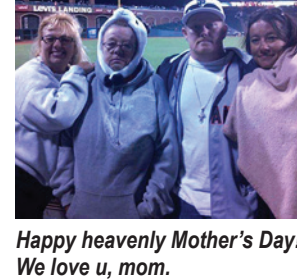
Happy Mother's Day, love you sister.



Happy Mother's Day, Nancy New. We LOVE you! Thea, Asha, Nancy, Torin, Kyana, Aven and Arlo.



Happy Mother's Day to my mother-in-law Pam. We appreciate everything you do for us and we love you. - Nadith & Justin



My oma Alma Mewes holding my mom Dorit Schmidt-Petersen as a baby.



Happy heavenly Mother's Day! We love u, mom.

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Real Estate\* | Payroll & Bookkeeping\*

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# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY 2022!



Beautiful mothers, four generations: Grandma Wilma Falge; Mom Jane Gutierrez; Me Michelle Gutierrez; and My Daughter Jessica Smith.



Happy Mother's Day to you Amber! We hope you know how much you're loved! Love Always, Shailyn, Steve, McKenna, Colton, Jack, Ryann, & Tanner.



Happy Mother's Day, love you sister.



Happy Mother's Day, Nancy New. We LOVE you! Thea, Asha, Nancy, Torin, Kyana, Aven and Arlo.



Happy Mother's Day to my mother-in-law Pam. We appreciate everything you do for us and we love you. - Nadith & Justin



My oma Alma Mewes holding my mom Dorit Schmidt-Petersen as a baby.



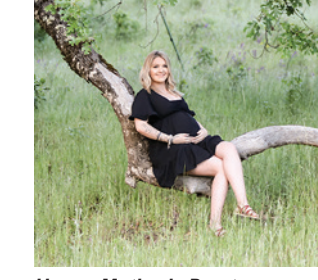
Happy heavenly Mother's Day! We love u, mom.



Happy Mother's Day Christina! Love, Shailyn.



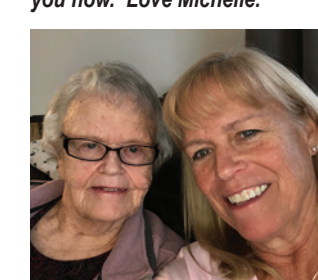
Happy Mother's Day Michelle! We love you lots! Love, Shailyn, Steve, McKenna, Jack & Tanner.



Happy Mother's Day to you McKenna! You're going to be an amazing mamma! We love you so very much and are proud of you! Love, Mom & Steve.



Happy Mother's Day, love you sister.



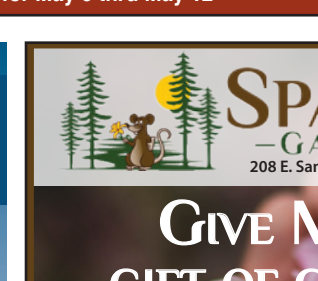
Happy Mother's Day to my mother-in-law Pam. We appreciate everything you do for us and we love you. - Nadith & Justin



My mama, Earlane Polen has always been the strength in my life. I am so blessed she is mine. I love you, mom! Happy Mother's Day.



Happy Mother's Day to our favorite GamGam! We love you!



Happy Mother's Day, love Allaya, Lilly, Colter, Teyah and Adriana.



Happy Mother's Day to my 2 moms: Karen and Lori, love Kaycee.



Sharon and daughter Dana.



Happy Mother's Day to Erica and Darrell Buzzard.



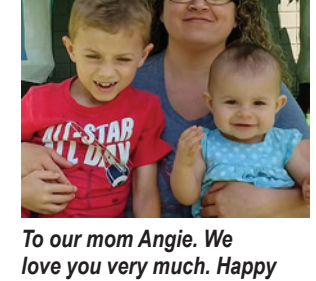
Happy Mother's Day, Jessica.



Happy Mother's Day to you both, beautiful ladies! Love, Tina.



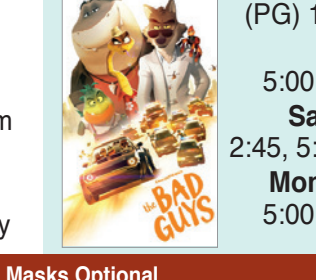
Happy Mother's Day, love Jasmine.



Happy Mother's Day, love Tabitha Glenn, mother of four.



Happy Mother's Day, love Barbara Evelyn Draper, Mother of seven.



Happy Mother's Day, love Sheila May Hannah.



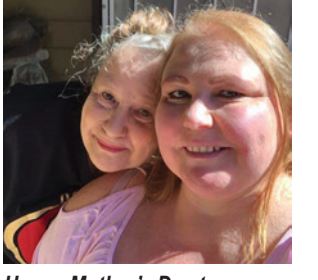
Happy Mother's Day, love Taylor.



Happy Mother's Day, love Donna Madden, mother of four.



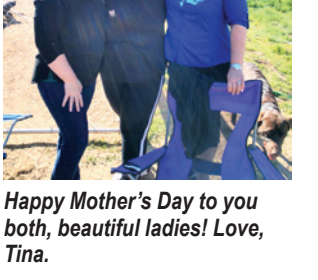
Happy Mother's Day from all ur babies.



Happy Mother's Day to you and your momma. Love, me.



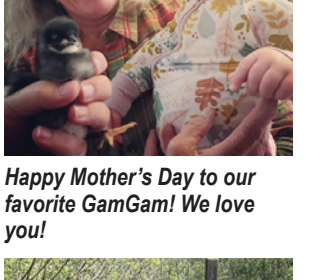
Happy Mother's Day mom! We love you sooooo much!!! Thank you for being such an amazing human! Steven in the back left, Tyler in the back right, Kobi in the front left, and Megan in the front right.



Happy Mother's Day, love Kathleen Sears of Willits and her Mother, Grace Withem.



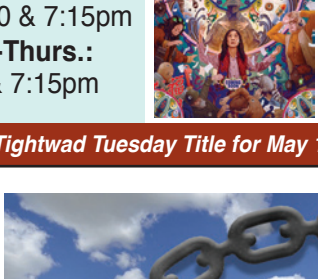
Happy Mother's Day, love Magnolia.



Happy Mother's Day, love My mama, Earlane Polen.



Happy Mother's Day, love Taylor.



Happy Mother's Day, love Taylor.



Happy Mother's Day, love Taylor.

Happy Mother's Day, love Taylor.



