

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Watch for Senior Center raffle tickets in the mail

To the Editor:
Thanks to the support of local businesses and residents, our last FUN-ding RAFFLE for the Willits Senior Center raised roughly \$15,000.

We will be doing a saturated mailing this year, so every residence and business in Willits and Laytonville will have a chance to win a variety of raffle prizes. Everyone will receive a letter that explains the programs and services their donations will support, along with a flyer that lists all the raffle prizes. For your convenience we provide a remittance envelope; just sign your tickets place them in the remittance envelope along with your donation.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$20. This is a great way to support the Senior Center, plus you get a chance to win one of over 40 prizes.

On Friday, May 17, at 5 pm we will have a spaghetti dinner (\$15) in the dining hall. Raffle tickets will be drawn and winners announced starting at 6:30 pm. One free ticket will be awarded to anyone who attends the raffle drawing but you need not be present to win, we will be calling everyone that wins a prize – so make sure you print your contact information clearly on your ticket stubs. Keep an eye on your mailboxes – our FUN-ding RAFFLE envelopes will be showing up early next week.

Richard Baker, director, Willits Senior Center

Our community

To the Editor:
It had been a great Friday drum circle (more precisely our hometown percussion jam) at the straw bale Episcopal Church. We closed the session at 10:30, and I was looking forward to dancing at the pub across the street, catching the last set at least.

Quickly stripping off winter warmth for dancing garb, I was now dressed and ready to go. Then I lost my car keys! The other pair was three miles up a dirt road. I futilely search for an hour for keys that do not show up until the next day. It is now 11:30, too late to call on friends. Faced with sleeping at the church, I call my wife who confesses to me that she is terrified of driving my old truck on a dark and stormy night. She then suggests that I go to the pub and ask for a ride.

I would never have thought of that myself, but desperate at 11:45 I head across the street, and tell Misha the bartender: "I lost my car keys. I need a ride." He tells me, "So do I" but disappears for a few minutes and returns and tells me, "I have a ride for you outside."

A couple I do not know met me in the shadows, with smiles and good humor, drove me all the way up my rutted dirt road to get my other set of keys, and back down. I tried to find a way to properly thank them, but they told me: "We do not need anything. We know you would do the same for us."

That exemplifies our community. I hope to recognize them some day.

William Bruneau, Willits

Willits Weekly

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters to the editor 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.

Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

Willits Weekly

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 11, Number 539
3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays
P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047
willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633
Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographer / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-972-7047
Jackie Cobbs, features editor
Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer
Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter
Annie Everts, reporter / features writer
Danya Davis, Police Log
Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter
Sheri Dockins, sports reporter
Ava Dockins, sports photographer
April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / willitsweekly@gmail.com

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com

SADDENED

Submitted by
the City of Willits

February 26 – The City of Willits is deeply saddened by the passing of Edith Ceccarelli. Despite our sadness, the community was truly honored to have had the recent opportunity to celebrate her 116th birthday with the world.

Edith was an inspiration for the community as she experienced the growth of Willits and was eager to share her experiences with everyone. Her stories made every one of us proud to call this beautiful, Northern California community home.

These stories not only reflected historical changes, but also the life and times of an amazing woman. Edith will always be remembered by all.

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, February 29: Muenster Chicken w/ Mushrooms & Noodles

Friday, March 1: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread

Monday, March 4: Western Bacon Burger, Chips, Pickle

Tuesday, March 5: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Wednesday, March 6: Lasagna w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread

Thursday, March 7: Carnitas Burrito Wet w/Green Sauce

Friday, March 8: Chicken & Dumplings

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 March 10 this month, 8 to 11 am.

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

Congressional Art contest open for submissions

Submitted by the
Office of Rep. Jared Huffman

Washington, D.C. – On Tuesday, Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) announced that the 2024 Congressional Art Competition is open for digital submissions from all high school students in California's Second Congressional District, which spans from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border.

"The Congressional Art Competition is one of the best ways to showcase the artistic skills of young people across California's Second District, and I'm excited to announce this year's competition is now open for digital submissions," said Rep. Huffman. "We always have a great showing from our talented students up and down the coast, and I'm looking forward to another year of fantastic art."

To enter the competition, students must submit a completed entry form through Congressman Huffman's website <https://huffman.house.gov/helping-you/art-competition> and also email a picture of their submission with their name and school to ca2arts@huffman.house.gov by Thursday, April 18, 2024. We recommend viewing this video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=50g4a1GeDs for advice on how to photograph your art. Do not mail in your submission.

