

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 521

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Howard Foundation donates land to MCHC

Submitted by MCHC

In line with its mission to support programs that improve healthcare for the community of Willits and northern Mendocino County, the Frank R. Howard Foundation recently donated the old hospital property at 1 Madrone Street to MCHC Health Centers.

Foundation Executive Director Arnie Mello explained that once the hospital moved from 1 Madrone Street to its new facility at 1 Marcela Drive in 2015, the Foundation

Read the rest of **MCHC**

Over on Page 13

Beginner 'bike park' sought for Brooktrails

Submitted by Willits Area Cyclists

The Brooktrails Greenbelt is home to many great trails. We are very lucky to have so much public open space so close to home. That being said, besides the Nutmeg (Par Course) Loop, there are not many trails that are approachable for beginner cyclists and hikers.

Like the roads around here, most of the trails are pretty steep, and the fitness required can be a huge barrier to people getting out and enjoying themselves in the Greenbelt. Willits Area Cyclists wants to make biking a reality for the kids

Read the rest of **Bikes**

Over on Page 13

'Molotov Cocktail' defendant found guilty

Posted by Mendocino County DA

A Mendocino County Superior Court jury returned from its efficient deliberations (lasting just one hour) late on Tuesday afternoon, October 3, to announce it had found the trial defendant guilty across the board of four felonies.

Defendant Derek Brendan Cleek, 45, of Willits, was found guilty by jury verdict of being a convicted felon in unlawful possession of a shotgun, being a convicted felon in unlawful possession of 700 rounds of ammunition, being in malicious possession of three destructive devices ("Molotov cocktails") in a private residence [in

Read the rest of **Guilty**

Over on Page 11



Above, from left: Norah Henckell receives a henna tattoo from Hilary Kocher of Henna by Hilary at last Saturday's Harvest Moon hometown event. Evan Shoulders of Sherwood Casino smiles with one of the posters hanging downtown inviting all to come to the Harvest Fest at the casino this Saturday, October 7. Kevin Kvasnicka buys goodies from Julie Muzzy at the Sherwood School booth. Below: Local artisans and shoppers smile together at the Willits Chamber of Commerce's Harvest Moon hometown celebration, including, from left: Karen Gridley, Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, Rosalie Anchordoguy, and Henry Shebitz.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

City awards contract for WFD bathrooms

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits City Council voted 5 to 0 to award a contract to DMR Builders out of Santa Rosa for the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds Bathroom and Concession Stand Repair project. The contract is for an amount not to exceed \$248,848, with a contingency of 10 percent.

City of Willits Building Official Davey Bowles told councilmembers the city received four offers after

Read the rest of **Contract**

Over on Page 13

Brooktrails to get \$45,781 in Measure P funds

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Tuesday, September 26 meeting of the Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board of Directors opened with Director Ralph Santos noting an email that he had recently received from the Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts announcing that the Measure P total tax revenues for the fourth quarter were \$1,240,888.14. Allocations were given to the county, and Brooktrails is set to receive \$45,781.44.

Read the rest of **Brooktrails**

Over on Page 13

Willits woman arrested for ramming fire hydrant

Submitted by Willits Police Department

On Wednesday, September 27, at about 6:40 pm, an off-duty Willits Police Department officer saw an obviously recently vandalized truck in the parking lot of a market at 180 North Main Street in Willits. Witnesses told the officer that they saw a man and woman in a heated argument around the vehicle just prior to his arrival, although the two were no longer there.

When an on-duty officer arrived, he was able to identify the involved parties but did not locate them anywhere in the vicinity.

At about 9:44 pm, Read the rest of **Hydrant**

Over on Page 11

Happy at Harvest Moon

Hometown event takes over Main Street for evening of fun, shopping and entertainment in downtown Willits

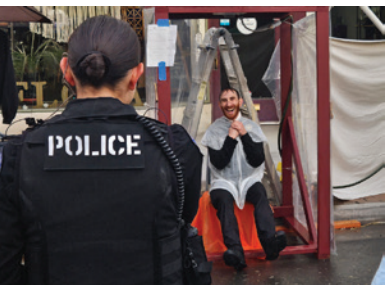
It was a wonderful evening, even with a few sprinkles, which ended in a double rainbow, for the annual Harvest Moon celebration last Saturday in downtown Willits. Main Street was closed to through traffic from East Valley to Commercial Street so the community could shop, eat, visit booths and businesses, and hang out with family and friends at the fall counterpart of the July Hometown Celebration, put on by the Willits Chamber of Commerce.

— Maureen Jennison



Photo by Ashley Roach

Above: Harry and Philip share a special moment, cracking up bigtime in the dunk tank as water splashes down on them.



At top, from left: Tamara Steffen, right, smiles with daughter Kyana, center, and friend, Ryder Elmore. Lou Celaya and Lisa Kvasnicka smile together at the Willits Chamber of Commerce booth. Kiki and Tom Burghardt look festive for a stroll down West Mendocino. Above, from left: Willits Police Officer John Gale awaited an imminent bucket of water on his head from the arm of a kiddo ready for his turn at the dunk tank. Now sopping wet, Officer Gale laughs nervously at Willits Police Officer Jamie Cary who happily posed for a photo with her co-worker. Below: Main Street was closed for the duration of the Saturday afternoon festival so booths and attendees could enjoy free use of the space in the middle of the road.



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

It is with a full and grateful heart that I send out a huge "Thank You!" to the Willits community for making the Harvest Moon Celebration such a success!

This event would not have been possible without our sponsors, including: Adventist Health, Sparetime Supply, Shanachie Pub, Flying Dog Pizza, METALfx, Safeway, and Grocery Outlet.

Special recognition also to Marie Blancas, Fiona and Maya Valley with Moon Lady and Moon Man who contributed financially as well as many, many hours of their time to help organize the event and guide me through my first Harvest Moon Celebration. A shout out is also due to Nicol (Persico) Kunka and Ashley Persico for providing us with hay for the event.

The City of Willits and Little Lake Fire Protection District staff and, of course, the merchants of Willits were wonderful partners sharing in this event! Thank you all!

Susan Mahoney, coordinator, Willits Chamber of Commerce

A moment of gratitude

To the Editor:

Dear Beautiful Angel: The day after I wrote an article entitled "unlocking the heart's truth," ironically, I lost my car keys while on a walk in the park. Searching tirelessly, I mentioned my plight to passing park patrons.

Times like these I try to stay curious to what the universe is showing me in this discomfort, the panic, and insecurities that arise.

I breathe and focus on what little I do have control over and what steps I can take. Thank you friends for your support and resources during this time!

The next day I sat meditating on the grass at the Rec Grove, watching the towering oaks sway. As leaves trickled around in the afternoon sun, you approached me and flourished my car keys in your hand.

I'm still surprised at the miracle that you found me the next day, recognizing me only by my hat, in a different place and time. With the keys you brought the gift of renewed faith in fellow humans, to trust in optimism. To keep believing, keep shining the light even when the darkness of doubt dares its shadowy head.

Keep dreaming big, Willits. Thank you for this beautiful town. In deepest gratitude,

Sonja Marie Burgal, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

Flags and signs have been taken down and stored for next year. Thank you to all our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and trekkers of the Celebration of Life - Trail Trek 2023 Event!

Your participation made this event a success. We had a great turnout of approximately 65 participants including locals from Laytonville to Ukiah, Lake County, Sonoma County, SoCal, Tahoe, and Colorado. We loved seeing our family and friends and making new ones too. We hope that you all and more will join in our Trail Trek next year (walk or run) and that those of you who were out there enjoyed the time to connect with each other and yourselves, however you completed it.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month, and your participation and generosity provided us with approximately \$1,500 available for donation to a charity focusing on Childhood Cancer research or family support. Thank you.

Thank you to North Coast Striders for your support before and during the event (always helps having folks who know what they are doing)! Thank you Sara and Anthony Esserman Melville, Gina Henebury, Debbie (so many delicious snacks and day of - registration) and Dave Bowles (table delivery and early set up prior to start with Davey), Dylan Jones for keeping folks on track and helping pick up bundles of flagging and signs, Kelly Labus, Amber Ojeda (for the beautiful sign too, from Banners & Signs of Ukiah), and Amy Grooms for all day of event activities and keeping our trekkers going.

Thank you to Willits Area Cyclists and Adam and Ashley Sherf for flagging and making sure the trails were clear and passable, and Lynn and Fred Webb for clearing Dutch Henry and making loads of clothespin flags for me (we missed you, but hope you had a great vacation), Rodger for the supplies and help, Misty Davidson and family, Karen Mattson and family, and my Dad and Mom too, for helping mark the trails and keeping me company.

Thank you to Sara for being the catchall for Ukiah. Thank you, Brooktrails Township for your support providing the facilities and cones. And to Blythe Rose for your commitment to a garbage-free community and helping keep trails clean ... so crucial for an enjoyable greenbelt experience.

Thank you to our generous sponsors: Misty at George's Geodes and Gems for the generosity of gifts for our Trekkers, Northspur Brewing Co. for the gift certificate, Safeway for the gift card, Lisa at Scoops for kid's scoops and bandanas, Sportea of Colorado for the samples, and Lisa and Jeff Yokum for the Carstar - Yokum car detailing certificate. We put all bib numbers of present participants into a box and drew numbers. We know you didn't join to win something, but this made it fun, too.

For those of you who don't know the variety of trails that are available to you, check out the Brooktrails website (https://www.btcsd.org/) under Recreation and Brooktrails Hiking Trail Map as well as a "Trail Locations on GoogleMap" link where you can get directions to the various trailheads and show where trails connect.

For those of you interested in helping maintain and build trails and connecting with a community of cyclists, connect with Willits Area Cyclists (https://wactrails.wixsite.com/ride). If you want to join a community of runners, become a member of North Coast Striders (https://runsignup.com/Club/CA/Ukiah/NorthCoastStriders), members are from Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma counties. All are welcome.

We hope to see you next year. Look for event sign-up on runsignup.com starting June/July 2024 for the Trek in September.

Soapbox: We hope that you continue to find time to embrace every moment, no matter how small or large, long or short. Each one plays an important role in your future and the future of those around you. And sometimes, the seemingly least important memories end up being the most significant and long-lasting ones.

Much love and appreciation for all of you from the family of Sam Bowles.

Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles, Willits

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

October 2023 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

My agenda item to increase short-term rental taxes was shot down. Special interests didn't want any kind of increase even though the county is in financial difficulties and the tax would have fallen for the most part on those who live outside Mendocino County and come to stay in vacation rentals.

Sales taxes fall heavily on locals, and they are very regressive taxes, hurting those who can least afford them. In the meantime, I continue to support work being done to create greater efficiencies, collect the revenue due the county, and eliminate unnecessary costs. All ideas are welcome.

The board approved moving ahead with Sherwood Road emergency access routes. This will allow the residents of Brooktrails and the other subdivisions to vote on whether they want to pay an annual assessment (probably \$30) to maintain the Firco Road and Willits Creek Trail for emergency purposes. This will allow fuel reduction projects, basic road maintenance, and other projects so that the roads are ready for emergencies. Much appreciation to the Sherwood Firewise Council for all their persistent efforts.

Indian Days celebration in Covelo was a great success. Nicole Mann, the first Native American woman in space, received the proclamation from Mendocino County declaring September 23 as Nicole Mann Day in Mendocino County. She is a member of the Round Valley Indian Tribes. Her talk with the community was inspiring, heartfelt, and informative. She took questions from young kids and others from the community. Commander Mann was able to connect with everyone in the audience. It was a blessing to the community to have her make the trip to Covelo.

"Talk with the Supervisor" is the second Thursday of the month, October 12 this month, at 10 am at Brickhouse Coffee in Willits. I am available by email haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or phone 707-972-4214.

Willits Rotary Club Fall Report

President Willits Rotarians have had a busy summer starting off by awarding 18 scholarships to Willits High School graduating seniors. Members braved the heat by hosting a booth during the Hometown Celebration. Several members participated in the 4th of July parade and helped serve food during the annual BBQ.