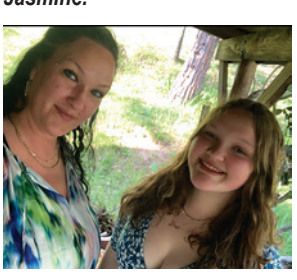
Happy Mother's Day to Mary Lynn Poole, shown here with her daughter Jennifer and baby brother Herbie.



Happy Mother's Day mom! We love you sooooo much!!! Thank you for being such an amazing human! Steven in the back left, Tyler in the back right, Kobi in the front left, and Megan in the front right.



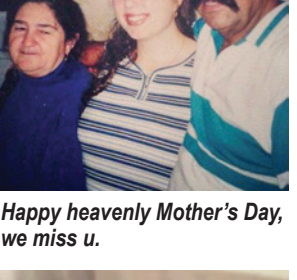
Happy Mother's Day, love Kathleen Sears of Willits and her Mother, Grace Withem.



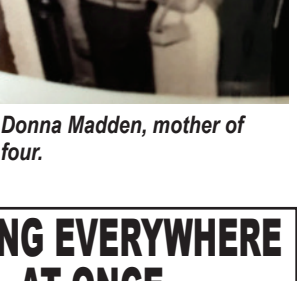
Happy Mother's Day, love Magnolia.



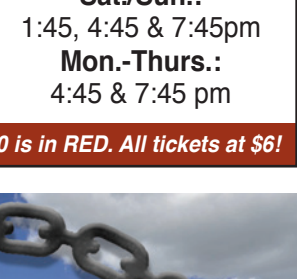
Happy Mother's Day, love My mama, Earlane Polen.



Happy Mother's Day, love Taylor.



Happy Mother's Day, love Taylor.



Happy Mother's Day, love Taylor.



Happy Mother's Day, love Taylor.

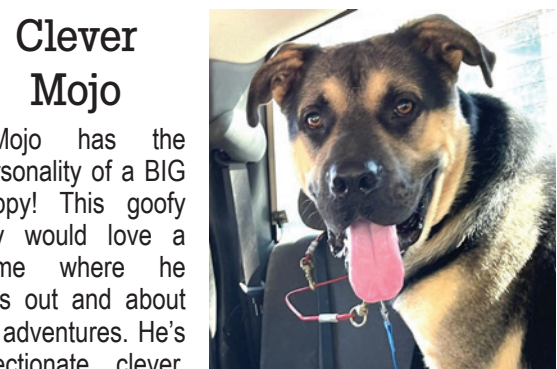
Happy Mother's Day, love Taylor.

**C BROWNS**  
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Pay at the Pump



**Clever Mojo**

Mojo has the personality of a BIG puppy! This goofy boy would love a home where he gets out and about for adventures. He's affectionate, clever, very attentive, a stick-to-you kind of guy. He's great off-leash, never roaming far, coming when called. He is sweet, sensitive, and basically a happy-go-lucky pup. Mojo really wants to please, wants to be loved and love his people, really all people, he is very easy going and accepting, though likely would have some protective qualities in a home if needed, but he is anything but aggressive!



**Sweet Ducky**

Meet the new girl! This is Ducky and she recently lost her way, finding herself at Brutocao Cellars. The nice folks at Brutocao kept her safe until animal control was able to pick her up. The kennel environment at animal control was hard on this soft, scared lady, so we pulled her to give her a change of scene. Ducky is getting used to her new surroundings and already making friends with our team. Ducky warms up quickly and we are already enjoying getting to know her! She is a sweetie and her big ol' puppy-dog eyes are pleading for a family! Who wants to help us give this nice girl a home of her own?

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Great news! We are open back up - no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: [www.mendocinohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendocinohumanesociety.com), our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



**Playful Moe**

Moe came in with his two brothers, and all three are very affectionate and sweet. Moe, a 1-year-old orange tabby cat, is active and likes to run around, but will always come back for food and pets. Moe can get a bit nippy when he's playing, so a home with no young children may suit him best. Moe is available for adoption at Rainbow Ag in Ukiah.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Moe or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendocinoshelter.com](http://www.mendocinoshelter.com).



From far left: Grant Fisher holds a tray of veggies for his mom as she shops at the plant sale. Cucumber starts were ready to head home. Shoppers parked on the road and inside the garden to shop.

Below, left: Friends Danielle Derby and Simone Ryan each selected several starts for their home gardens.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

# Starts head home to local gardens

Commonwealth 'Plant Donate-a-way' a great success with over 1,200 starts handed out to community

"It went really well!" laughed Mellisa Bouley, garden manager of the Commonwealth Garden, located to the west of the Adventist Health Howard Memorial hospital. "We were able to get sell about 1,200 starts during the event on Friday and raise over \$1,000 for new seeds for the garden."

The starts were offered not for sale or give-a-way, but for a small donation during the event on April 29, and the community accepted the invite. Bouley estimated that about 400 gardeners came to select starts, including tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchinis, lettuces, flowers, eggplants and more.

"Everyone was so thankful, happy and generous with their donations," thanked Bouley. "I think it was a really well-received event overall."

This event was held after the employee-only events earlier last month where the local Adventist Health campus employees were each able to take home four of the 750 total starts each; a tomato, a squash, a cucumber and a marigold. The overflow of what was left in the greenhouse was then offered to the rest of the community.