The winning artwork will be exhibited in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year alongside artwork from each Congressional District in the country. The winning student will receive two round-trip tickets to Washington, D.C. The winner will also be eligible for a scholarship to attend Savannah College of Art and Design (upon admission acceptance).

Guidelines for the Congressional Art Competition
Artwork entered in the contest must be two-dimensional and may be up to 26 inches in height by 26 inches in width by 4 inches in depth (including the frame)

The artwork cannot weigh more than 15 pounds.
The artwork may be: Paintings - including oil, acrylics, and watercolor; Drawings - including pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, and markers; Collage prints - including lithographs, silkscreen, and block prints; Mixed Media; Computer Generated Art; or Photography.

All entries must be an original in concept, design, and execution. Only one submission per student will be accepted.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition.

Congressman Jared Huffman represents California's Second Congressional District, which spans the North Coast of the state from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border, and includes Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties. He currently serves on the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. In the 118th Congress, Huffman serves as Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries. He is the founder of the Congressional Freethought Caucus.

Salmon Info Meeting webinar, March 1

Submitted by CDFW

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife invites the public to attend its annual Salmon Information Meeting via webinar on Friday, March 1, at 10 am. The meeting will provide informational presentations on topics such as last year's spawning escapement, estimates of forecasted ocean abundance, and management goals for 2024 ocean salmon seasons.

Salmon Information Meeting details, informational materials and instructions for attendance will be published in advance of the event on CDFW's Ocean Salmon Calendar of Events page <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon/preseason>

The 2024 Salmon Information Meeting marks the beginning of a two month-long public process used to develop annual sport and commercial ocean salmon fishing regulations, which is also used to inform

development of inland salmon fishing regulations later in the spring.

The process involves collaborative negotiations between west coast states, federal agencies, tribal co-managers, and others interested in salmon fishery management and conservation.

California representatives will work together to develop a range of recommended ocean fishing season alternatives at the March 6 to 11 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Fresno. Final season recommendations will be adopted at the PFMC's April 6 to 11 meeting in Seattle.

For more information related to the salmon preseason process, including contact information, timeline and other opportunities for public engagement, please visit <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon/preseason>



Chili Cookoff

Wide variety of entries served up by local organizations at annual fundraiser for Willits Senior Center

It was refreshing to see Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez, City Council Member Gerry Gonzales, and Community Services Officer Chris Dendy accepting bribes out in the open, not caring who was watching, and with great good humor, even if it was just a joke. The first indoor Senior Center Chili Cook Off since COVID took place last Friday with 15 entries vying to be considered the best of the competitors.

Prizes were bestowed for Best Chili (Judges' Choice), Best Chili (People's Choice), and Best Décor (determined by the judges). The dining room at the Senior Center was ringed with brightly festooned tables with a variety of chili, some with and without beans, an assortment of meats, from hamburger to wild boar, and one vegetarian chili. The proceeds of the evening's event, raised through the \$30 entry fee, \$10 tasters' fee, \$1 muffin tin rental fee (so the tasters could sort and catalog their choices), and \$5 root beer floats, went to the Senior Center in order to help maintain the workings of the organization.

Chili is a tradition in many families, with recipes passed down through the generations. Every one of the 15 entries had something that would distinguish it from the others, different meats, different beans, different spices, different choice of accompaniments (onions, cilantro, olives, cheeses, etc.). The booths also varied in looks, with decorations ranging from simple tablecloths to elaborate depictions of the organizations that sponsored the tables.

Jamie Cary, a new officer with the Willits Police Officer Association, brought both her parents and "my famous chili. I've been making it 10 years," explained Carey. "I don't give anybody my recipe. I use Italian sausage and some ground beef. It's gotta have beans, because what's chili without beans? It can be pretty spicy, but I adjust the recipe depending on who's eating it."

The Community Crossroads of Mendocino County, with Amy Fox, Jannie Longcrier, and Shannon Demuth, offered locally raised turkey and chicken chili with lots of organic veggies and organic tomatoes, all from scratch. "I make the tomato sauce myself. I added a little sweetness from maple syrup and date syrup," said Longcrier.