In August members raised funds for the Mendocino County Museum during the Art Walk. The first of September started with the 10th annual Claws for a Cause dinner at Ridgewood Ranch sponsored by Rotary to benefit the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center.

Fall has arrived and the end of September saw members hanging out at the Rotary booth during the Harvest Moon Celebration. This week members are getting ready to put on the 2nd Annual John Cross Memorial Golf Tournament along with the Oktober Festival in the Redwoods this Saturday, October 7 in the Brooktrails Ohl Redwood Grove.

Rotary is currently working with Baechtel Grove Middle School on a Poster Contest to help keep our city free from litter. We have also started a free trash bag disposal program with Solid Wastes of Willits for the homeless and low-income families. The bags are available by request at Willits Daily Bread and the Willits Food Bank. The bags will also be available for any group or organization who would like to participate in a street, creek, or park clean-up day.

We are looking forward to sponsoring the annual Wild Bunch Toy Run in November and our annual Crab Sale in December (or January) depending on crab availability. For additional information about the Rotary Club of Willits check out our website www.willitsrotary.org.

- Cathie Gernhardt, president, Willits Rotary



Above, from left: Bradley Beck is conscientious in his complete service, including cleaning up the street. The tan oak cut down has portions that are completely hollow. After making a v-cut on the opposite side of the trunk, Beck finishes the removal.



At right: A large piece of the tan oak falls to the ground.



Below, left: Bradley Beck, held up by a system of two safety lines when cutting, removes the tree in smaller pieces. Below, right: Safety lines and climbing gear are essential components of a safe climb.

Further below: The All Things Trees logo tells the story of what the company can do.

At bottom: Bradley Beck, owner of All Things Trees, loves to work out in the open air.



All Things Trees

Bradley Beck makes customer service and reliable, safe tree removal his top priority

Bradley Beck, owner of All Things Trees, LLC, spends a lot of time seeing the world from a perspective high above where most humans live. He has taken his expertise and knowledge gained through years of experience with PG&E and Family Tree Service and has bravely set out on his own to create a tree service that is both efficient and affordable, while at the same time leaving time for his family.

"My family is very important to me, so I won't work over five days a week," Beck said. "I have three kids, two daughters and a son, ages 9, 4, and 1. I have a wife, Michelle, who is a great woman. We've been married for 10 years, together for 13."

Willits Weekly encountered Beck on a cool, crisp fall morning in Brooktrails, as he was preparing to bring down a large tan oak on the property of an elderly veteran, for whom he was charging an extremely low rate in order to help the gentleman out.

"Today, I'm removing this oak that is scrubbing up against this fir tree very hard. It mostly threatens the road, not anything on his property. He was worried about it," Beck explained.

He carefully suited up, strapping on his climbing cleats, attaching his work belt with the tools needed both for safety and

accessibility. "I'm wearing a Monkey Beaver climbing harness, spurs that you use to climb the trees," said Beck. "They've been around since the early days of logging. A Stihl climb saw. This is the small one for climbing. My others are much larger. I used to get by with a lot less but there are tools that have been created to make the job a lot easier."

Once suited up, he began to climb, lopping off small branches on the way up to provide access and to remove dead material from the adjoining trees which abutted the tan oak that was leaning out toward the street. Each movement was calculated to provide access and utilize the safest practices possible, with redundant lines in case one got cut accidentally.

His spiked clamp-ons gave him steady footing as he navigated the path to the top. Once the branches were cut and on the ground, Beck cut the tree from the top down, finally ending up cutting the main trunk with a v-cut and a larger saw.

He was only supposed to cut down the tree and leave the branches and pieces of trunk in a pile for the homeowner to clean up, but owing to his innate sense of customer service, he cleaned up leftover debris from the street and made sure the

Read the rest of **Trees** Over on page 15



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Do you have something to say? Write a letter to the editor!

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor.

Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com

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Photo Op • Demos

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Good habits start early in life and the savings habit brings lifelong benefits. The best financial lessons include everyday experiences, like bringing deposits to the Bank and using the Personal Teller and Coins-to-Ca\$h machines.
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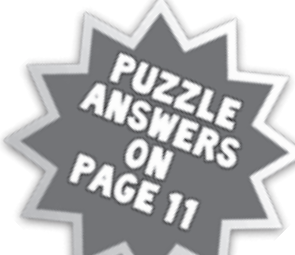
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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Advanced



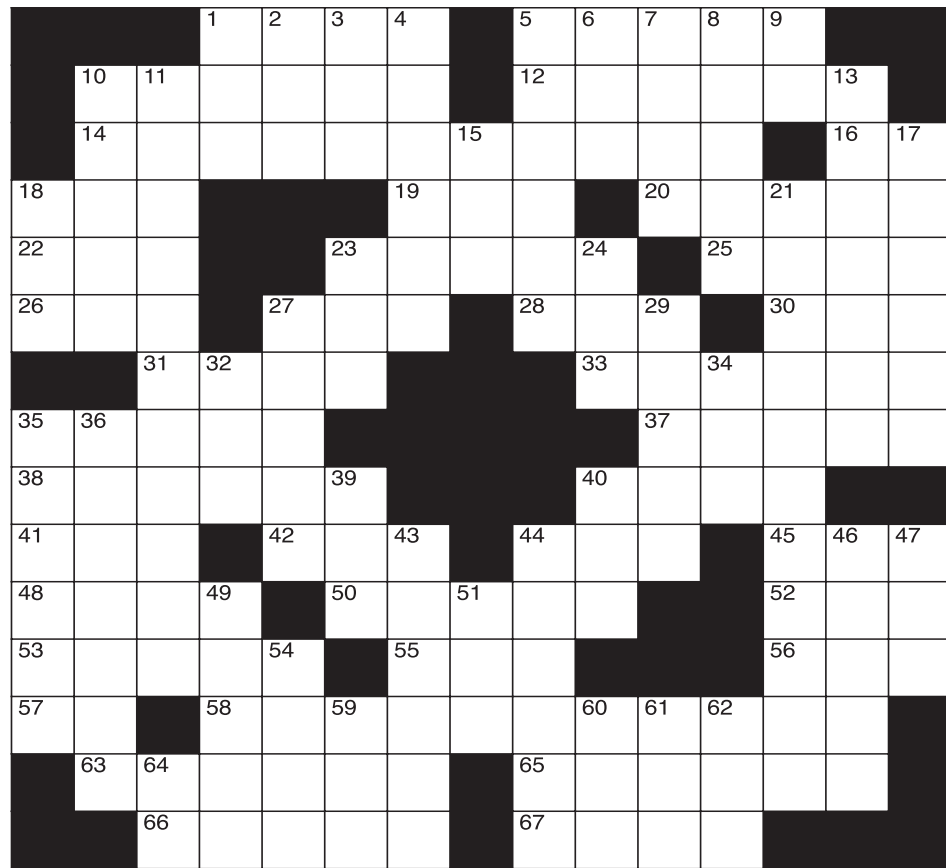
HOW TO SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

HARVEST WORD SEARCH

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

AUTUMN	CULTIVATE	FORAGE	MANURE
BUSHEL	EROSION	GRANGE	MILL
COMMODITY	FALLOW	GRASS	ORCHARD
CORN	FARM	HARVEST	PICK
CRADLE	FEED	HAY	SOWING
CROPS	FLAIL	HUSK	TILLING



CLUES ACROSS

- Flat tableland with steep edges
- Byproduct of fire
- Talked
- Unique skill
- Unembarrassed
- Where teenagers go
- Boxing's GOAT
- Used to anoint
- Reproductive structure found in rust fungi
- Auburn great Newton
- Some are for Christmas
- Dried, split pulses
- Self
- Where to get your mail
- High schoolers' test
- Flightless bird
- Expectorated
- Practice of misrepresenting the truth
- Type of patch
- French river
- Told on
- Hillside
- Peyton's little brother
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Progressive country

CLUES DOWN

- Licensed for Wall Street
- Partner to flow
- A very large body of water
- Accumulate on the surface of
- Shit goods as cargo
- Angry
- Spanish stew: ___ podrida
- Fastened with a pin
- On your way: ___ route
- Soviet labor camp system

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

September 4 to September 10

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **47 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

September 4

7:35 pm: STCLAIR, Gary Lee (72) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of South Main Street and West Mendocino Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

September 5

10:21 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Holly Street and issued a warning.

10:34 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

September 6

12:37 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Muir Lane.

12:19 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

1:39 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

2:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of South Main Street.

2:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued

a warning.

3:54 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

8:14 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

September 7

7:10 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of West Highway 20 and issued a warning.

11:40 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 600 block of Coast Street and issued a citation.

9:27 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of South Lenore Avenue.

September 8

9:39 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of North Main Street.

10:44 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Holly Street and issued a citation.

9:57 pm: CAMERON, Kerry Lynn (68) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Alder Court. She was arrested on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm.

10:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

September 9

7:02 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

10:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Highway 20 and South Main Street and issued a warning.

September 10

5:14 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue.

WPD investigating unattended death on North Street

Submitted by Willits Police Department

On Thursday, September 28, at about 12:35 am, a citizen came to the lobby of the Willits Police Department to report what she believed was a medical emergency. She told the dispatcher that she went to an associate's home in Willits and discovered two men unconscious and unresponsive.

The reporting party was able to provide a general description of the location of the residence, but did not know the actual street or address.

With a small amount of information from the reporting party, the dispatcher was eventually able to identify a probable address in the 300 block of North Street. A WPD officer was dispatched to the residence, and emergency medical services were notified.

When first responders arrived, they discovered a 60-year-old male lying on the front porch of the residence. Emergency medical personnel confirmed the man was deceased; no injuries or cause of death were apparent.

Inside the residence, officers found a 41-year-old male unconscious and unresponsive on the floor of a bathroom. The man showed no signs of injury. Emergency medical personnel were able to transport the man via ambulance to Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital, where he was admitted.

There were no indications of foul play, but police are investigating the unattended death. The name of the decedent will not be released, pending notification of next of kin.

When asked about an update this week, new interim Willits Police Chief James Conner said there Willits Police Department Chief said there were no updates, as the investigation was still open. "However," Chief Conner said, "we still do not suspect foul play."

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the investigator, WPD Officer Cody Pearson, at (707) 459-6122.

Looking for something to celebrate?

Learn more about these, or see a list of other days at <https://www.listofnationaldays.com/>

October 5: National Do Something Nice Day, Global James Bond Day, National Be Nice Day, National Get Funky Day, National Kiss A Wrestler Day, National Military Podcast Day, National Apple Betty Day, World Teachers Day

October 6: National German-American Day, National Noodle Day, Garlic Lovers Day, Inbox Zero Day, National Badger Day, National Coaches Day, National Transfer Money To Your Daughter Day, World Cerebral Palsy Day, National Mad Hatter Day

October 7: National Led Light Day, International Day Of Peaceful Communication, National Bathtub Day, National Chocolate Covered Pretzel Day, National Flower Day, National Forgiveness And Happiness Day, World Cotton Day, National Frappe Day

October 8: International Birth Registration Day, International Lesbian Day, International Off-Road Day, National Harbormaster Appreciation Day, National

Salmon Day, World Octopus Day, National Fluffermutter Day, National Pierogi Day

October 9: Curious Events Day, Fire Prevention Day, International Beer And Pizza Day, National Sneakers Day, Pans/Pandas Awareness Day, Scrubs Day, Submarine-Hoagie-Hero-Grinder Day, World Post Day

October 10: National Handbag Day, International Stage Management Day, National Cake Decorating Day, National Hug A Drummer Day, National Metric Day, National Tuxedo Day, National Walk To A Park Day, Squid And Cuttlefish Day, World Homeless Day, World Inclusion Day, World Mental Health Day, World Plant-Based Burger Day, World Porridge Day, National Angel Food Cake Day, National Cake Decorating Day, Banh Mi Day

October 11: National Sausage Pizza Day, Kraken Day, National Spread Joy Day, Southern Food Heritage Day, National Coming Out Day



Above, from left: The underclassmen princes and princess include, from left: Freshmen Timothy Southwick and Cloey Wright; Sophomores Porter Garman and Lily Herman; and Juniors Kason Dondero and Aleli Zuniga.