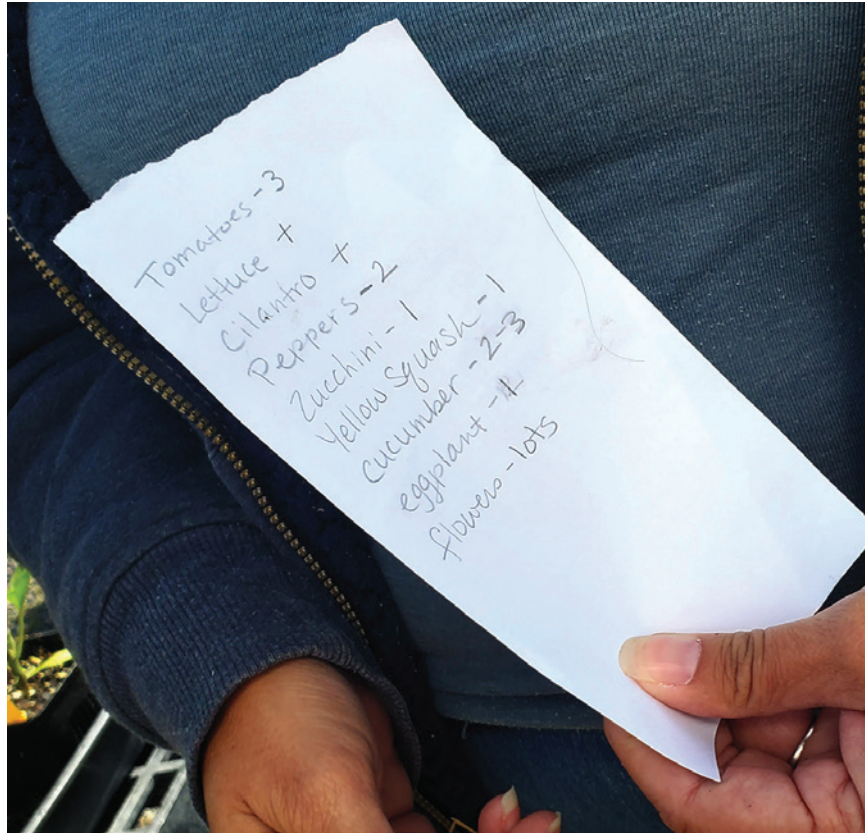
If you missed out on this sale, don't worry; Bouley noted that additional starts will be available once the official Farm Stand opens, hopefully in June.

- Maureen Jennison



At right: Shoppers milled around the tablets set up at the Commonwealth Garden for veggie and flower starts to take home. At far right: Some shoppers even came prepared with a shopping list for their start needs.

Below, from left: Evelyn Fisher smiles for the camera as she heads to the next table of starts. Cookie man and Farm Stand staple, Chris Sisson, was also at the sale with his tasty cookies and bread loaves, too. Tomato starts filled trays.



**CalFresh**

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

707-459-6826

**BUD GARMAN**  
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**ATTENTION**

Willits Unified School District has immediate openings for **Bus Drivers**. The School District will pay for all licensing costs plus 50 hours of training for qualified applicants selected for this opportunity.

Applications available at the Willits Unified School District Office 1277 Blosser Lane (south end of Blosser Lane campus). Contact Mattie Pinon, DMOT Assistant 459-5111 or Trina Cardillo, Human Resources 459-5314, ext. 1102.

## Willits Community Theatre to hold sign-ups for 'Gateway to the Stage' Summer Camp

Submitted by Willits Community Theatre

Sign-ups for the Willits Community Theatre annual summer children's program in theater arts will open on Sunday, May 15. Newly named the "Gateway to the Stage" Summer Camp, the program is open to children ages 6 through high school. Cost for the camp is \$250; and \$125 for each additional sibling.

Producer Jeff Shipp recommends early registration, as the camp traditionally fills quickly and only 30 slots are available. Some scholarships are available and requests for consideration can be submitted on the application form.

Applications will be available online at the Willits Community Theatre website: [www.wctperformingartscenter.org](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org). Full payment for the camp is due at the time of enrollment.

The camp begins on Monday, June 20 and runs through

Sunday, August 7. Camp classes will be held at the Willits High School auditorium, Monday through Thursday from 1 to 4 pm. Shipp says camp attendees will be required to be fully vaccinated by the June 20 start date.

The program includes six weeks of instruction mainly in acting, with classes also available in scenic design, theater sound, and lighting. Rehearsals will culminate in a production of the musical "Annie Jr." Performances of the show will be held at the high school auditorium and run July 29, 30 and 31, and on August 4, 5, 6 and 7.

"Annie, Jr." will be co-directed by Tim Fischer and Robert Ford. Fischer directed the 2021 children's hit "Oz! - The Musical," and Ford directed the popular 2017 production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."



Above: Participants in Willits Community Theatre's 2019 summer camp gather for a group photo with Billy Hetherington.

**Willits Mini Storage** **Willits Giant Yard Sale** **Bring a wagon to carry all the treasure you will find! Over 20 units participating.**

261 Franklin Ave.

**June 18th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Roofing applications available to fit any roofing need.**

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Serving areas of Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties

**BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
TK-Kindergarten Registration Now Open

To pre-register go to [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.com)  
Para registrar a su estudiante ve a [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.com)

Kindergarten - age 5 by September 1, 2022  
Transitional Kindergarten - age 5 between Sept. 2 and Feb. 2, 2023  
Kinder - 5 años antes de Septiembre 1, 2022  
Tráncion de Kinder - 5 años en medio de Septiembre 2 a Febrero 2, 2023

Once you have completed the online registration, please bring the following documents to Brookside:

- Birth Certificate
- Certificado de nacimiento
- Immunization records
- Registros de inmunización (vacunas)

If you have any questions please call the Brookside office at (707) 459-5385 or visit our Website at [www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside](http://www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside)

Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame a la oficina de Brookside al (707) 459-5385 or visite nuestro sitio web [www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside](http://www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside)

Free bean dip  
Enchiladas  
Fajitas  
and much more!

Specials for the day!

COME CELEBRATE **CINCO DE MAYO** \$4 draft beers

ON THURSDAY, MAY 5

166 S. MAIN ST. WILLITS, CA (707) 459-5702

Restaurant El Mexicano

MONDAY - SATURDAY: 10 AM - 8:30 PM

RE-ELECT **HASCHAK** FOR SUPERVISOR

Building stronger communities together means safer communities. I am proud to be endorsed by:

- ✓ Sheriff Matt Kendall
- ✓ Former Sheriff Tom Allman
- ✓ Former Chief of Police Gerry Gonzalez
- ✓ Former Long Valley Fire Chief Sue Carberry
- ✓ Coordinator of Mendocino Auxiliary Communications Service Mike Carter
- ✓ And many other community leaders

Sheriff Kendall: "Supervisor Haschak represents his district with backbone. John supports public safety with a common sense approach."

Former Long Valley Fire Chief Sue Carberry: "John has been visible and responsive to our communities and its issues. Most significantly he understands our county's crisis for adequate ambulance services and is working with us towards solutions."