The Willits School District Transportation Division, with Charles and Krystal Duncan, won the award for the Best Décor, with Krystal dressed as the Magic School Bus, complete with working headlights. They offered a freshly hunted venison and wild pig chili.

Virginia Jorge, Senior Center board member and Bingo producer, offered a "Beango" Buffalo Wing Chili with blue cheese, celery sticks and homemade jalapeño cornbread. Susan Mahoney,

coordinator at the Chamber of Commerce, went solo. Under the watchful eye of a flock of pink flamingos, she created the evening's only vegetarian chili.

"I had this recipe from years ago and every time I bring it to a potluck, everybody likes it. So, I thought if I was going to stand a chance to win anything, if I did something a little bit different, it would stand out," Mahoney explained.

The Willits Daily Bread, under the direction of Cindy Savage, had two chili variations to offer the hungry crowd. "This chili is a black bean and corn, and this one is kidney bean chili with beef," said Savage. "I can drop any leftovers over at the soup kitchen and they can serve it on Monday. We have limes, and avocados, and chips and jalapeños and salsa, onions. The idea was to create a sort of charcuterie table." Lou and Adam Celaya, who have been participating for years, made a carnitas chili.

First-timers, Bill and Lorri Barker, made a "Nobody Knows" chili. "We've never made chili before. I make good cookies and Bill makes good pies. Our chili has hamburger, some canned stuff, a little bit of onion, some beans."

Cathy Gernhardt made a wild boar chili from the animals that run on her property. She didn't care if she won anything. She was in it for the pure aesthetic alimentary joy of treating people to her chili. Harry So of the Little Lake Fire District toned down the spice a bit for the public, stating that the heat was a three out of five.

Gloria Westby, of TG Custom Designs, told of how her chili got its name: "When Neil Orr came to his last cook-off, he was telling everybody they needed to come over and taste 'the leftovers,' my chili. And that became his road name. So, this is 'Leftover Chili.'"

Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra went strictly by the Texas rules of chili competitions, meaning no chili powder, no tomatoes (as they were not available on the trail), no beans (Texas side dish), and no white flour or artificial thickeners.

The winner of the People's Choice Award, ABC Team Blaze, with Devon and Kenneth, had chili that was "a little bit spicy with lamb and bison and beef. We have tomatillo, jalapeño peppers, Anaheim chilis, paprika, salt, a little bit of MSG, onions, celery peppers," said Kenneth, who in earlier life was a chef in New Orleans.

The Judges' Choice Award, for the second year in a row, was the Mendocino County Sheriff's Activity League, fronted by Mike Tobin. Their chili had pale ale included for taste.

By the end of the evening, the bribes didn't matter (except for raising more money), everybody had a great time and was well fed, and spouses had to go home to sleep in separate rooms.



At top: Amy Fox, Jannie Longcrier and Shannon Demuth of Community Crossroads of Mendocino County serve a turkey and chicken chili.
Above, left: Charles and Krystal Duncan with the Willits Unified Schools Transportation Department hold their award for the Best Decorated Table. Above, right: Kenneth and Devon of ABC Team Blaze show off their People's Choice award. At left: Mike Tobin with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Activity League accepts the Judges Choice award for the second year in a row.

Photos by Richard Baker

Below, left: Cindy Savage of Willits Daily Bread created a charcuterie table of extras used to top her two chili variations. Below, right: Harry So of the Little Lake Fire District spoons out some level-three-heat chili.

Photos by Mathew Caine



707.459.5193
JOHN FORD RANCH
RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF
No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

CROWN RNER
Groceries Beer & Wine Gas & Diesel Pay at the Pump
7 am - 10 pm
459-4854
1799 So. Main St.
P.O. Box 425
Family owned since 1983

Best WILLITS POWER & HARDWARE
HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT
Lawn & Garden Equipment • Generators
Sales, Parts & Service • Pick-up & Delivery
1600 S. Main St. Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420
Willits, CA 95490 Service: 707 459-0596
willitspower@gmail.com Fax: 707 459-6369

Lisa Mace, Movement Therapist
Feldenkrais/Myofascial Release/Exercise
Specializing in Hands-on Health
707-354-3717
maccemoving@gmail.com
32 E. San Francisco Ave., Willits

FARMERS INSURANCE
Randall Cantua, LUTCF
Agent
Cantua Insurance Agency
16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490
786 Redwood Drive
Garberville, CA 95542
Tel 707.459.3276
Tel 707.923.2179
Fax 707.923.9550
rcantua@farmersagent.com
067822

Mike Oglesby
707-489-0755
3 Sons Electric, Inc.
Residential • Commercial • Industrial
mike@3sonselectric.net
CA 1081690
2010 Industry Rd, Ukiah CA 95482 707-462-1660

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

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!

FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| BARTENDER
BILL
BUS
BYOB
CHARCUTERIE
CHEF
COMBINATION
COUNTER | EARLY BIRD
FAMILY STYLE
HAPPY
HAPPY HOUR
HOSTESS
LUNCH
MANAGER
MENU | RESERVATION
SERVER
SERVICE
SHARE
SPECIALS
TAKEOUT
TICKET
VALUE |
|---|--|---|

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14				15			
16					17				18			
19				20					21			
				22					23		24	
25	26	27		28				29		30		
31			32		33		34				35	
36				37		38			39		40	
				41				42		43	44	
				45				46		47	48	
49	50		51				52		53			
54			55				56			57	58	59
60						61				62		
63						64				65		
66						67				68		

CLUES ACROSS

- Bleated
- Snake-like fish
- Database management system
- Russian-American violinist
- Wendy's founder Thomas
- Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- Negatives
- Rescued
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Assigns tasks to
- Island nation native
- Trade
- Detergent brand
- Famed NY Giant
- Before
- Split pulses
- Extremely angry; highly incensed
- Body part
- American state
- David __, US playwright
- Move one's head slightly
- Secret rendezvous
- Improved
- A place to exercise
- 18-year astronomical period
- Automobile
- You can take it
- A radio band

- Jaws of an animal
- Short-billed rails
- Chinese province
- Shameless and undisguised
- Horizontal passage into a mine
- Adult males
- Fall to entertain
- Dried-up
- City in north-central Utah
- Southern U.S.
- German river
- Oxygen
- Make law

CLUES DOWN

- Curved segment
- Wings
- From pentane (Chemistry) incensed
- Gradually gets into
- Commercial document (abbr.)
- Overhang
- Christmas and New Year's have them
- Type of bulb
- Lacking a plan
- Tattle
- Rockers like it 'heavy'
- One who's been canonized
- Indicate time and place

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

January 22 to January 28
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **79 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

January 22

7:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Oak Street and issued a warning.

January 23

8:20 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

8:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

January 24

1:38 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

4:21 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Holly Street and issued a warning.

6:43 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

January 25

1:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Holly Street and Poplar Avenue and issued a warning.

1:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

1:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

2:28 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and West Commercial Street and issued a warning.

January 26

10:15 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

1:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:27 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

1:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

The rest of Ballot

From page 1
were changed during the 2021 redistricting process, but whose changed districts were not properly recorded in the voter rolls. Redistricting happens after the U.S. Census data is released every 10 years, to balance out the number of voters in each county district.

A letter sent separately to these 177 voters by Voter Registrar Bartolomie reads: "As part of the 2021 Countywide Redistricting process, Mendocino County's Supervisorial Districts were changed, pushing some voters into a new district.

During this process there was an oversight with your residential area, which left you in your original Supervisorial District. Your address has been identified as one that belongs in the updated Supervisorial District.

"You will be receiving a new ballot to cast your vote for the March 5, 2024, presidential primary election. New ballots were mailed February 22, 2024."

Willits area resident Keith Rutledge lives at one of the former Third District addresses which was moved to the Fourth District during 2021 redistricting, but who still got a ballot for the Third District.

Rutledge said he has already received his new Fourth District ballot, with the election for Fourth District supervisor on the back, and is set to vote.

"The good news is, it's time to vote, and

1:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

2:38 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Street and issued a citation.

4:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Hazel Street and issued a warning.

5:34 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

5:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and Spruce Street and issued a warning.

January 27

7:33 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Baechtel Road and South Main Street.

9:03 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 200 block of Bonnie Lane.

9:05 am: OWENS, Sheila Renee (31) of California was contacted in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road. She was arrested on felony charges of attempted first degree burglary and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (loitering on private property) and violation of probation.

12:12 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

12:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:34 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Blosser Lane and Franklin Avenue and issued a warning.

12:39 pm: SUBA, Kristoff Eddie (44) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of State Street and North Marin Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation.

12:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Blosser Lane and Franklin Avenue and issued a warning.

1:25 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of South Humboldt Street.