HOCO Week

Willits High School celebrates Homecoming with spirit days, game, dance and more

After a spirit-filled week with dress-up days and fun, Willits High School students and staff are excited to celebrate Homecoming with the Friday night football game and crowning of the Homecoming Court.

The week has been themed around board games, and students have enjoyed dressing up to match various games:

Monday: Sorry! Dress in your class colors: Freshmen: yellow; Sophomore: green; Juniors: red; and Seniors: blue

Tuesday: Guess Who?: Dress like a teacher

Wednesday: Candyland: Dress in pajamas or wear pink

Thursday: Monopoly: Wear black

Friday: Wear green and gold

The October 6 football game will start with JV at 5:30 pm and varsity will follow, at 7:30 pm. The Willits High School Wolverines will take on the Cloverdale Eagles at Maize Field behind Willits High School.

The Homecoming Court will get crowned during the parade between games, and one senior girl and one senior boy will be crowned king and queen. 2023 nominees include: Kaylen Thom, Lily Caine and Mariah Rodriguez for queen, and Logan Sanderson, Kooper Dockins and Kady Martin for king.

Underclassmen have already been selected for Homecoming Court, and representing the Freshman class are prince and princess Timothy Southwick and Cloey Wright; representing the Sophomore class are prince and princess Porter Garman and Lily Herman; and representing the Junior class are prince and princess Kason Dondero and Aleli Zuniga.

Come cheer on the Wolverines!

—Maureen Jennison



Above: Senior Homecoming Queen nominees include, from left: Kaylen Thom, Lily Caine and Mariah Rodriguez. Below: Senior Homecoming King nominees include, from left: Logan Sanderson, Kooper Dockins and Kady Martin.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



GET READY

Willits High, Sanhedrin High & Willits Charter
Senior formal photos
January 17, 18 & 19, 2024



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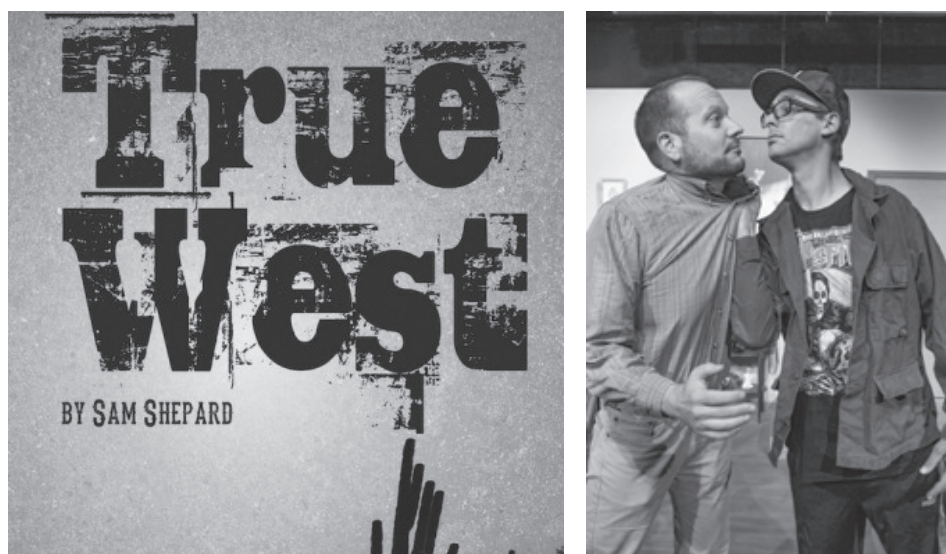
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FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS,
SUNDAYS, WEDNESDAYS
IN OCTOBER**

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Above: Performers for the reading of Sam Shephard's comedy-drama "True West" include, from left, actors Cortland Wilson, BarbaraLee Likker, Austin Peterson, and Bill Wilson, with director Joshua Sternberg at right.

Below, right: Austin Peterson, left, and Ben Wilson play two brothers coming to blows in the reading of "True West," a comedy-drama by Sam Shepard.



Sherwood Firewise Communities meets October 12

Submitted by SFC

Sherwood Firewise Communities next quarterly meeting is set for Thursday, October 12, via Zoom, at 6 pm. On the agenda:

- Find out about the new \$2.7 million CAL FIRE grant
- Updates on current projects, including Wildfire Alert Cameras

The meeting will also feature a presentation by United Policyholders about Homeowners Insurance and California insurance legislation update.

United Policyholders is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization whose mission is to be a trustworthy and useful information resource and an effective voice for consumers of all types of insurance in all 50 states.

UP was co-founded in 1991 by Amy Bach, a consumer advocate and attorney, and Ina Delong, a 22-year insurance professional. The spark for UP was an urban area wildfire that destroyed 3,000 homes in Northern California. In the aftermath of the disaster, the residents struggled with serious and unexpected gaps in their insurance coverage and a claim process that was often adversarial. UP was formed to help level the playing field between insurers and insureds.

Donations, foundation grants and volunteer labor support the organization's work, including a 200+ strong volunteer corps including disaster survivors, lawyers, insurance professionals, financial planners, CPAs, construction experts, patient advocates, and retired judges.

UP has helped change laws in favor of consumers, exposed and corrected wrongdoing and helped bring about successful claim settlements after fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, business interruption losses, and disabling injuries and illnesses.

Join online Zoom meeting here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85625036304?>

Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304

Password: 918795

Join by phone only:

(669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304

Password: 918795

For more information email info@sherwoodfirewise.org

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. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Thursday, October 5: Meat Loaf, Veggies, Roll

Friday, October 6: Chili Burger, Chips

Monday, October 9: Stuffed Bell Peppers, Rice, Roll

Tuesday, October 10: Chili Mac, Veggies, Corn Bread

Wednesday, October 11: Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Veggies, Roll

Thursday, October 12: Chicken Fajitas, Rice & Beans

Friday, October 13: French Dip Loaded Mashed Potatoes

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

Pancake Breakfast: every second Sunday, on October 8 this month, 8 to 11 am. \$10; \$9 center members; \$6 children

under 8. Menu choices: 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$10; \$9 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides \$2; 3 slices bacon, 2 sausage links. Breakfast includes Peet's Coffee and orange juice or milk.

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.

WCT presents reading of Sam Shephard's 'True West'

Submitted by Willits Community Theatre

A reading of "True West," a comedy-drama written by Sam Shepard, will be performed at the Willits Community Theatre on October 7 and 8. The reading is directed by Joshua Sternberg and features performances by Austin Peterson, Ben Wilson, BarbaraLee Likker, and Cortland Wilson.

"True West" tells the story of Austin and Lee, two brothers who are living close to the edge. Austin is a struggling screenwriter who is working hard on a script for a modern love story. Lee is a small-time thief and conman, who crashes Austin's meeting with a movie producer in order to hawk his own very sketchy outline for a trashy, surrealistic western. The producer likes Lee's idea better than Austin's screenplay. The brothers sort of switch places. The play devolves from there.

Speaking of "True West," playwright Shepard wrote: "I wanted to write a play about double nature, one that wouldn't be symbolic or metaphorical or any of that stuff. I just wanted to give a taste of what it feels like to be two-sided. It's a real thing, double nature. I think we're split in a much more devastating way than psychology can ever reveal. It's not so cute. Not some little thing we can get over. It's something we've got to live with."

The shows are Saturday, October 7 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, October 8 at 2 pm at the WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$10, available online at wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.



School of Adaptive Agriculture celebrates 10th anniversary with Harvest Dinner

Submitted by Michael Foley, SAA

Get ready for a gastronomic journey that celebrates the bounty of our local farms and the creativity of our talented chefs. The Harvest Dinner, a "Grow, Cook & Gather" celebration, is set to delight your taste buds on Monday, October 16 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Willits. Doors open at 5 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm.

This culinary extravaganza promises an unforgettable evening of delectable dishes crafted from the freshest locally sourced ingredients, and prepared by our talented local chefs.

Over the past decade, the School of Adaptive Agriculture has been instrumental in educating young and old about growing food and cultivating resilience. Through comprehensive programs and hands-on experiences, SAA has empowered countless members of the community to actively participate in more sustainable practices.

"The school has done a great job at educating folks on growing food and building resilience," says "Farm & Garden" radio show host Elizabeth Archer. "Their commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture and regenerative practices has had a profound impact on our community."

This event brings together the community, farmers, and food enthusiasts to celebrate 10 years of promoting the importance of eating locally. Attendees can look forward to an evening filled with:

- Farm-fresh flavors: Carefully crafted dishes prepared by renowned local chefs will showcase the vibrant flavors of seasonal ingredients, sourced directly from our partner farms including Black Dog Farm & Catering, Golden Rule Gardens, the Mendocino Grain Project, Nurturing Seed Farm, Green Uprising Farm, Emandal Farm, Happy Day Farm, Mulligan Farms, and more.
- Meet the farmers: Interact with the hardworking farmers who provide the ingredients for your meal. Gain insights into sustainable farming practices and the importance of supporting local agriculture.
- Exciting raffle: A chance to win awesome prizes including a week-long Mendocino Coast getaway, a gift basket from Happy Day Farm, and much more.
- Wine and beverage pairings: Sip

on organic wines from Bonterra or Frey Vineyards or craft beer from North Spur Brewing Co., fresh-pressed apple cider from Nurturing Seed Farm and signature non-alcoholic cocktails created by Black Dog Farm & Catering that complement the flavors of the dishes.

- Dessert potluck: Bring your favorite homemade dessert and share with your neighbors.

"As a farmer who doesn't own land, I've moved several times in my 20 years in Mendocino County," says Caroline Radice, owner of Black Dog Farm & Catering, and volunteer at the School of Adaptive Agriculture. "I'm forever grateful to the School [of Adaptive Agriculture] for inviting me to come and farm here."

"I've benefited so much from their support over the years," says Radice, "and want to express my gratitude in the way I know best – cooking a beautiful dinner for us."

SAA does more than just hold specific classes or workshops; it continuously adapts to grow and support farmers and food security in Mendocino.

"This harvest dinner is a celebration of the season and our regional food, and a time for us to get together and eat a delicious meal. It is more than just a fundraiser; this is a recognition that

together we acknowledge the significance of food sovereignty," Radice says.

Tickets for this "Grow, Cook & Gather" experience are now available for purchase on our website: www.schoolofadaptiveagriculture.org and at the Willits Farmers Market.

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this culinary celebration of local flavors, where every bite tells a story of community, sustainability, and farm-fresh goodness.

For more information, please contact Michael Foley at office@adaptiveagriculture.org or 707-510-7473.

About the School of Adaptive Agriculture: SAA is dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture education and fostering a connection between local farmers and the community. Through events like the Harvest Dinner, they aim to raise awareness about the importance of supporting local food systems and celebrating the delicious flavors and talented farmers and chefs of Mendocino County.



Not JUST Cowboy Poetry at Emandal on Saturday, October 14

Submitted by Tamara Adams, Emandal

Saturday, October 14 at Emandal – A Farm on a River will be filled with some glorious apple pies, hand-cranked ice cream, a cowboy poet/ singer/ storyteller from Texas, numerous artists showing their work under the willow trees beside the gardens, an auction for Willits Senior Center, another cowboy musician who can yodel, along with his friend, who plays a musical saw, and hopefully great fall weather in which to sit and/or walk around and enjoy it all! Bring a picnic... bring your friends!

The challenge is still there, our Apple Pie Throwdown: Bring on your best homemade apple pie, and you'll have the opportunity to win an engraved rolling pin in one of seven categories: Most Delectable Filling, The Perfect Crust, Most Aesthetically Pleasing, Best Overall Apple Pie, People's Choice Award, Most Creative Apple Pie, and The Next Generation.

You may wonder why "Cowboy Poetry" is tempered with "Not JUST".... It's a genre that not many people are familiar with. Originally "cowboy poetry" was rhymed, metered verse written by someone who has lived a significant portion of his or her life in Western North American cattle culture. The verse reflects an intimate knowledge of that way of life, and the community from which it maintains itself in tradition.