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Haschak for Supervisor 2022, FPFC# 1442639



At far left: Some attendees at Friday's campaign event in City Park, with Supervisor John Haschak in the rear, with his wife, Janice Haschak in front. At left: Willits City Council member Madge Strong, right, borrowed a corner of SEIU field rep Patrick Hickey's table, left, to petition for the new Citizens Initiative for the Library, which advocates hope to pass in November 2022, to continue and expand Measure A. Below, left: Supporters of the Service Employees International Union, from left, bargaining team member Beverly Galten, union organizer Cesar Alvarado, and member Consuelo Rocha. Below, right: Campaign supporters, from left, Ellen Drell, Jane McCabe and Dickey Weinkle.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

# Politics in the Park

## Re-Elect John Haschak for Supervisor kicks off 2022 campaign

Supporters of the Re-Elect John Haschak for Supervisor campaign gathered at City Park Friday afternoon, to sign endorsement letters, pick up campaign signs, volunteer to phone bank or walk precincts, and to applaud a brief speech by their candidate.

Jennifer Poole, Editor & Reporter, willitsweekly@gmail.com

"This is the first day in two years I haven't wished for rain," Third District Supervisor John Haschak said, smiling, as he started his speech, after being introduced by his wife, Janice Haschak.

He reminded listeners that when he ran for supervisor in 2018, he promised not to take the entire 40 percent raise the board had just given themselves in December 2017. "Unless everyone is getting a 40 percent raise, you don't give the top people a 40 percent raise," Haschak said at a campaign event in Willits in May 2018.

After his election, the supervisor worked with the Community Foundation to set up scholarships for students in Willits, Laytonville and Covelo. "That's added up to \$28,000 in scholarships," he told supporters at Friday's rally.

Haschak also talked about what he described as "one of the beauties" of the 2018 campaign, that "it brought people in from all parts of the spectrum." He praised all the county workers "who've kept it together" during the pandemic and all first responders, firefighters and law enforcement — "they all really want to keep our communities safe."

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



Below: Shannon and Tom Mann of Brickhouse Coffee with some of the baked goodies they gave out. At right: Supervisor John Haschak's campaign slogan: "Building Better Communities Together." At right, below: Supervisor Haschak with supporter Jennifer Sookne of Willits.



### OBITUARY |

## Danny Cobb

On Sunday, April 17, 2022 Danny Floyd Cobb, loving husband and father, passed away at the age of 65.

Danny was born November 7, 1956 to James S. Cobb and Betty R. Crowell.

Danny loved gold mining and camping. He liked wood carving and riding his four-wheeler. He especially loved spending time with his grandkids and family. He was an avid gardener.

Danny is preceded in death by his father, James, and mother, Betty; and brothers Tommy and David Cobb.

Danny is survived by his wife, Brenda Cobb; daughter Kassi Cobb and son-in-law Gary Laferty; grandchildren Kayleigh, Damien and Kiera Laferty; sister Brenda Martin; and brothers Tony Cobb and Curt Bantz.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

## 'Everything Everywhere All at Once'

**The Story:** Science fiction fantasy love story/family drama. Evelyn (Michelle Yeoh) is married, owns a laundromat, works all the time. She has escapist romantic fantasies. She believes her husband Waymond (Jonathan Ke Quan) is ineffectual, maybe weak; she wants a divorce. And, not that she minds in her heart, but her daughter Joy (Stephanie Hsu) is a lesbian, aka (to Evelyn) a disappointment.



Dan Essman Columnist

Now it's tax time. The tax auditor (Jamie Lee Curtis) questions her deductions, but Evelyn is daydreaming. Another world from a parallel "multiverse" crashes into hers. Everybody around her changes.

And Evelyn changes as well, apparently in an infinite number of ways: her age, her outfits, her skills, her emotions, hairstyles — and then gangster assassins show up to kill her. She kills some of them. Evelyn is chill and very kung fu, strong and focused, but also she is tender, even weepy and emotionally lost. She represents the "Everything" in this flick. Hectic movie? Yeah, it's hectic.

**My Thoughts:** Lead actress Michelle Yeoh owns this flick. She's brilliant. Evelyn fights a relentless nemesis, and at the same time Evelyn's kung fu saves the multiverse. All very noisy and colorful. But the science-y parallel dimensions stuff conceals the main drama, which is Evelyn's struggle to come to terms with her family problems. And (spoiler), she does. Rotten Tomatoes is 97% positive. People like the movie. It has a happy ending. Me? I love Michelle Yeoh.

**Parents:** Not a kid's movie. The flick, justifiably, has an R rating. That sounds right.

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



## LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

### Current Job Openings:

Accountant-Auditor I/II- Confidential  
Air Quality Management District Administrative Coordinator  
Assistant Auditor-Controller  
Building Inspector I/II/III  
Building Maintenance Mechanic II  
Chief Planner  
Chief Planner - Cannabis Program  
Cook  
Corrections Deputy  
Deputy District Attorney I/II/III  
Deputy Probation Officer II  
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II  
Eligibility Specialist I/II/III  
Employment and Training Worker I/II  
Environmental Health Specialist I/II  
Grounds Maintenance Technician II  
Juvenile Corrections Officer Extra-Help  
Library Assistant  
Museum Technician - Extra Help  
Public Health Nurse  
Registered Nurse  
Senior Program Manager - Nursing  
Senior Public Health Nurse  
Staff Assistant III  
Staff Services Administrator  
Supervising Health Program Coordinator  
Supervising Public Health Nurse

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca)  
EOE

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Brookside Registration Open**  
Brookside TK / Kindergarten registration now open. To register go to [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.com). Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2022; TK: age 5 between Sept. 2, 2022 and Feb. 2, 2023.

**Computer Help**  
Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email [uicarbhall@gmail.com](mailto:uicarbhall@gmail.com)

**'Experience The Sound of Soul'**  
Wednesday, May 18, 6 to 7 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 E. Commercial Street. Welcome to the worlds of HU (pronounced "hue"), an ancient, universal name for God. This sacred word can spiritually uplift people of any religion, culture, or walk of life. It is freely given - a gift beyond measure. Love is Love. And you are that. HU is the Sound of Soul. Information? Call April, 707-972-2475 or visit [www.TheSoundofSoul.org](http://www.TheSoundofSoul.org)

**Horse Pasture for Rent**  
Horse Pasture for rent, \$150 / month. Also, free horse manure and free large bird cage. Call Bobbie: 707-459-9228.

**John Ford Ranch Beef**  
John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$325.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$150.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian at 459-5049.

**For Rent**  
HOUSE 8 miles outside of Willits, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 car garage, private entry, locked gate. \$1,800.00 per month. Call 1-707-354-4395

**Indoor Yard Sale**  
Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Lya Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, May 7** from 8 am to 4 pm.

**Poetry for Sale**  
The Recrudescence of the Supernal by Mike A'Dair. Poems of political despair, Christian contemplation, meditation on the Great Pyramid of Giza. \$10 at Book Juggler.