2:08 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation near the South Willits Bypass.

3:09 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

5:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

Read the rest of WPD Over on page 11



Above, from left: A portrait of Roberta's father, Robert Poe, is one of several on her walls. Roberta Yokum loves all things to do with cows, having had many on her property. This cake, made by Santa Ramirez, depicts a British highland cow. A couple of Roberta's great grandkids, DJ and Jacob, came to visit for her birthday.

At left: Roberta Yokum still gets around her house and can go outside to enjoy the beauty of the property she lives on.

Below: One of the photos from "Through the Eyes of the Elders," a series of books created by Laytonville High students, features a photo of Roberta Yokum along with some other children; Roberta is far right in the back row.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Century of Happiness

Roberta Yokum celebrates her 100th birthday with friends and four generations of family members

One hundred years of history reside within one of Willits' oldest residents. She has seen so much and still looks at the world from a place of joy and love, surrounded by family, friends and caregivers. She is young at heart, she is able to get around with her walker, and can offer a smile and a "bless your heart" to all those who enter her circle. Every morning, she wakes up to the vast green expanse of fields and trees, hummingbirds, and the sounds of the hawks. She lives her life surrounded by love.

Roberta Yokum, who turned 100 years young last Sunday, hosted a gathering of friends and family (of which there are many) to celebrate her birthday. They turned up to enjoy her radiant smiles and the aura of well-being which she exudes to all who encounter her. Four generations were in attendance at the party, which was more of a reunion, with people paying their respects, catching up, remembering, and playing guitar and outdoor games.

She is a part of the history of the area, having grown up in Laytonville, and lived in Willits as an adult. Her younger sister, Betty Ann Grider, provided a glimpse into Roberta's history: "She was born February 24, 1924, at the Poe residence south of Laytonville to her parents, Esta and Robert Poe, and big sister, Lois. Roberta was 2 years old when her family moved from that house to the house in Laytonville, at Highway 101 and Harmon Lane. That was a three bedroom, no bath on one acre of property. She lived there until she was married.

"Roberta went to school in a one-room schoolhouse, heated by wood, and sometimes they would go early to school to pack in the wood to keep the schoolroom warm," told Grider. "That was grades one through six. Laytonville did not have a high school at that time. They had to ride the school bus to Willits for high school. In the wintertime, the lakes north of Willits would get up over Highway 101. The school bus would let them out and the students would walk down the railroad tracks, then a bus would meet them on the other end and take them the rest of the way to school."

Roberta became a Yokum after meeting and marrying Glenn Yokum. "It was Roberta's freshman year in Willits High School when she met the love of her life, Glenn Yokum," Grider continued. "He was in study hall, working on a math problem and she offered to help him. He was a rather handsome young man with dark curly hair and very interested in Future Farmers of America. He had a steer he was raising for FFA. In the meantime, Laytonville had built

Read the rest of Yokum Over on page 11

Roofing applications available to fit any roofing need.

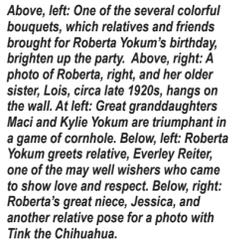
Office: (707) 462-4514
Mobile: (707) 367-3786

Online:
www.basroofing.com
Ca. Lic. #927007

Email:
basroofing@live.com
W.C. & G.L. insured

B.A.S. ROOFING Inc.
License #927007

Residential & Commercial
Serving areas of
Mendocino, Lake and
Sonoma Counties



Above, left: One of the several colorful bouquets, which relatives and friends brought for Roberta Yokum's birthday, brighten up the party. Above, right: A photo of Roberta, right, and her older sister, Lois, circa late 1920s, hangs on the wall. At left: Great granddaughters Maci and Kylie Yokum are triumphant in a game of cornhole. Below, left: Roberta Yokum greets relative, Everley Reiter, one of the may well wishers who came to show love and respect. Below, right: Roberta's great niece, Jessica, and another relative pose for a photo with Tink the Chihuahua.



Joseph Iaccino, DC, MS
Chiropractor, Lakeview

Anne Martin-Ko, MD
Pediatrician, Hillside

Steven C. Wirth, MD
Family Physician

Family Physician
Hillside, Dora Street, Little Lake, Lakeview

Medical Facility
Hillside, Dora Street, Little Lake, Lakeview

Our mission is to provide compassionate, high-quality care for our communities. Your health matters. Call us today.