Read the rest of **Emandal**

Over on page 11

Today, cowboy poetry reaches into



At top, left: Sourdough Slim will perform again this year at Cowboy Poetry. At top, right: Apple pies are tasted at the table. Above: the lawn is always filled with attendees. At far left: Apple pie winners receive engraved rolling pins. At left: Andy Hedges and Ramblin' Jack Elliott were previous performers at Cowboy Poetry, and Hedges will be back again this year.

REGISTER NOW

AVENUES TO WELLNESS
— YOUR HEALTH MATTERS —

A PROGRAM OF THE FRANK R. HOWARD FOUNDATION

Bereavement Support Group

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.

Beginning Thursday October 19
Time: 2-4pm
Willits Senior Center
To register call:
Suzanne Piccetti-Johnson (707) 456-9676

FREE OF CHARGE *Space is Limited*

Suzanne Wilson and Suzanne Piccetti-Johnson
Group Facilitators



Above: WHS's Maria Tomas Mendoza and Hunter Southwick smile with tickets and the fall raffle basket for Sober Grad.

Photo by Maureen Jennison

Below: Cotton candy was sold at the Sober Grad booth to help fundraise for the 2024 party.

At bottom: Charley Lamprich, left, Hazel Cooke and Elena Arkelian, right, walked around selling raffle tickets at the Harvest Moon celebration.

Photos by April Lamprich



Support Sober Grad Fall raffle basket tickets available to support annual grad-night party

Sober Grad volunteers and students were hard at work at the Harvest Moon celebration, getting the word out and selling tickets for their fall raffle basket.

Tickets will be sold until November 15 for \$5 each, and the winning ticket will be drawn at the November 15 Sober Grad meeting at 6:30 pm at the WHS food center.

The kids also sold cotton candy and popcorn at their Harvest Moon booth and had fun talking with the community about the graduation night event.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 18 at 6:30 pm at the WHS food center if anyone would like to come and volunteer, or learn more.

— Maureen Jennison

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Tournament Entry: \$50 a person
\$100 a team
Drawing tickets: \$5 for 1
\$5 for \$20

During Ranch Rodeo, "Camping Fun" Basket drawing at same time.
Call (707) 391-4675 for entries.
SATURDAY | OCTOBER 14TH | 10 AM

Arts Savaganza
Be Moved, Be Well!

Brazilian Dance and Drumming Workshop

Sunday October 15
with Dandha Da Hora and Carmen Day

DANCE CLASS
5 to 6:30pm
(free admission)

DRUMMING CLASS
3 to 4:30pm
(\$15-20 sliding scale)

71 East Commercial Street Willits
beginners welcome!

Thursday, October 5
Community CPR Class: Free CPR class, Thursday, October 5 from 3 to 6 pm. Howard Memorial: Email Hastinaa@ah.org or text 530-570-4538 to register

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

Friday, October 6
John Howard at Shanachie: Singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, born in Prestonsburg, Kentucky - a mix of Folk, Roots, Reggae and Sophisti-Pop. Friday, October 6 at 8 pm.

Homecoming Football Game: Willits High School Wolverines Homecoming Week features the Friday, October 6 football game against the Cloverdale Eagles. At Maize Field behind the high school. JV game starts at 5:30 pm; then Homecoming Parade, then varsity game starts at 7:30 pm.

Saturday, October 7
Oktoberfest in the Redwoods: Willits Rotary presents Oktoberfest in the Redwoods & The John Cross Memorial Golf Tournament on Saturday, October 7. Golf from 9 am to 1 pm at the Brooktrails Golf Course, and Festival from 1 to 5 pm at Brooktrails OH Redwood Grove. \$25 admission includes 2 food and drink tickets. A benefit for the Willits Senior Center and Rotary's Student Debt Assistance Program. Live music by PoV band and the Flying Dog Bluegrass Band, games, artisan booths, Quarter Auction, Silent Auction, beer & wine, brats and pretzels. Free shuttle from Willits High School. Festival info: Ann Alumbaugh at 707-841-1315; Golf info: Jeff Yokum at 707-391-8066.

Willits Grappling Pack Poker Benefit: Enjoy the WGP Hold 'Em Poker Tournament, Saturday, October 7 at the Spretime Supply Warehouse, 300 East Commercial Street. To benefit the youth wrestling program, with a Roaring '20s Theme - best dressed to theme wins \$100 in chips. \$100 per ticket, limited amount of tickets; doors open 3 pm, poker starts 4 pm, dinner around 6 pm. Silent auction after dinner. Tickets available at willitsgrapplingpack.com or contact Steven at 707-354-3728.

Free Photography Workshop
October 13-14
Photographer Sandy Strong presents "Exploring the Healing Art of Photography, October 13 and 14, 10 am to 4 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts. Limited to 10 students. All levels welcome; must have a working knowledge of your camera or camera phone. "The secret of art in photography is not only to produce a product, but to find your own creative potential that is limitless. We will focus on the natural wonders around us to connect in a deeper level with our own healing creativity." Register online at www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

Bereavement Support Group
Avenues to Wellness presents this facilitated 8-week group providing 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. This group will start October 19, 2 to 4 pm at Willits Senior Center. Free of charge. Limited to 8 participants. Please call Suzanne to register or for more information: 707-456-9676. Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit: avenuestowellness.org

Call for vendors
for WCA Holiday Craft Fair
The Willits Center for the Arts 36th annual Holiday Craft Fair will be on Friday, December 8, from 3 to 6 pm; on Saturday, December 9, from 10 am to 6 pm; and on Sunday, December 10, from 10 am to 4 pm.
Vendors: As usual it is important to return your application quickly to have the best chance of a booth. Please read the application and requirements at www.willitscenterforthearts.org/willitscenterforthearts carefully as they include most of the information you may need.
If you have further questions, please contact Bonnie Belt at belt.bonnie@gmail.com or call 707-459-4792.

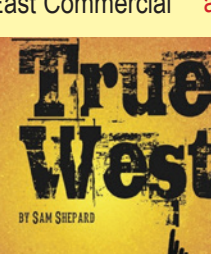
What's Happening Around Town

Harvest Fest at Sherwood Casino: Come celebrate the season with live music and drinks at Sherwood Valley Casino on Saturday, October 7. The party will be from 4 to 8 pm with live music by Hella Mendocino, "a Norcal Psychedelic Fusion band inspired by Hip-Hop, Rock, Reggae, and a twist of Cumbia." Beer, wine and cocktails provided by the Willits Lions Club. Sherwood Casino is located at 100 Kawi Place in Willits. More info: www.SVRCasino.com.



October Exhibit at Center for the Arts: Willits Art Center presents its October show, opening Saturday, October 7, with reception from 6 to 9 pm. With Paintings by Laura Fargey and Furniture by Starbuck Fargey. Runs through October 29. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street.

'True West' reading at WCT: A reading of "True West," a comedy-drama written by Sam Shepard, will be performed at the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, October 7 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, October 8 at 2 pm. Directed by Joshua Sternberg, with performances by Austin Peterson, Ben Wilson, BarbaraLee Likier, and Cortland Wilson. Tickets are \$10, available online at wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door, 37 West Van Lane.



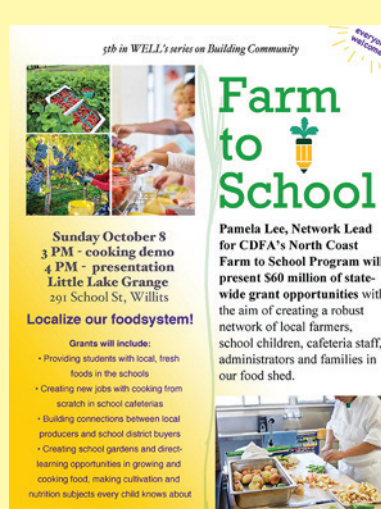
Dellow Trio at Shanachie: "Lively, soulful vocals... sophisticated shades of Americana—the rich heritage of jazz improvisation colliding with pop tendencies...lots of grooving!" Saturday, October 7 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am; October pancake breakfast is set for Sunday, October 8 at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Menu choices: 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$10; \$9 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides \$2: 3 slices bacon, 2 sausage links. Breakfast Includes Peet's Coffee and orange juice or milk.

Free Museum Admission for Indigenous Peoples Day: Mendocino County Museum will honor Indigenous Peoples Day, coming up on October 9, by offering free admission to all visitors Sunday, October 8, from 12 to 4 pm. Visit and view "Woven Worlds," our permanent exhibit which explores the history and celebrates the rich culture and heritage of Mendocino County's indigenous people. More info: www.mendocinocounty.org/museum or contact the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, at museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

'True West' reading at WCT: A reading of "True West," a comedy-drama written by Sam Shepard, will be performed at the Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, October 8 at 2 pm. Directed by Joshua Sternberg, with performances by Austin Peterson, Ben Wilson, BarbaraLee Likier, and Cortland Wilson. Tickets are \$10, available online at wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door, 37 West Van Lane.

New Farm to School program grants: WELL's Building Community series hosts guest speaker Pamela Lee from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Farm to School program, who will describe an exciting new \$60 million grant program, with opportunities for schools, farmers, distributors, and the community-at-large to improve kids' health and local food systems in Willits. Joined by a panel representing local schools, distributors, and farmers. Sunday, October 8, at 4 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Come early at 3 pm for a Cooking Demonstration led by Blue Zones Project and CalFresh Healthy Living Program. Free but donation encouraged to help cover costs.



Schindig Reunion Party at Shanachie: special Sunday show to showcase the reunion of local band Schindig, a band of homegrown Mendocino County boys playing a unique eclectic blend of folk, rock, country, blues with a jolt of world music thrown in. Sunday, October 8 at 4 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Eclipse Viewing Kit Giveaway: Stop by the Willits Library during open hours October 11 through 13, to pick up a free eclipse viewing kit, with eclipse glasses, information about the October 14 annular solar eclipse event (starts around 8 am with full annularity at 9:15 am), a DIY Sun Clock. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-5908.

'Vampires, Werewolves and Zombies - Oh My!': part of the Paranormal and Beyond discussion series, second Wednesdays at the Willits Library, Wednesday, October 11, 5:30 to 6:45 pm. A presentation by local teacher and expert in the supernatural, Becky Button, who will chill and intrigue her audience with an open discussion of these dreaded phenomenon, with a combination of origin stories, folklore, literature, and pop culture. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-5908.



Not Just Cowboy Poetry: Emandal - A Farm on a River presents their Not Just Cowboy Poetry event, Saturday, October 14 featuring poet, story-teller, and songwriter Andy Hedges from Texas, along with Sourdough Slim and Robert Armstrong, Old-Time Cowboy Poets

Thursday, October 12
Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

Friday, October 13
So You Want to Go to College: One of a series of classes offered by the Willits Library to all high school students and their parents that will "help high school age people understand the terminology and process of applying for college ... and make informed decisions regarding their future education." Willits Branch Library meeting room, 390 East Commercial Street, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm; October 13. Light refreshments will be served. Info: 707-459-5908



Friday, October 13
'Dinner and a Movie Night': Baechtel Grove Middle School PTO hosts this delicious and fun family-friendly fundraiser at the Rec Grove Park, East Commercial Street, on Friday, October 13. With the movie "Coco" plus taco or burrito dinners for \$15 a plate, \$7 for kids under 8. Dinner from 6:30 to 7:30 pm; movie starts at 7:30 pm. For tickets: Message "Baechtel Grove Middle School PTO" on Facebook or call 559 994-2371.