**For Rent**  
Property for Rent: Shimmins Ridge, 30 acres, 24' x 30' outbuilding, Kitchen Area, Bathroom, Water, Septic, RV hookup, \$2,600 monthly. Credit Check required; best results. Text 707-841-1670. Appointment only.

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

**Help Wanted**  
Food Bank General Associate: Part time position joining a compassionate and efficient team to deliver food and services. Kindness is essential. COVID vaccinations and booster and negative test, masks and monthly home tests are required. We provide tests. General office skills necessary. Assist in warehouse handling food, work directly with hungry and food insecure people in a COVID protected area, support executive director in a variety of tasks. Apply or drop resume in Willits Food Bank mailbox at 229 East San Francisco Street or call 707 459-3333 or 707 354-3960.

**Classified ads are \$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!**  
Add yours today:  
[willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

**EARN ENTRIES DAILY NOW THRU JUNE 26**  
200 points = 1 entry

**HONDA PIONEER DELUXE GIVEAWAY**

**PRIZE DRAWINGS SUNDAY JUNE 26 AFTER 10PM**

1st Place - 2021 Honda Pioneer Deluxe  
2nd Place - \$1,000 Free Play  
3rd Place - \$750 Free Play  
4th Place - \$500 Free Play

**3X ENTRIES ON MONDAYS + 10 BONUS ENTRIES for Hot Seat winners on weekends**

For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club.

**FRIDAY NIGHT FUN 7 - 10PM**  
Earn entries starting at 5pm  
2 hourly winners choose **\$150 FREE PLAY OR \$100 CASH**

**STASH OR CASH**

**SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO**  
[www.svrcasino.com](http://www.svrcasino.com)

For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

**The Electric Floral Shop**  
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BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.

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

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WILLITS CROSSWORD

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## Grateful Gleaners Annual Plant Sale

Along with our wide selection of plants that include heritage varieties of vegetables, fruits, flowers and herbs, this year's sale will feature:

- Vendors of medicinal herbs, grape stocks, and heirloom seeds
- Golden Rule Gardens CSA with subscription sign-ups
- Plant experts with information on wise water use
- Garden art for visitors to enjoy and purchase
- Tours of nearby neighborhood gardens

**Sunday, May 15**  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

From Willits Main St, turn onto East Valley at the Post Office, then left onto Humboldt Street. Follow the plant sale sign to 130 Tuttle Lane.

# Planting Time

### Vegetable starts, medicinal plants, yard art, tour of beneficial weeds of Willits, and more at Grateful Gleaners' annual sale

#### Submitted by Grateful Gleaners of Willits

The Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale is right around the corner, on Sunday, May 15 from 10 am to 3 pm. Once again, Tuttle Lane will be teeming with plants, including annual vegetables, pollinator-attracting flowers, drought-tolerant perennials, and more. Keeping the drought in mind, information will be available about strategies for reducing water use in the garden.

Yard art will be available for sale; a wonderful way to beautify your landscape without using any water. Proceeds from the plant sale are distributed as small grants to local farmers, reflecting the Gleaners' commitment to increasing local food security in the Willits valley.

There are many collaborators joining in the fun at the plant sale this year. The Mendocino Herb Guild will have a wide variety of medicinal plants for sale. Richard Tootreese Jeske is bringing selections from his extensive collection of table-grape varieties. Quail Seeds will present their plethora of seed packets, all heirloom and open-sourced.

Golden Rule Gardens CSA will be selling flowers to benefit the Gleaners, and they'll have information about their local food offerings for this summer. Morgan Rex, owner of Art in the Plaza, will have lively wind chimes, mobiles, and fountains.

Last, but not least, Donna d'Terra will provide medicinal plants and information about the upcoming Garden Tour series. The premier event of the Garden Tours is a plant walk, led by well-versed herbalist Beth Riedel. The 45-minute walk will leave from the plant sale at 11 am and 12:30 pm to explore beneficial weeds and plants in the yards of Willits.

The Grateful Gleaners has been the largest and most-sustained gleaning effort in Mendocino County in recent times. Gleaner volunteers harvest fruit, vegetables and nuts that would otherwise have gone to waste, and distribute the food to local agencies and schools. The group recruits new volunteers and team leaders at the plant sale and are always eager to hear about new growers with orchards or gardens that will need to be harvested in the coming months. For more information, contact the Gleaners at 707-367-7391 or gratefulgleanersofwillits@gmail.com.

Come celebrate spring and support a strong local food economy at the Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale on Sunday, May 15. Look for directional signs near the Willits Post Office, pointing toward 130 Tuttle Lane. In case of rain, the sale will be postponed one week.

## WILLITS SOBER GRAD

### Tournament

**SATURDAY, MAY 14TH AT 4:00 PM**

**OLD REXALL PARKING LOT**

\$150 per team - double elimination bracket  
entry includes one pizza per team from Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza

**TEXT (707)671-6173 TO ENTER YOUR TEAM**

Thank You to Our Sponsors

## Danielle Barry

2022 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Contestant

### 2022 Schedule of Events

<p><b>FRIDAY, JUNE 17</b> HOMETOWN CELEBRATION Main Street Downtown Willits   5 to 9 pm</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, JUNE 24</b> TRUCK &amp; TRACTOR PULLS Jack Sharp Arena   6 pm Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10 FOLLOWING RODEO   FREE</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, JUNE 25</b> SWEETHEART JUDGING Appearance &amp; Pose Noon   Rodeo Grounds</p>	<p><b>WED. JRS. BARRELS &amp; POLES</b> Kick off series event 1 pm   Jack Sharp Arena</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, JUNE 26</b> HORSESHOW Jack Sharp Arena   8 am</p> <p><b>SWEETHEART JUDGING</b> Horsemanship During Horse Show   Jack Sharp Arena</p> <p><b>NATIONAL ANTHEM</b> Rodeo Grounds   Noon</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29</b> CARNIVAL OPENS! featuring Lance Michael Cornwall Band   Following rodeo   Free</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, JULY 1</b> SWEETHEART CROWNED</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, JULY 2</b> JUNIOR RODEO Jack Sharp Arena   1 pm Adult: \$10, Child (2 and under): free</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, JULY 3</b> LIONS COWBOY BREAKFAST Rec Grove Park   7 am Adult: \$12, Child \$8 CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO 7 pm   Jack Sharp Arena Box: \$25, Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10</p> <p><b>WESTERN DANCE</b> featuring Lance Michael Cornwall Band   Following rodeo   Free</p>	<p><b>MONDAY, JULY 4</b> HORSESHOE CONTEST Rec Grove Park   10 am PARADE "Western Heritage" Main Street Downtown Willits   11 am</p> <p><b>COUNTRY MUSIC RODEOLA</b> Rec Grove Park   Noon</p> <p><b>BEEF BARBECUE</b> Rec Grove Park   Noon Adult: \$20 &amp; Child/Senior: \$12 CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO Jack Sharp Arena   4 pm Box: \$25, Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10</p>
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Call for Tickets: 707-272-1340