MCHC HEALTH CENTERS
HILLSIDE | DORA ST | LITTLE LAKE | LAKEVIEW
WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE.
MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

(707) 456-9600
LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
45 HAZEL STREET, WILLITS
mchcinc.org

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church
290 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

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

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
• A University for Soul
• Spiritual Living Courses
• Spiritual Discussions
• ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Modified Worship Service
10 a.m.
Other ministries suspended
for now.
For appointments call:
(707) 459-3106

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

St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruncau

St. John Lutheran Church
Church Service:
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
707-459-5714
Friendly, open worship
Saturdays
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
399 W. Mendocino Ave.
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort where all are welcome
Pastor Rosemary Landry
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@willitsonline.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willits umc

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

Thursday, February 29 Happy Leap Day! Enjoy your extra day!

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the winter season Thursday afternoons at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, the Herbal Wellness Wagon, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Celebrate folk artist Mark Walker's birthday: Join us on Thursday, February 29, 3:30 to 4:30 pm, at the Mendocino County Museum as we celebrate the birthday of beloved Mendocino County folk artist Mark Walker (1892-1999) who was born on Leap Day 1892. View art works from his collection, learn about his life, and enjoy birthday cake provided by the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum. Event attendance is included with standard Museum admission: \$7 adults, \$2.75 children 6 through 13; children 5 or younger are free; For more information, including other discounts, visit www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, email museum@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-234-6365.



Free First Saturday Family Fun at the Museum: Mendocino County Museum presents a series of family programs from March through May, along with the "In the Field: Exploring Botany at Mendocino County" exhibit, including hands-on activity stations and a Wildflower Scavenger Hunt, available daily. On first Saturdays, starting March 2, from 1 to 3 pm, make DIY Throw 'n' Grow Seed Balls to grow your own wildflowers. Program and Museum attendance are free for our First Saturday Free Admission Day. All ages are welcome. 400 East Commercial Street. More info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum; museum@mendocinocounty.gov; or 707-234-6365.

Women's History Movie at the Library: Celebrate Women's History Month with the first of two compelling and powerful feature films that capture the true spirit of the theme, on Saturday, March 2 from 2:45 to 5 p.m. This film is about one woman's contribution to U.S. law, focusing on the legal prowess and skill of a lawyer who eloquently brought down and exposed the discriminatory hypocrisy and blatant patriarchy of U.S. tax law. All are welcome, children with adult supervision. Light refreshments will be served. Willits Branch Library meeting room. 390 East Commercial. Info www.mendolibrary.org or 707-459-5908.

Saturday, March 2

Senior Center Thrift Store open on Saturdays: The Thrift Store at the Willits Senior Center will once again be open for shoppers on Saturdays, starting March 2. The store will be open from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturdays, in addition to their regular Monday through Friday hours: 10 am to 4 pm. The store remains closed on Sundays. Visit the Senior Center Thrift Shop at 1501 Baechtel Road, or contact them by calling 459-6826.

Music Equipment Gear Swap and Demo at BACE: Used music gear, pro audio. Instruments, hi-fi, demo equipment. Saturday, March 2 from 11 am to 4 pm at BACE "collaborative music & art space in the heart of Mendocino County," 109 North Main Street, Willits. \$25 to sell/swap; free to attend.

Quarterly Bingo Blast at the Senior Center: Doors open at 11 am, bingo starts at noon, Saturday, March 2 at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. \$35 buy in.



Assemblymember Jim Wood in Ukiah

The regular meeting of the Inland Mendocino Democratic Club on Thursday, March 14, will feature guest speaker Assemblymember Jim Wood. At Mountain Mike's Pizza, 1090 South State Street, and on Zoom (find login at <http://inlandmendodems.org>), from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Pizza will be provided for attendees

If you have a question for Assemblymember Wood, please email it before March 14 to info@inlandmendodems.org. For more info, to join the club, or to see a video of the club's District 2 Assembly candidates forum, visit www.inlandmendodems.org



Assemblymember Jim Wood

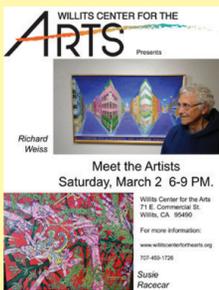
Senior Center Thrift Store back open on Saturdays

Starting March 2
The Thrift Store at the Willits Senior Center will once again be open for shoppers on Saturdays, starting March 2. The store will be open from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturdays, in addition to their regular Monday through Friday hours: 10 am to 4 pm. The store remains closed on Sundays. Visit the Senior Center Thrift Shop at 1501 Baechtel Road, or contact them by calling 459-6826.