Saturday, October 14
2023 Ranch Rodeo at WFD: Willits Frontier Days presents the 12th annual Mary Burgess Memorial Ranch Rodeo, on Saturday, October 14, at the WFD Rodeo Grounds. Main rodeo event, 10 am, \$10. Other events: Calcutta at 9:30 am, bet on winners; Cornhole Tournament, 10 am; Bulls / Broncs, following rodeo; and a BBQ Lunch, 12 pm, with judging. Dummy Roping and Pumpkin Painting for the kids. Info: 1-707-272-5395. Entry forms: www.willitsfrontierdays.com



Saturday, October 14
NOT JUST COWBOY POETRY
LAUREL - A TALK ON A RIVER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 • 2023

Apple Pie Throwdown 1pm
Concert 2:30pm
Art in the Garden All Afternoon
Auction!
Artisanal Whiskey Tasting

ANDY HEDGES
ROBERT ARMSTRONG & SOURDOUGH SLIM

Willits, CA 95490 • emandal@notjustcowboypoetry.com

Not Just Cowboy Poetry: Emandal - A Farm on a River presents their Not Just Cowboy Poetry event, Saturday, October 14 featuring poet, story-teller, and songwriter Andy Hedges from Texas, along with Sourdough Slim and Robert Armstrong, Old-Time Cowboy Poets

Ongoing Events
Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every week on Mondays, 6:30 pm, at the Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866.
Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial 7pm. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.
Brown Bag Lunch Program: Sack lunches served at the City Park (or across the street in case of rain) every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm. Come early to be assured a lunch! Provided by various churches and community organizations.
Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl: "Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Games start at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of two, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've got everything you need!" Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main Street.
The Redwood Empire Food Bank: Twice-monthly drive-thru food distribution in Willits, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, located in the parking lot of the

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial 7pm. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.
Brown Bag Lunch Program: Sack lunches served at the City Park (or across the street in case of rain) every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm. Come early to be assured a lunch! Provided by various churches and community organizations.
Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl: "Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Games start at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of two, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've got everything you need!" Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main Street.
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Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym: Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers a free karate program for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 pm, for new students ages 7 and above. Use the back doors to enter. Special small child (Lil Dragons) classes only on Thursdays at 6 pm, ages 3 to 6. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0565. Program is continuous year-round. Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street.

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PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE
IN THEATERS
(PG) 1 hr 35 mins
Fri.: 4:45 & 7:00pm
Sat.: 2:30, 4:45 & 7:00pm
Sun.: 1:30, 3:45 & 6:00pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 3:45 & 6:00pm

A HAUNTING IN VENICE
(PG13) 1 hr 49 mins
Fri.: 5:00 & 7:45pm
Sat.: 2:15, 5:00 & 7:45pm
Sun.: 1:15, 4:00 & 6:45pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:00 & 6:45pm

THE CREATOR
(PG13) 2 hrs 13 mins
Fri.: 4:30 & 7:30pm
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Sun.: 12:30, 3:30 & 6:30pm
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Pastor Kris Strickland
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Acts 2:37
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(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:00 p.m.

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• Spiritual Discussions
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For appointments call:
(707) 459-3106

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61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadan
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Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
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Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
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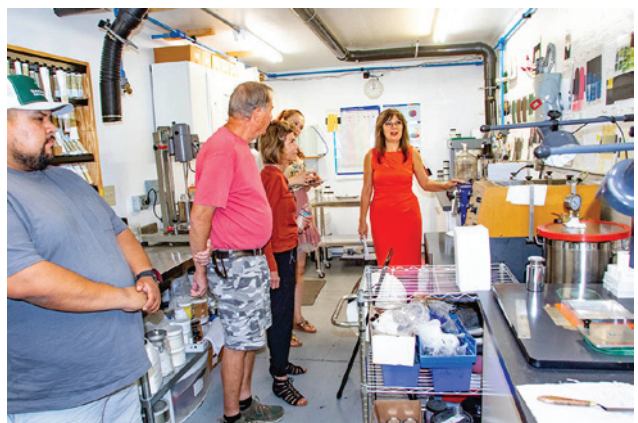
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Above, from left: The testing room is utilized to find the perfect formulas for color, longevity and consistency. An assemblage of Rublev paints and media form the number 20 at the 20th anniversary party for Natural Pigments. The Natural Pigments factory in Willits is a maze of materials, pigments and containers.

At left: Before and after tours of the facilities, attendees view informational videos about the company and the qualities of paint. At left, below, from left: Artist Morgan Rex observes as Christian Bonnet demonstrates the use of the "planetary mixer." An Arteflex employee talks about the benefits of rigid supports in the longevity of paintings.

At left, bottom: The attendees are treated to a demonstration of the grinding machine, which is one of the final processes in the manufacture of the paints.

Below: George O'Hanlon and Tatiana Zaytseva have been perfecting their formulas for 20 years and have achieved an international reputation for their knowledge and products.



High-quality Manufacturing

Willits-based company Natural Pigments celebrates 20th anniversary of producing exceptional fine-art paints

Speaking with George O'Hanlon is akin to opening an encyclopedia of pigments, picking a random page, and listening with rapt attention to a dissertation on subject held within. O'Hanlon's 20-plus years of knowledge is much sought after and has led to his company, Natural Pigments, one of the premier manufacturers of fine-art oil, watercolor, and wax-based paints.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

traveled to Russia and brought back some of the original pigments in suitcases.

Natural Pigments began 20 years ago in a garage. Every paint was handmade, mixed in a bread-kneading machine. Many experiments and mistakes and learning experiences later, Natural Pigments moved to an unassuming warehouse off Baechtel Road in Willits, where it now produces one of the most respected brands of professional artist materials, including the aforementioned paints, art boards (under the name Arteflex), and other quality media which are shipped worldwide to discerning artists, stores and museums.

O'Hanlon has become a respected lecturer on the chemical, physical and historical makeup of the pigments, down

Read the rest of **Paint** Over on page 15

The Honorable Ronald R. Combest

September 17, 1940 – August 29, 2023



Judge Ronald Combest, 82, passed away peacefully August 29th, 2023 at the Hospice of the Valley, Dementia Campus in Phoenix, AZ with his wife of 51 years, Leslie Shinn Combest at his side.

He was born in September 17, 1940 in Whitewright, Texas to Cora Busby and Odell Combest. He was predeceased by his brother, Rodney Combest and sister, Donna Kraft. He is survived by his children Ronnalyn Horner, Donnalyn Combest, and Daniel Combest. His grandchildren: Jamie, Brandie, Courtney, Danielle, Jennifer, and Tyler, and great grandchildren: Dylan, Giani, Brittany, and Devin.

Judge Combest entered the Army in 1966 and following Officer Candidate, Ranger and Airborne School, he joined the 173rd Airborne Division in Vietnam. After three years of active service, Ron transferred to the Army Reserves, where he attained the rank of Colonel, with various commands over 30 years.

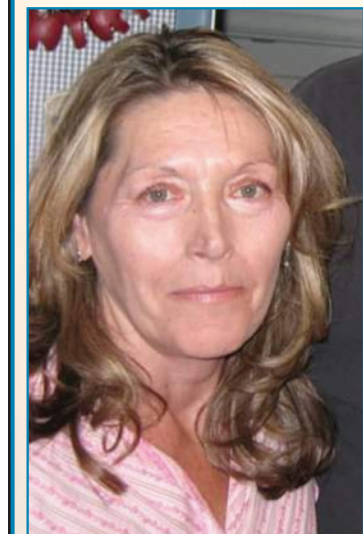
Judge Combest attended the University of Southern California, receiving his Bachelor of Science in Accounting, and Loyola Law School, LA, where he earned his Juris Doctorate.

Ron and Leslie bought a ranch in Covelo, Mendocino County, CA, and after practicing law for a few years, he was elected to serve in the Justice, Municipal and finally the Superior Court over the next 20 years. He retired in 2002, but remained an assigned judge with the Judicial Council for another 10 years.

Ron will be fondly remembered by his family, friends, co-workers, and military brothers, as a caring, humble man that, just by knowing him, made you a better person.

Terri Lynn Hulbert Cader

November 15, 1956 – July 27, 2023



Terri Lynn Hulbert Cader, born on November 15, 1956, in Ukiah, California. Passed unexpectedly July 27, 2023. She was raised in the picturesque town of Boonville, California, and was a remarkable individual who touched the lives of many throughout her journey.

Terri's educational journey led her through Anderson Valley High School, culminating in her graduation on June 4, 1975. Shortly thereafter, she embarked on a distinguished career in the United States Navy. Enlisting in 1977, she displayed exemplary dedication and commitment, graduating from the US Naval Academy in San Diego, California, on July 28, 1978.

Her service took her to Camp Lejeune in 1978 for basic hospital corps school, where she was honored with the Good Conduct Medal. Terri's unwavering commitment continued as she reenlisted at the Naval Hospital in Rota, Spain, on February 16, 1984, earning her third Good Conduct Medal and the Overseas Service Ribbon. Her exceptional contributions were acknowledged with the Medal for Professional Achievement during her tenure at Readiness Command, Region Two, in Scotia, New York, from March 24, 1984 to April 20, 1987. She concluded her naval career on March 16, 1989, after having had the privilege of exploring and experiencing the diverse cultures of Europe during her service. Upon retiring from the Navy in 1989, Terri relocated to Willits, where she embarked on a new chapter in her life. She married her former husband, Bruce Cader, and in 1992, welcomed her beloved son, Matthew Cader. Terri's journey was marked by love, dedication, and a profound sense of duty.

From 1997 to 2017, Terri dedicated herself to the Willits Unified School District. She began as an instructional assistant in the Community Day School, working alongside her partner, Mike Shaw. Later, she served as the Vocational Services Assistant in the Workability Program.

Terri was a beacon of support for students who needed it most, often assuming the role of a second mother. She offered her ear, guidance, and even her own resources to ensure her students' well-being. Terri's legacy extends beyond her professional achievements. She was a driving force behind young people in the community finding employment and starting their careers. Her dedication and genuine care left an indelible mark on many lives.

Sadly, in 2017, Terri was diagnosed with Dementia, which swiftly progressed into Alzheimer's Disease. Despite this challenging journey, her spirit remained resilient until her peaceful passing. Terri's memory will forever be cherished by those she touched. Her legacy of selflessness, kindness, and unwavering support will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing her. May she rest in eternal peace.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW451

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2023-F0441
The following person is doing business as Craft House Baking, 5100 Muir Mill Road, Willits, CA 95490. Mailing address: P.O. Box 805, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Jaclyn Dolores Cobbs, 5100 Muir Mill Road, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on September 12, 2023.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 20, 2023.

/s/ Jaclyn Cobbs
Publication dates: October 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023

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

The rest of **Hydrant** From page 1

911 callers reported a truck had struck a fire hydrant on Bittenbender Lane, next to the same market as the earlier incident.

The officer arrived to discover the hydrant was sheared off at the base, and water was forcefully spraying from the sheared hydrant in a geyser, with the previously damaged truck parked near it.

After contacting the female driver of the truck, the officer determined she caused the collision when she attempted to use the vehicle to hit the male from the earlier incident.

After an investigation, the officer arrested 43-year-old Willits resident Renee Dominga Leggett for violations of PC 245(A)(1) – Assault with a Deadly Weapon, and CVC 23152(A) – Driving under the Influence.

No further information is available currently. Anyone who witnessed either incident is asked to contact the Willits Police Department at (707) 459-6122.



Renee Leggett of Willits.

Editor's Note: The City of Willits put up a notice on their Facebook page Thursday morning noting this incident, and suggesting "Due to the severe nature of the impact, water clarity in area may be discolored. This is temporary, and city crews will be making final repairs to the damaged hydrant. In no way is the water unsafe, just discolored with sediment and/or rust in the lines. Crews will flush lines and any households that may experience discolored water can run their taps to flush through. If you experience brown water, please contact City Hall at 707-459-4601 to report your address."

The rest of **Guilty** From page 1

Brooktrails, and being in unlawful possession of materials to make a destructive device with the specific intent to do so.

After the verdicts were read into the court record and the jury was excused, the defendant was remanded into the custody of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office with a no bail hold put in place.

The verdicts were referred to the Mendocino County Adult Probation Department for a background investigation of the defendant and a sentencing recommendation based on the four convictions.

Defendant Cleek will be formally sentenced on Tuesday, October 31 in Department A of the Ukiah courthouse at 9 am.

The law enforcement agencies that developed the evidence used to prove the defendant's guilty beyond a reasonable doubt at trial were the Willits Police

Department (lead agency) and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office (assisting agency).