*Above, from left: At last year's plant sale, artist Morgan Rex, who owns the gallery Art in the Plaza, is seen in the background making more of his metal inventory for the sale; Rex will be back again this year, selling wind chimes, mobiles, and fountains. At the Grateful Gleaners' Plant Sale last year, happy gardeners Rose Bird and Cliff Gossett find plants that they're ready to put in the ground. Watering the plants during last year's sale is Kimball Dodge, one of the Gleaner founders and volunteers.*

*At left: Martin Rodriguez, owner of Ace Copy in Willits, attends the Gleaners' plant sale last year and finds just the right small flower to plant in front of his business.*

Photos by Ree Slocum

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### Museum programs in May

The Mendocino County Museum in Willits welcomes the public to join us for special programs and events during the month of May.

**May 7 and 8, 12 to 4 pm: All About Mom** – This Mother's Day weekend create an oral history that celebrates the mom(s) or mother figures in your life. An "All about Mom" keepsake template will be provided. Bring your family and document your mom's history.

**May 11, 5:30 pm via Zoom: MCM Book Group** – Join us as we delve into this fascinating title, "A Mendocino Mystery" by Mary Cesario Weaver. Our book club meetings begin and end with a round of Mendocino County literary and historic trivia!

**May 14, 1 to 2 pm: Reception for Community Folk Art Challenge** – Visit and view creative sculptures made by community members using repurposed materials. This pop-up community art exhibit will be on display in the Interactive Room through the end of May.

**May 18, 2 to 4 pm: International Museum Day** – Celebrate International Museum Day & Bike Month with us! Stop by and spin the bicycle wheel to make your own splash art. This year's Museum Day poster is sure to inspire you. Pick up your own poster to color and enjoy.

**May 29, 12 to 2 pm: Poppies in the Park** – Visit the Mendocino County Museum table at the Memorial Day Car Show in Recreation Grove. Take home a poppy to honor the sacrifice of those who died in wartime service.

**May 29: "Wonacott: the Photographer in Your Town"** exhibit closes – This will be the last day to view the exhibit in person. The exhibit will remain available in our database and on our website.

Learn more about the Mendocino County Museum and view our full program calendar at [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum). For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Museum at 707-459-2736 or [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org).

### The rest of Shred | From page 2

Times are 9 to 11 am for the following dates and locations.

**Lakeport:** May 5, 2022 at Savings Bank, 290 South Main Street

**Fort Bragg:** May 13, 2022 at Sport Chrysler Jeep Dodge, 200 Chestnut Street

**Ukiah:** May 20, 2022 at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds parking lot, 1055 North State Street

**Willits:** May 26, 2022 in the parking lot behind Savings Bank on Humboldt Street.

Hours and number of customers accommodated may be limited to truck capacity.

Identity theft is a serious crime that can wreak havoc with your finances, credit history, reputation, and can take time, money, and patience to resolve. Shredding confidential financial documents and paperwork is one way to deter criminals from stealing personal information.

Savings Bank also encourages customers to protect their identity by switching from paper account statements to eStatements. With eStatements, customers reduce the risk of confidential account information getting into the wrong hands through tampering of mail or paper records that are stored at home.

Savings Bank representatives will be available at the shred events to supply information about preventing identity theft and what to do if your identity is stolen.

### The rest of Haschak | From page 8

"I'm proudest of the FirCo Road project," Haschak said, referring to the work done, including a vegetation removal project by CalFire, to establish FirCo Road in Brooktrails as an emergency access route to Brooktrails and the subdivisions above. As with the Oak Fire in September 2020, FirCo road allows emergency responders to access Brooktrails from their staging area at the old Louisiana-Pacific mill north of town, leaving Sherwood Road clear for evacuating residents.

Haschak sees his work as "getting a county government that really functions for the people," citing his own town halls and monthly updates as ways of communicating with his constituents. But he acknowledged "a lot more work" needs to be done to improve the "efficiency of county government."

"There's 40 days until the election," Haschak said, concluding to a round of applause, "and we've got a lot of work to do." He invited supporters to make a few phone calls, walk some precincts, make a donation, or "tell a friend at the grocery store" to remember to vote in the June 7 election.

"John actually believes in representative government," supporter David Drell of the Willits Environmental Center told the crowd. "He connects with the people – that's unique."

"Don't take the election for granted," said campaign worker Perri Kaller. "It's a midterm election, it's going to take some noise and it will take a lot of work."

Supervisor Haschak listed some of his endorsers when asked Friday, including Sheriff Matt Kendall; former sheriff Tom Allman; Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez and Willits City Council members Madge Strong and Gerry Gonzalez; "all five Brooktrails board members," including Ed Horrick, Tony Orth, Ralph Santos, Tina Tyler-O'Shea and Rick Williams; Charles Sargenti, chair of the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council; Round Valley Librarian Pat Sobrero and rancher and former director of CalFire Richard Wilson of Covelo; Jim Shields, publisher of the Mendocino County Observer and member of the Laytonville Municipal Advisory Commission, and Jayma Shields of Laytonville Healthy Start; Sue Carberry, former Laytonville police chief; and Cahto Tribal Chair Mary Norris, of Laytonville.

Haschak is also endorsed by the county workers' union, Service Employees International Union 1021, California's caregivers union SEIU 2015; the North Bay Labor Council; the Inland Mendocino Democratic Club; and the Mendocino County Democratic Party.

### The rest of Disputes | From page 1

Recreation and Conservation Committee, provided a report, including pictures, detailing the trail work that the group has completed. They have had multiple trail work days and have performed a total of 149 volunteer hours of work on the trails in 2022.

Alaniz also read a letter from Angela Scarberry, who's had an ongoing water usage dispute. The letter stated that the water shut-off had resulted in her being unable to attend the April 12 meeting where her case had been addressed by the board due to the fact that her 16-year-old daughter was ill with COVID and that her daughter's condition was made worse because they did not have running water for her to wash her hands, etc. The letter further stated that "her husband had a laceration on his knee that became infected with a life-threatening infection due to his disabilities and not having water to properly treat and clean his wound."