Expert testimony relating to the destructive devices was provided at trial by Battalion Chief Justin Buckingham of the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority. Special thanks are also extended to the forensic chemists at EFI Global Inc. in Rocklin for their work on analyzing and identifying the flammable liquid used by the defendant in the three destructive devices.

The attorney who presented the evidence to the jury and represented the People's interests at trial was District Attorney David Eyster.

Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Keith Faulder presided over the two-day trial. Judge Faulder will also be the sentencing judge at the end of the month.

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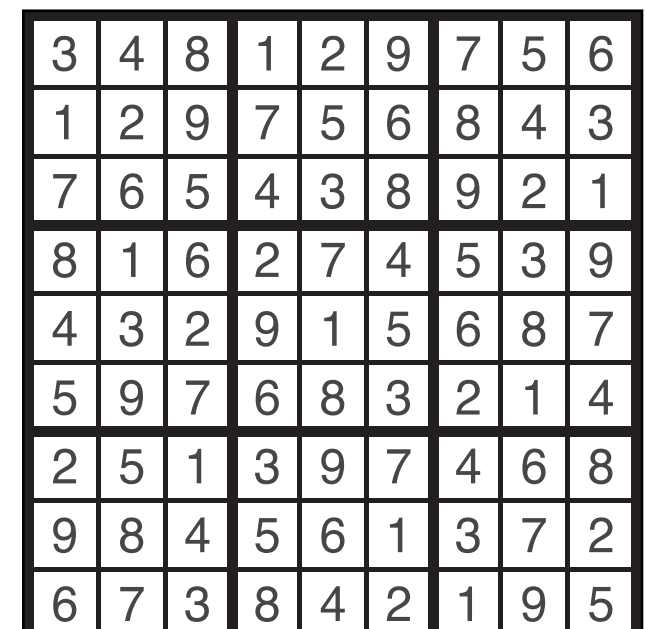
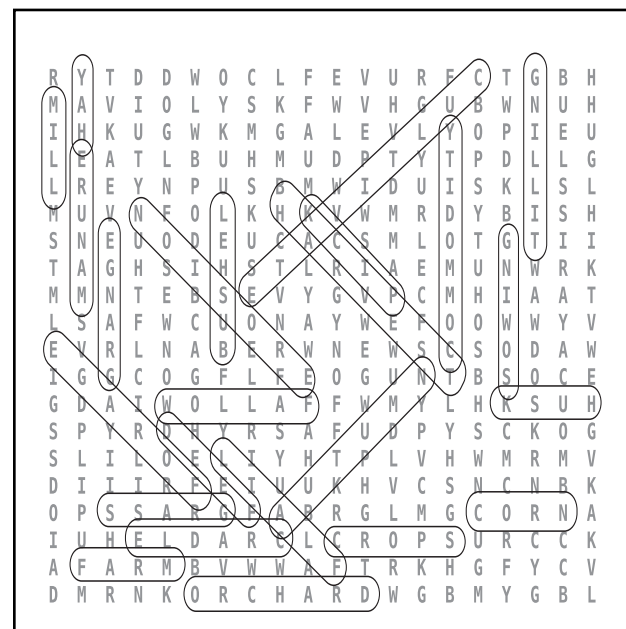
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CLASSIFIEDS

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BACK AGAIN !!!

Multi-family Pearl Street Garage Sale. Contractor tools, household items, plants. Saturday, October 7 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). Saturday, October 14 from 8 am to 4 pm

Bake an Apple Pie

Win an engraved Rolling Pin. Not JUST Cowboy Poetry, Apple Pie Throwdown, and Art in the Garden at Emandal, Saturday, October 14 www.emandal.com

John Ford Ranch Beef

John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelan @ 459-5049. (Prices change effective 6/25/23)

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 uicearhail@gmail.com

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/tp

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Accepting new MediCal clients, Divora Stern LCSW, sliding scale available. PHONE SESSIONS only: 707-354-9911. No need for computer / travel, just call. 22-year private practice, CBT, energy psychology, and alternative modalities.

School board reporter?

Willits Weekly needs help reporting local news. Interested in the local school board? Meets 2nd Thursdays, 5 pm at Willits City Hall, but can be reported from video posted of the meeting, too. Other news opportunities available. Experience in news reporting a plus, but not a requirement. Pls. send letter of interest or resume to willitsweekly@gmail.com.

For Rent

Willits Center for the Arts Great Room is available for rent for meetings and special events. Room holds 175 people. Contact Sasha at 707-459-1726 or manager@willitscenterforthearts.org

Spiritual Wisdom on Life After Death

Join us in gaining new perspectives as we discuss seeing heaven before you die, meeting with departed loved ones, dealing with grief, and more. FREE book on Life After Death. Come share or just listen! Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Saturday, October 14th, 10 to 11 a.m. Questions? Call April at 707-972-2475. Sponsored by Eckankar of Lake & Mendocino Counties.

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

Email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com



The rest of **Emandal** From page 7

the hearts of folks who believe in the image of rural life, the majestic landscapes of the west, the feeling of being surrounded with natural beauty, and the people who make the west their home.

Andy Hedges, our songster of the year, was born and raised in Texas, writes poetry, sings songs, tells stories ... and has developed a podcast, "Cowboy Crossroads," in which he interviews working cowboys of today and yesteryear. Along with him will appear Sourdough Slim and Robert Armstrong, musicians reminiscent of the western movie heydays of the 1950s.

Bring your pies by 12:45 pm for judging. Tastes of the pies along with ice cream will be for sale beginning at 1 pm. Art in the Garden will be viewable from 1 pm until the end of the concert, which begins at 2:30 pm. Silent Auction and Artisanal Whiskey Tasting begins at 1 pm.

For more information and/or tickets, visit emandal.com/cowboy-poetry or call Tam at 707-459-9252. Tickets are also available on site.

Thanks to some of our sponsors: Willits Redwood Company, Baldo Locomotive Works, T & A Herman, P & C Shuster, and Tamar Distillery





Above, from left: Michael Ducharme and Margi Gomez organized the Art Party for the second year. Pearl Marill, a performance artist, clothing designer and dancer, shows one of her tiny flower arrangements. Jazz-minh Moore begins a progressive painting on which others can add their own colors. Kathy and Aris Vellis sell clothing as well as dolls that Kathy designed and made. Below, left: John and Sandy sell party hats to liven up the party mood at the park. Below, right: Twenty-eight vendors are nestled beneath the trees of Recreation Grove Park.



Above: Ballet Folklorico, under the direction of Juvenal Vasquez, delights the attendees with their colorful traditional dances. Below: Train Singer Greg Schindel performs a set of train songs and originals.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Arts Party

Music, dance, and community paintings combine at Rec Grove, creating imaginative fun for all

It was a beautiful day to dance. The weather cooperated and created a relatively warm fall day in Recreation Grove Park as many people came out to spend some time amongst those who create visual and performing arts. The Second Annual Willits Arts Party offered something for everyone: music, art, food and conversation.

Mathew Caine
 Features Writer
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

"This is really exciting," said Jeff Shipp, one of the originators of the Arts Party. "Willits, and really all of Mendocino County, is full of artists, whether it be performing artists or fine artists. The Willits Arts Party is an annual tradition. It's our second year.

"We try to bring together not only the fine artists and the craftsmen," said Shipp, "but also our performing artists as well. We'll have live bands and hopefully in the future we'll even have theatrical performances. It's a way for all this to come together. It's all of Mendocino because it's a really special relationship for that."

"We have 28 vendors," explained organizer Michael Ducharme. "We have civic organizations doing demos and passing out information and promoting their programming: Nuestra Alianza, The Blue Zones, the County Museum, the Public Health Department, and the Willits Center for the Arts."

People could wander amongst the maze of eclectic vendors, including artists who work in wood and leather, clothing designers, doll makers, party-hat creators, knife manufacturers, earring makers, and organizations dispelling information. The Mendocino County Public Health, Community Wellness Division had a booth to promote healthy choices in diets and drinks, and other health care decisions for families.

The Blue Zones Project brought their multi-purpose bike that has, in the past, been utilized to make healthy smoothies and was now repurposed to power a revolving drum on which kids and adults could create spin art. It was difficult to say whether more of the tempera paint went on the paper or on the smocks which the participants wore.

Wanda Quitquit of the Eastern Pomo brought a display to promote a life-sized indigenous sculpture for Lake County and a raffle to help fund the project. Sienna Reno



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an Enagic Kangen distributor was in attendance to promote water awareness and healthy hydration.

Artist Jazz-minh Moore began a painting of a seagull for others to participate in. "I'm going to start with this diagram of the gull with the wings spread. I'll set up the composition, so the value, color, and space are established. I'll invite people to come up and write their names inside the wings. Each can have a different feather so that it can become a collaboration. They can do a little design within the feather," she explained.

Moore partnered with Craig Mountain who was doing a less-planned composition. Salvador Andrade worked on a painting of his own, a man's face which he was morphing into a flower, while listening to the music from the stage.

The music and performance part of the day began with Ballet Folklorico of Ukiah, with their colorful costumes and spirited traditional dance, under the direction of Juvenal Vasquez. This demonstration was followed by the inimitable Train Singer Greg Schindel, who regaled the crowd with his renditions of train songs as well as some of his originals, to the accompaniment of his granddaughter, Kathryn Wachtelborn, who danced with abandon.

Brazilian dance instructor Carmen Day led a group of about 12 women in an energetic circle of South American steps. Finally, the headline group, Mama Grows Funk, got many dancers on their feet with their pounding rhythms and spirited songs.

There were several activities for the kids to occupy their time as their parents browsed, listened and shopped. The Willits Center for the Arts provided coloring posters for the young ones to participate in. The Mendocino County Museum led children in the art of stamp-making from erasers and a communal stamp painting. Dan Miller brought his well-known bed swing which accommodated up to 12 kids at a time.

"The purpose of this event is to bring the artists and the arts community together on a beautiful fall day," mused Ducharme. "The impetus for it came out of COVID. After the COVID restrictions lifted, to remind our community that the artists are still here and had as rough a time during the lockdown as the rest of us. It is to remind us how important art is to our lives."



Above, left: Headliner Mama Grows Funk gets the attendees on their feet to dance to their energetic melodies. Above: Salvador Andrade worked on his painting to the left of the stage so people could enjoy the music as well as his process.

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The rest of Contract From page 1

going out to bid on the project, and "a subsequent review deemed DMR Builders to be the lowest responsive bidder."

Damage to the facilities was caused by a tree falling on them during the March 2023 winter storms.

Repairs will start in earnest after the October 14 Ranch Rodeo event at the WFD Rodeo Grounds, and is expected to be completed before the end of 2023.

"We fully anticipate the insurance company will pay for the damages," Bowles said. "The city is also pursuing reimbursement from FEMA since the incident occurred during an emergency declaration. The city will cover the repair costs by utilizing idle funds that are carried over from prior years until reimbursement is received from the city's insurance."

Mayor Greta Kanne asked "the million dollar question for every woman in Willits who's gone to the rodeo and had a beer or two": will the repair project expand the number of bathrooms?

The answer, Bowles said, was no, the number of bathrooms won't increase, but the facility will be greatly improved, with nicer doors, standard partitions for the stalls, and automatic hand-washing and baby changing stations, "the kind of things that are ... supposed to be in public facilities."

When asked about issues with odor in the past, Bowles also stressed upgrades in the new construction materials, which will be non-absorbent. The current open concrete floors and plywood partitions and walls are absorbent materials, he said, making them harder to clean so odor doesn't linger. Bowles also said venting will be changed to a standard vent through the roof, which should improve odor issues.

New LED lighting will also be installed, with occupancy sensors that will turn on as needed.

Business license contract

The council also approved 5-0 a contract with Avenu Insights & Analytics to provide business license tax administrative services and transient occupancy tax collection services.

Avenu Insights currently works with the City of Willits on sales tax reports.

Finance Director Manuel Orozco told councilmembers City of Willits staffing levels had not been able to keep up with compliance or follow-up on the payment of quarterly business license payments to the city, and also didn't have access to information about state taxes paid that Avenue or other firms do.

"By retaining Avenu for these services, the city will have the confidence that the appropriate collection, deposit, recording, delinquency follow up, and reporting of local business license fees. These services will include all correspondence, forms, and other such services to ensure appropriate and timely remittance of the business license fees."

The plan is to put up an electronic portal through the City of Willits website where local business owners can track and pay their quarterly fees.

Avenu will charge \$30,662.20 the first year to implement the services, and "the ongoing cost of facilitating the collection services for the next five years will be \$16,412.20." The cost, Orozco said, about \$90,000 over the five-year contract, "is expected to be offset by additional revenues generated due to compliance and delinquency follow-up."

Orozco said he'd looked at past records, and estimated the city was losing about \$30,000 a year in missed business license fees and transient occupancy taxes that are collected by hotels, or about \$150,000 over five years.

Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez said she initially had many questions about the outsourcing, but was willing to support it. She did ask that once the program was ready to implement that the city, possibly in partnership with the Willits Chamber of Commerce, could offer a training session on how to use it. "And then also," she said, "when we go to send out our mailing on the new system if we could make sure that enclosed in that are some step-by-step instructions."

Closed session

The council went into closed session on two matters, a conference with legal counsel on existing litigation, former WPD officer Natalie Higley v. City of Willits, et al., and also a Public Employee (City Manager) review and assessment regarding comments received from Willits Police Officer Association.

Mayor Kanne came back after the closed session was finished, and said there were no actions to report out.

The rest of Brooktrails From page 1

Measure P, a ¼ cent sales tax measure to benefit local fire departments, passed 55.27% to 44.73% in November 2022.

Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea reported that the Brooktrails Golf Course Committee met on September 21. Discussion had focused on the capital improvements payment, that is paid by the golf course management, due in October. The golf course manager calculates a half percentage amount of all green fees earned from July through September, to come up with the total to be paid. The committee also discussed a need for beams to support new nets that have been installed. October 19 is the date of the committee's next meeting.

Director Joanne Cavallari provided an update on the Peacock Drive sinkhole, saying that, "The barricades have been replaced where they were originally, and the yellow caution tape is there as well, but there are no signs of anything that resembles construction." She asked if the general manager had received any feedback regarding the road situation and Manager Tamara Alaniz noted that she had received word about the replacement of the barricades, but hadn't heard from the county Transportation Department about a timeline for rebuilding the road.

Alaniz also reported on some utility department issues, sharing that Tank 7 has had different companies contracted to service it and after some hiccups in the maintenance schedule, all is working well now. Also, the Clarifier 2 installation is moving forward, and thanks to clear skies ahead, getting all of the components in place is going to proceed as scheduled.

The Par Course renovation project has been started, and staff members have been working with the Greenbelt Committee to prep the area. Fitness stations will soon be recreated and will have new, updated signage provided by Outdoor Fitness, Inc.

Board president Rick Williams asked, "How is our water supply?" Alaniz answered, "We are still at 70% as was reported last month, which is very good."

Brooktrails recently had a bit of rain, and Fire Chief Jon Noyer said that the three-quarters inch of rain that was received was beneficial, but we need to remain vigilant. "We are still in fire season," Noyer emphasized. "We can have rain and snow, but the wind is always prevalent in the fire season, and the wind trumps everything."

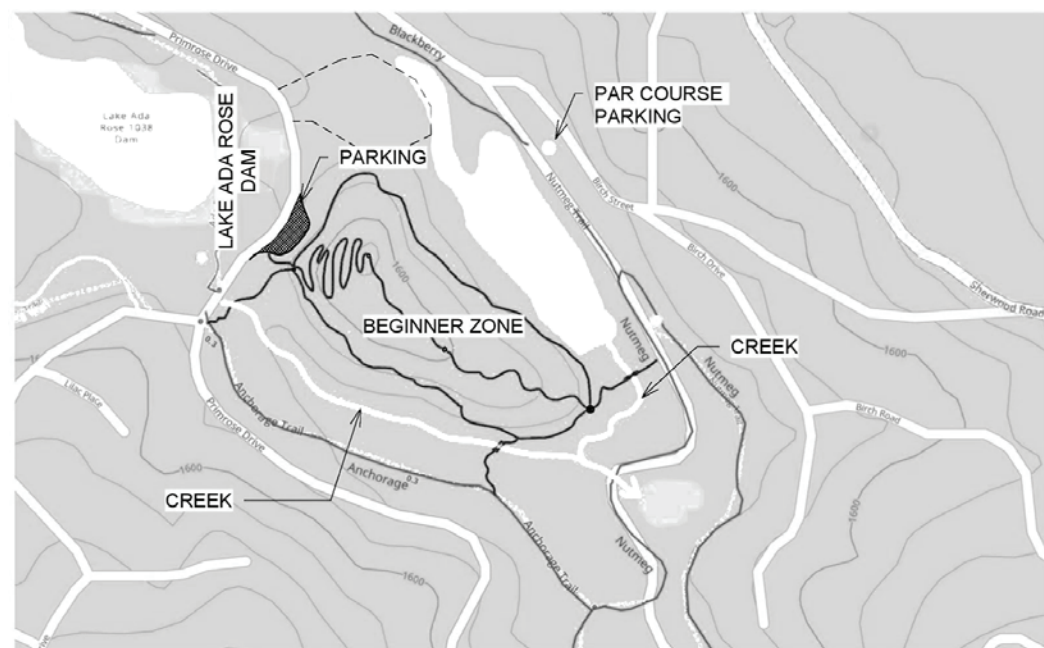
The board then voted unanimously to approve the September 27 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$53,850.30.

Finally, board members addressed the last item on the agenda: Consideration of Disc Golf Tee Sign Proposal from Joseph Haggard, a Brooktrails resident who is active with the Basket Beaters Disc Golf organization.

Haggard and his father who has a solid background in wood crafting and construction, and his brother, River Haggard, plan to create wayfaring signs and posts at each tee throughout the disc golf course. There are a total of 18 baskets on the course and approximately 20 signs would be provided, one at each tee with at least a couple of extra directional signs. The proposal is to create the tee signs from existing felled redwood that was downed by PG&E in the Ohl Grove Redwood Park.

The redwood tee signs are proposed instead of metal or plastic sign alternatives to create a harmonious design. Each sign will include a map, course location, and basket-specific information. It is the Haggards' hope that improving the wayfaring signage may help the Brooktrails Disc Golf Course up from its third place ranking into the top two spot.

The board voted unanimously to approve the Haggards' proposal.



The rest of Bikes From page 1

and beginners in our community.

WAC has been approved to build a "beginner trail zone" in Brooktrails. This will be a bike park of easy-to-access, short, loop-able trails on a small unused hill near Lake Ada Rose. This hill sits right between the Par Course, the water treatment plant, and Primrose Drive. This area is ideal for its ease of access, and connectivity within the existing trail network.

There is an existing small gravel turnout off of Primrose Drive for parking and direct access. There will also be connection points with the Nutmeg Trail, so that people parking at the Par Course lot can easily get to these trails after checking out the kiosk map. In addition to the Par Course connection, there would also be links to Mike's Trail (to Mossy Rock / Rockefeller), and LeBrun (to Ohl Grove, or Jurassic / Inlet / Rockefeller).

We need support

This is a large project, and will only happen



The rest of MCHC From page 1

hoped to repurpose the existing building for something related to healthcare, but potential buyers fell out one by one, in part due to the scale of existing improvements that any potential project would need to retrofit.

So, the Foundation decided to demolish the improvements with the hope of making the property appeal to a broader market segment. Indeed, during demolition, the Foundation received an unsolicited offer to purchase the property for a residential housing project.

Mello said: "We had another offer on the table when we heard that MCHC was looking to expand. After talking to [MCHC CEO] Rod Grainger about MCHC's plans, we brought the idea of donating the land to our board. The board enthusiastically supported the move, and here we are. We're very happy that it turned out the way it did."

MCHC has been providing healthcare in Mendocino County for more than 30 years. It started as a small, single clinic with 13 employees. Today, MCHC has grown to more than 300 employees with centers in Willits, Ukiah, and Lakeport.

Throughout its history, MCHC has continually grown and expanded its services to meet the needs of local residents. It opened Little Lake Health Center on Hazel Street in Willits in 2002, with help from the Foundation, and has been supporting the Willits community ever since.

Mello noted that MCHC fits a "much-needed niche" when it comes to healthcare in Willits, providing outpatient medical, dental, and behavioral health services. And he is eager to see how MCHC continues to grow to meet the evolving needs of the community.

"MCHC has been a great partner," Mello said. "The whole reason we exist is to improve the lives of the members of our community by providing the best possible healthcare we can provide. This partnership with MCHC helps us achieve this."

Grainger says he is grateful for the Foundation's generosity and humbled by their trust in MCHC to continue the legacy of care started by the Howard family and sustained by the Foundation all these years. He is also excited about the possibilities that await.

During the next 12 months, MCHC plans to hold visioning sessions with Willits community

Above: Phase 1: Climb line and loop trail.

with financial help from the community. A professional trail builder will be brought in to ensure that the trails created will be fun, safe and sustainable. WAC will begin fundraising immediately, and will be out in the community asking donors to support this rare opportunity that will have a positive effect on the health and recreation of kids and families in our area.

Additionally, this is an opportunity to build trails that could make Willits a biking destination, and help attract tourists to our local businesses. Large donors will be given the opportunity to name the new trails, or even the entire bike park. This will be great advertising for your business, as well as a healthy tax write-off for your donation to our nonprofit organization.

Please contact us at wactrails@gmail.com if you are excited about donating, available to help with fundraising efforts, or interested in more information.

Let's make mountain biking a reality for the kids in Willits!

Above: A photo of what the old Howard Hospital property at 1 Madrone Street looks like now.

members to hear ideas on the most urgent and important healthcare needs.

Grainger said: "We want to do what's best for the community in meeting its healthcare needs, defining healthcare in the broadest possible sense. In the short term, we can expand existing services, doing the work we already know how to do. But for the future, we are open to all sorts of options."

Grainger draws inspiration from the Howard family and the Foundation's history of creating a remarkable healthcare facility in a town that by all measures would be an unlikely home to such "a technical marvel."

The story of Frank R. Howard is familiar to many Willits residents, and after the 2003 movie "Seabiscuit," to people all over the world. In 1926, Frank R. Howard died at the age of 14 from injuries he sustained in a car accident. His father, Charles, believed Frank would have survived had there been a hospital nearby to provide emergency care.

In the aftermath of his son's death, Charles Howard financially supported a community effort to build a local hospital. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held during the 1927 Willits Frontier Days, and the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital cared for its first patient in 1928. In 2015, in partnership with Adventist Health, the Foundation supported the opening of a new critical-access hospital in Willits.

The Frank R. Howard Foundation was established in 1987 to guarantee high-quality hospital services for Willits and Northern Mendocino County. Its mission has since expanded to promote and support programs that maintain, as well as improve, healthcare for the community of Willits and the entire Northern Mendocino County area.

Mello said: "The Foundation exists because of the support we have from this little community. It's extraordinary. We feel fortunate to have such an engaged and supportive community."

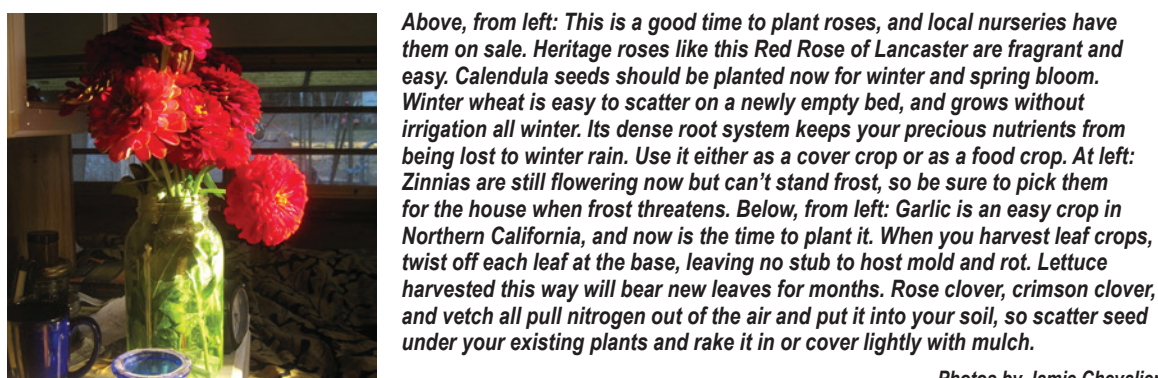
MCHC Health Centers includes Hillside Health Center and Dora Street Health Center in Ukiah, Little Lake Health Center in Willits, and Lakeview Health Center in Lakeport. It is a community-based and patient-directed organization that provides comprehensive primary healthcare services as well as supportive services such as education and translation that promote access to healthcare.