The Scarberrys came before the board later in the meeting, and it was hoped that their situation might be resolved before the next May 10 board meeting. If not, their concern will be on the agenda for that meeting.

Brooktrails resident Roger Patereau again appeared before the board to protest the outcome of his water usage dispute. He did not attend the last board meeting on April 12 where the board addressed the issue and recommended that the 60-day past-due amount on the account be paid to avoid disconnection.

He said that he'd not attended the April 12 meeting because he'd not been notified of the meeting. Counsel Neary and board President Rick Williams told Patereau that he should appear at the next board meeting on May 10 to appeal the board's decision.

Director Tony Orth, who was attending the meeting via Zoom, emphatically said, "The next board meeting is at 7 pm on May 10th."

Next, Brooktrails Water Department customer Dante Woolfolk walked to the podium and said: "I'm just here to pay my bill and get my services reinstated. I've had my water disconnected, and I've had no adequate reason why my water's been disconnected. Even when I've tried to make payments they're not receiving and accepting my money. I've had my money in full, and they still will not accept it and I just would like to get my water back on."

Counsel Neary said: "This is the gentleman who has threatened litigation against the district. The board doesn't accept payments. He may pay his bill at the office or online." Speaking to Woolfolk he said, "We will communicate with you through your lawyer."

Woolfolk responded by saying that his mother had gone to the office to make a payment on the water bill (the total of which was \$1,700) and the partial payment was accepted, and she'd received assurance that the water would be turned back on. But, the next day the water was again turned off, and he'd received no adequate explanation why this had happened.

Elizabeth (no last name provided) then walked to the podium and said: "I'm an active member of the Mendocino County farming community, and I'm here to support Dante and his quest to get his water turned on...."

"The first thing that I'd like to make clear is that there is no pending litigation," she said. "Dante's lawyers have made it very clear that they are not suing and not trying to escalate. They are trying to get a family's water turned back on. That seems so basic."

"Dante is a low-income farmer who deserves his community's support. As a member of the farming community I would like to see Brooktrails Township support Dante."

### The rest of Agenda | From page 1

last week, and brought Solid Wastes of Willits owner Jerry Ward to the city council to request a small mid-year increase in the combined garbage, recycling and yard waste fee.

"I can't afford nor do they have electric trucks available, maybe down the road, maybe I'll live long enough I'll see them, but for now we are dependent upon fuel," Ward said. And it's been going up and up and up, along with the cost of truck tires, repair parts and the general cost of living.

The council voted unanimously to grant Solid Wastes a 1.62% increase in monthly fees, which for most residential customers will increase monthly bills by 47 cents. Ward said that if fuel prices drop between now and his regularly scheduled price negotiations in November, garbage fees could go down again. No one heard the collective "ha ha" over possible lower fees for garbage pickup (or for anything else). But no one complained about the excellent service that Solid Waste consistently provides to Willits.

**People always talk about the weather,** and if you're in Willits, about water – and wells and water trucks and illegal marijuana. The city-owned Park well next to the rodeo grounds – ground zero for local residents' anger and frustration over water usage – was on the council agenda once again, as the city administration and the city council continued their struggle to regulate use of the well.

The latest proposal from the city was to reduce hours that water trucks can fill up, to improve drainage and landscaping, and to consider a not-yet-determined increase in fees. Some city council members wanted more rules and restrictions.

Council member Madge Strong wanted the proposed hours (no water trucks 4:30 to 8 pm Monday through Friday, and 8 am to 3 pm on Saturdays) to include an all-night prohibition on operations. City engineers pointed out that there is occasional nighttime construction that would require water from the well. After an interminable amount of back and forth – and even some vocalized irritation – the council finally agreed on a 1 to 4 am shutdown.

Council member Greta Kanne wanted a cap on the amount of water sold during the year, which reached an

Dave Henson from Occidental, Sonoma County then stepped to the podium and introduced himself. He said: "I'm active in our Resource Conservation District and our Community Services District and I run a farm. Dante and I share a passion for growing rare fruits."

Henson also stated that there was no litigation threatened, that Woolfolk just wanted to pay his bill and had been thwarted in his attempts to do so, and he finished with: "What's a man to do? I came up here to support Dante."

Henson was followed by Dorian Payan, who identified himself as an attorney from Oakland who works in support of farmers. He echoed the concerns of the preceding speakers and asked about the payment procedure.

In response board president Williams said: "Payments are received at the office. You knock on the office door. It is then opened, and you can enter and pay your bill at that time. This is the public comment period. The board can only take action with respect to agendized items."

Director Ralph Santos shared how simple it was to handle a water bill by placing payments in the drop box outside the Brooktrails office.

Another farmer, Katherine Flink of Willits, and a participant in the local farmers market, also spoke in support of Woolfolk.

Then Zoom participant Kelsey Hinton also spoke on Woolfolk's behalf, saying: "He has been without water for 35 days. He cannot function without water. Please accept his payment."

Woolfolk's attorney Janaki Anagha, with the Community Water Center, said: "Mr. Woolfolk has money in his pocket, \$300 at this time, and can make a payment now." She went on to state that it could have been a possibility for Woolfolk as an indigent farmer to have qualified for the California Water Board's Wastewater Arrearage Program. But the main concern was to get his water reconnected and to check into setting up a payment plan.

Brooktrails attorney Neary responded and informed attorney Anagha about how to establish and set up a payment plan with the water department. He said, "We've [Brooktrails] had payment plan programs set up for over 30 years for individual customers. We've never had problems with people enrolling in payment plans. What's occurred here is a disconnect [in communication], and all that was needed was for Mr. Woolfolk's attorney, or Mr. Woolfolk himself, to contact the water department to set up a payment plan. And, that information was included in the letter that Mr. Woolfolk received from me 10 days ago."

Anagha said, "I don't think anyone here is interested in hearing backward-looking arguments regarding what has happened. This conversation between us now is the beginning of establishing a payment plan and enrolling Mr. Woolfolk in a payment plan. That's beautiful, Thank you."