At top, from left: *Vitex* looks like butterfly bush, but it is an easy-to-grow medicinal shrub available from local nurseries. If you don't want to care for big, fussy fruit trees, consider planting a quince. These are native to Turkey, so they love our climate and grow almost by themselves. The fruit are fragrant and delicious cooked in pies, jellies and butters, or simply as a puree like applesauce. Elderberries are an easy-to-grow tree or shrub that is easy to fit into a garden. The berries have anti-viral properties and make a delicious juice, jelly, or wine to combine medicine with pleasure during the winter months.

Above, from left: Mustard greens are available in many colors and degrees of heat, from very mild to spicy. Tree collards are a winter standby in our area. They are grown from cuttings and are available from Quail Seeds (www.quailseeds.com). Bird's-eye gilia is a lovely wildflower that is easy from seed. Sow now on sandy soil. It is a good companion to California poppies and lupine. (Photo courtesy Applewood Seeds).

Below, from left: Poppies should be sown now. They love good soil with a sprinkling of sand or gravel on top, and should be thinned to a foot apart for best bloom. Keeping harvest going is a priority now since if you stop picking, the plants stop producing. When they do stop, compost them right away, without waiting for the whole garden or the whole row to be done. Rose campion is a favorite of butterflies and its silver leaves are drought-tolerant and deer-resistant. The seeds should be planted now and will sprout in spring.



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October: New season, new priorities

The season has changed, and the gardener's priorities are changing as well. The priorities for the October garden are controlling pests and diseases; harvesting both food and fertility; and a surprising amount of planting, too.

Good news first. Enjoying your harvest is a priority. Fruit trees, tomatoes, peppers, pole beans, and greens are usually going full swing now. It's worth protecting them from the first few light frosts, but once you're not getting good harvests of food, harvest fertility instead by composting them promptly while they have a lot of nutrients to contribute to next year's garden. Don't let dying plants become a source of mold and rot in your garden beds.

As plants come out, others can go in. It's time to plant garlic, which is an easy crop in our climate. Plant now, harvest in June. It's prime planting time for poppies and all California wildflowers. In nature, they sprout now, with the fall rains. By following nature's example, you will get a much bigger and better show than with spring sowing.

Now that spring impulse-buying is over, most nurseries have great deals on everything from trees to flowers. Fall planting gives perennials a lot of time to root into moist soil, with no heat stress. Once they have a good root system, spring growth is fast.

Even if you don't depend on them for fertility, consider planting cover crops to protect the soil from washing away or getting compacted. And nobody wants to deal with weeds. Prevent them now by either sowing a cover crop in empty spaces or laying down mulch. Where summer crops are still in place, rake in seed beneath them, to stabilize the mud and make everything easier next spring.

Aphids are back, and usually seem to be a different type than I see in spring. Most of them are placed on the plants by ants. The aphids suck the sap from plants and the ants drink the sugary juice they secrete. So, if you have an aphid problem, you have an ant problem. Diatom dust at the base of the plant will prevent the ants from getting up into the foliage.

Non-toxic borax-based ant traps are available, too. Or, you can make your own. Mix 2 tablespoons borax with ½ cup sugar, and add warm water to dissolve. Put it in a jar with holes punched in the lid. That way, ants can get in, but other animals cannot. Placing a cotton ball inside the jar on one side makes the borax solution especially accessible to the ants, which will carry it back to their colony and poison themselves.

Ants also dislike peppermint, so peppermint oil and peppermint soap can be effective as well. Do not put anything with borax in it where it can get into the soil. Borax is an essential nutrient, but only in very small quantities. Larger amounts are toxic to plants (not toxic to you or your pets, though).

The return of rain means the return of mold and mildew to the garden, and early fall days have the fatal combination of moisture and warmth that spreads them. The danger is highest when the air is moist, nights are foggy, and temperatures are between 45 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit. In those conditions, it's best to take action even if you don't have problems yet.

Make sure your plants have plenty of potassium and trace elements, which strengthens their immune system. Seaweed is a good source, that will make them more cold-hardy as well. Local soils tend to be low in sulfur, which plants need to fight fungal disease.

Powdery mildew can be prevented with probiotic sprays. Compost tea, yogurt diluted in water, and proprietary probiotics can all be used. Mold is much harder to treat. Once plant tissue has mold in it, you must cut and destroy it to keep it from spreading. The plant can grow new leaves and stems, but it cannot repair infected ones.

Botrytis is a particularly destructive form that turns flowers or dense foliage brown and envelopes it in cottony gray mold. Good air circulation; good nutrition without excessive nitrogen; and careful monitoring of any plant with dense flowers or foliage are your best defense. As always, there is no garden device as effective as the eyes and hands of an attentive gardener.

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in both Alaska and California, as well as teaching, homesteading, and working with several national seed organizations. She started Quail Seeds in 2018 as a locally focused seed company. Her website quailseeds.com offers over 400 varieties of seed adapted to the Northern California climate, as well as extensive how-to information.



Enthusiastic Anja

Get ready to join the Anja party! Anja, the pint-sized German shepherd, is on a mission to find her forever family, and she's bringing a whole lot of energy and playfulness along for the ride. This little dynamo is bursting with enthusiasm and ready to light up your life!

Anja is not only a bundle of joy but also a pro when it comes to crate training and house manners. You won't have to worry about any little accidents or chewed-up slippers with this smart cookie around.

With Anja as your partner, you'll have a constant companion for all your walks and hikes. Her boundless energy and love for the outdoors make her the perfect match for an active family.

Anja's always up for a game of fetch or a fun-filled play session with her favorite toys. Watching her in action will undoubtedly bring a smile to your face and fill your heart with laughter.

To learn more about Anja or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 707-459-4900.

The rest of Trees

branches were arranged with the larger portion to the street for easier chipping.

Being a smaller startup entity, Beck usually works with a crew of three for safety and efficiency. He has a large variety of equipment he has gathered over the years which he can utilize for almost any tree job.

"I have about nine chainsaws, a dump trailer, a chip truck with a dump bed, everything you need to rig down a large tree: blocks, slings, large ties, large straps. My future purchases are going to be a bucket and a chipper," said Beck.

A bucket is a lift with a bucket to stand on at the end, which facilitates being able to work in the trees without climbing. A chipper, which reduces branches to sawdust, can cost upward of \$62,000, so that will have to wait until at least next spring.

"I love being outside and I love pleasing the clients," said Beck. "I like building my reputation and I like when people said

The rest of Paints

to the grain size and ancient use of the colorants. O'Hanlon and his wife and partner Tatiana Zaytseva have traveled the globe to the actual quarries where pigments are mined and arranged to obtain the materials directly from the origins.

On Saturday, September 16, Natural Pigments invited local artists to the shop to enjoy some wine and snacks, to view videos on the company and the history of colorants, and to give tours of their manufacturing techniques.

"I'm constantly learning more about pigments," explained O'Hanlon. "There's a lot more technical information that we're learning more about. For an example, the American Society of Testing Materials in the early 1980s developed a series of standards for artist materials, in particular light-fastness. That standard has been in effect since the 1980s. A lot of companies, us included, put the ratings on our labels for individual colors.

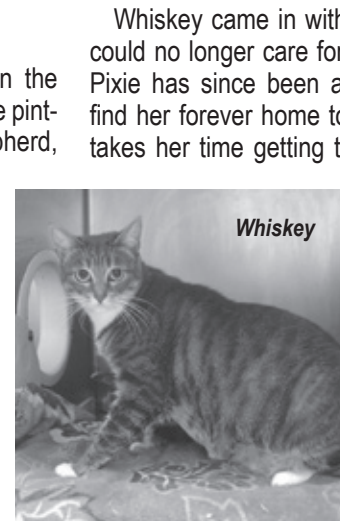
"About four years ago, one of the members of that company discovered that there was a problem with the testing method, which gave false positives. This means that for a whole class of pigments, we really don't know if they're light fast. This is a major thing.

"All artist material companies should pay attention to this," stressed O'Hanlon. "Only three have decided to do this: Golden Artist Colors, Windsor-Newton, and us. Outside, we've put up an outdoor testing rack and we've invested research money into re-examining the testing method. That is what we're focusing a lot of our attention on. We think it's very, very important.

"Apparently, a lot of other companies don't. It costs to do this but after all, it is their business. I don't want that on my conscience. This is an imperative for the industry. This is science. We need to eliminate variables in the process. These companies appeal to amateurs rather than professional artists, so they don't care," O'Hanlon said. This little company from the little town of Willits is setting the standard for top-level quality artist materials.

On the tour, led by Tatiana Zaytseva, the group of mostly artists was shown the methods by which the raw pigment is combined with the oil base to create the finished paint. Those on the tour came away with an understanding of how Rublev

Independent Whiskey



Whiskey came in with her sister, Pixie, when her owner could no longer care for them due to no fault of their own. Pixie has since been adopted, leaving Whiskey alone to find her forever home too. Miss Whiskey is a shy cat who takes her time getting to know you. Once she warms up, she accepts pets but is overall a more independent type of cat. Due to her initial hesitation, we are suggesting no young kids in her new home.

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 our feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.

Angelic Isabela

Meet our sweet girl Isabela! She was found wandering around the Mendocino forest with her very pregnant sister. One of our wonderful fosters happen to be camping in the area, so she scooped them up and brought them straight to us.

Isabela is currently living in a foster home, who has the following to say about her:

"She has been with us for over a



month now and has literally been the best dog. She is smart, sensitive, playful, goofy and just a total love bug. We've had multiple get-togethers with 10 to 15 people over and she has been an absolute angel. She loves everyone and is extremely respectful. No begging, barking or bugging of anyone. All our friends are in love with her.

"When our daughter is running around screaming with her friends she won't hardly lift her head up. She loves wrestling with me but will tone it down with children. Overall I'd say she is a 10 / 10 with kids.

"We take our short walks to the park and back multiple times a day and she is quite the hit. She has made many friends who have handfuls of treats waiting for her. She is really good on a leash and greets other dogs really nicely. I'm fairly certain she would get along with cats.

"She is happy inside the house and hasn't had any accidents and also loves relaxing on the patio. She hasn't even gone pee or poo on the patio like most other dogs we have had.

"She goes into her crate at night and doesn't make a peep all night long. I get up at 5 am and open the crate up and let our other dog outside but she just likes to say hi and stays in the crate for another hour or so, usually laying her head out on the floor so I can't close the door back up."

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to come 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.mendohumane.org, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



Above: David Robi, letter carrier for the United States Postal Service, helped deliver an earlier round of tests in 2022.

Free COVID tests

USPS delivering free COVID tests now

Households are once again able to place orders for free at-home COVID tests and the United States Postal Service is starting to deliver those tests this week.

"As of September 25, 2023, each order will contain 4 tests and there is a limit of 1 order per residential address. Additional tests cannot be ordered regardless of the size of the household. If you placed an order May 31, 2023 or earlier, you may now place another order. This order will contain a total of 4 tests," explains the USPS website. "This is part of a federal program to provide free at-home COVID-19 tests with free shipping to every residential address and residential PO Box in the United States. Tests cannot be ordered for business addresses or business PO Boxes."

To order your tests, log onto <https://www.covid.gov/tests> or call 1-800-232-0233.

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CORNHOLE 10 AM - TOURNAMENT STARTS	BBQ LUNCH 12 PM JUDGING

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