Additionally, appearing via Zoom in support of Woolfolk were: Ryan Jensen, also with the Community Water Center, who asked about the payment plan and highlighted the urgency of the situation; Sarah Aird from San Francisco, a member of the nonprofit coalition community for agrilogic; Eli Tizzareno from Los Angeles; Christel Yokutslund, strategist with the California Institute for Rural Studies; Li Schmidt, a small-scale farmer from Davis; and Rasheed Hislop, with the Community Alliance of Community Farmers from Madera near Fresno. All were eloquent in reiterating the comments of the previous speakers regarding Woolfolk's situation.

Finally, back to business as usual, the board voted unanimously to approve the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$80,381.85.

astounding 8 million gallons last year, three times the total of 2.6 million gallons residents and businesses in the City of Willits use annually.

City Public Works director Scott Herman told the council that water sales this year are down significantly and are continuing a downward trend. The rest of the council did not go along with Kanne's proposal.

All of the council members agreed with a request from Mayor Rodriguez to add a requirement that water truck drivers notify purchasers that the water is not potable (although no one asked for a requirement to warn purchasers that the well's water is highly contaminated with arsenic).

Rodriguez also wanted an additional requirement that water was not to be sold for illegal uses, primarily marijuana. Rodriguez said she has heard from numerous community members who don't want the city to sell water to black market operators. After a caution from city attorney Jim Lance that this would be a difficult regulation to enforce, the council rejected Rodriguez's proposal.

In the end, no one seemed totally happy with the hammered-out version of regulations for the well, but it passed by a 3-2 vote, with Rodriguez and Kanne dissenting. Rodriguez, ever the diplomat, stated: "It's a good first step, but several issues are not resolved. Hopefully we'll have a step two."

**May 11-17 is National Police Memorial Week,** and Willits Police Chief Fabian Lizarraga read a city proclamation honoring the 23,000 law enforcement officers in the United States who lost their lives in the line of duty since the first U.S. police death in 1786. Sheriff Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield County, Virginia, 53 years old and a veteran of the Revolutionary War, died when he was thrown from his horse. He was collecting taxes.

**Stay tuned for more.** Willits will be getting an ADA-accessible walking and bicycling trail along the railroad tracks from East Commercial Street to East Hill Road. More about the \$6 million Willits Rail Trail Project in next week's Willits Weekly. *Don't touch that dial.*

# Prospective new owner of Palace Hotel introduced to Ukiah City Council

Submitted by City of Ukiah

After decades of frustration and disappointment over lack of progress with the Palace Hotel, the Ukiah City Council found renewed hope on April 20 when they met the prospective buyer of the neglected property.

Minal Shankar, Ukiah Valley resident, has entered into a purchase agreement for the expansive structure, starting a nine-month escrow during which additional due diligence will be performed. If that hurdle is cleared, Shankar says: "I see the first floor of the Palace as an open, airy marketplace with an atrium in the middle. It will have eateries, bars, and retail shops that invite people into the larger downtown area. I would love to see the second and third floors renovated back to a hotel that is reminiscent of its former glory."

Shankar brings extensive experience to the project. She is a former investment banker and venture capitalist, has built a successful finance company from scratch, and has experience with a variety of capital sources – equity, debt, and government funds. For the planning, building, and operating, Shankar will pull from her network "to bring on a group of individuals and companies that have the professional experience to see this through." That network includes hospitality, historic renovation, and additional financial expertise.

As part of the planning and due diligence, Shankar intends to partner with the Historical Society of Mendocino to collect as many of the currently undocumented stories that people have about their personal experiences in the Palace as possible, as those will help inform the plans and designs for its future.

"I think this is the right time and place for a project like this," says Shankar, citing hospitality industry trends in boutique hotels, small towns, and local foods and produce. "Making the Palace a success is about so much more than that half a city block; it's about showcasing and building on everything that Mendocino County has to offer."

Shankar acknowledges the challenges, not just of the building itself, but also of the turbulent financial times and of labor and materials shortages and delays. In spite of those things, she says, "I am optimistic about the future and this community, which is why I am so passionate about this project." She hopes to provide additional updates to the Ukiah City Council during the escrow process.

## History

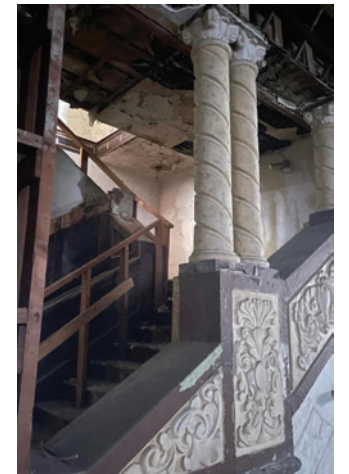
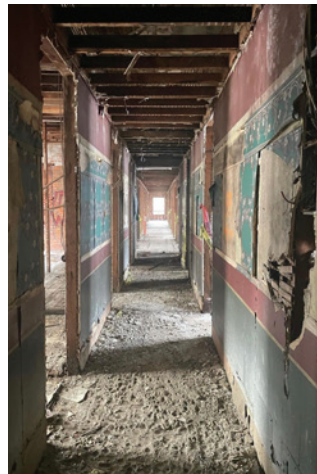
The Palace Hotel has been vacant and unmaintained since 1995. The building has always been privately owned, thus complicating the abatement process. Over the last three decades, the City of Ukiah has actively worked to encourage improvements of the nearly 60,000-square-foot structure. Various studies, evaluations, and an appraisal were commissioned by the city and / or the Redevelopment Agency in an effort to facilitate repairs. City staff, local business owners, and even a community group called "Friends of the Palace Hotel" attempted to work with previous owners to restore the hotel.

In 2011, the city building official and fire marshal inspected the building and determined that the property constituted a public nuisance. The property owner reluctantly made some minor improvements after that, but ultimately stalled in her efforts. In 2015, the city asked the courts – and was granted in 2017 – to appoint a receiver to the project.

Again, some progress was made, but then stalled again in 2018 when the receiver deemed the project financially infeasible. The property defaulted, falling into the hands of Twin Investments, LLC, with the receivership still in place. There had been little to no activity since that transaction.

If the current purchase agreement closes successfully and other terms of the settlement agreement are reached, the receiver will be released from the project.

*At right: Semblances of the glamour that Ukiah's Palace Hotel used to possess can be seen in the photos of the building's current state: ornate plaster work and columns, a large brick fireplace, a solid wood bar, and peeling Art Deco wallpaper. At right, close: Minal Shankar of Ukiah is the prospective buyer of Ukiah's Palace Hotel. If the deal goes through, Shankar has plans to renovate the historic hotel to its "former glory."*



Photos courtesy of Ukiah Main Street Program



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