Willits Block Party at Evergreen Center

March 15
Mark your calendars for our Willits Block Party, at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Local businesses including Esthetics by Eden, Skin by K Aesthetics Studio, The Mane House, Flourish & Flow Mendocino, and Breakthrough Fitness will offer discounts, deals, raffles, prizes, and so much more! Super Taco will be doing a dinner deal. Multiple booths including activities for kids! Everyone welcome! Friday, March 15, from 4 to 7 pm.

WCA March Show: Willits Center for the Arts brings Richard Weiss of the Mendocino coast's 3-D paintings and Susie Racecar of Laytonville's amazing art. Opens Saturday, March 2, with a Meet the Artists reception between 6 and 9 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. More info: 707-459-1726, www.willitscenterforthearts.org or email Gary Martin, curator, at gtm1950@gmail.com



[gov/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum) or museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

Tuesday, March 5

'Walk Through the Grades': Can you believe math can be taught through art? Well, come see for yourself how they bring this magical concept to life at The Waldorf School of Mendocino County's "Walk Through the Grades" event on Tuesday, March 5 at 8:30 am. After the tour families will have a chance to connect with teachers to learn more about their unique philosophy and pedagogy. To learn more, or to RSVP visit www.mendocinowaldorf.org/event-details/walk-through-the-grades.

Willits Song Circle: Every first Wednesday, this month March 6, from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Methodist Church, School and Pine streets. Led by Don Willis and Madge Strong, but anyone can lead (or request) a song. All genres of songs, rounds, popular songs, folk songs, simple part songs – anything that can be learned easily. Open to all. Instruments welcome. Free, donations accepted for the use of the hall. Info: dwillis@mcn.org or mstrong@willitsonline.com.

'Twelfth Night – The Musical' opens at Mendocino College

The Mendocino College Theatre Arts Department presents "Twelfth Night – The Musical" March 7 through March 17 at Mendocino College's Center Theatre on the Ukiah Campus, 1000 Hensley Creek Road. Originally produced by the Public Theatre in NYC in 2016, this joyous jazz-funk musical adaptation of Shakespeare's beloved comedy is set in a modern world inspired by the music and culture of New Orleans, featuring an onstage New Orleans-style jazz-funk band. For ages 11 and older. Opens with a "pay what you wish" preview on Thursday, March 7 at 7:30 pm. Regular tickets \$20; \$15 students and seniors. Advance purchase is advised; tickets at Mendocino Book Company or online at www.ArtsMendocino.org, and at the door as available. Info: 707-468-3172 or www.mendocino.edu/academics/programs/arts.



At right: Heidi Peterman (Feste) and Gwendolen van Wyk (Viola / Cesario) in the Mendocino College production of "Twelfth Night – The Musical." Above, right: Gwendolen van Wyk (Viola/Cesario) and Dakota Laiwa McKay (Orsino) in the production.

Sherwood Firewise Communities FREE Home Hardening Inspections



25 FREE Home Hardening Inspections left!

To schedule a **FREE Home Hardening Inspection** sign up at sherwoodfirewise.org OR email info@sherwoodfirewise.org



Photos by Scott Spears

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-repair/

www.westcenter.org



At top, from left: Starting some seeds for immediate use indoors can give you weekly harvests of salad leaves and microgreens. This one is in a south-facing window, so it doesn't need a grow light. But notice how deep it is, to keep from drying out on sunny days. If you start beka indoors now, you'll be eating it in a month. This sweet and juicy Japanese leaf adds a flash of fresh apple green to the spring landscape. I recommend it in containers with pansies and other spring flowers. Carrots are hard-wired to sprout in wet soil 50 degrees or above. This is Chantenay, a favorite for clay soils. Elecampans is a big beautiful plant for semi-shade. It's used by many for throat and lung problems. Like many herbs, it should be sown outdoors in cold soil. Miner's Lettuce is the fastest-growing spring green of all. Above, from left: Collards are the easiest of the cabbage family for our climate. They overwinter without fuss, are more heat-resistant than kale. Purple Tree Collards are a special perennial type with especially tender leaves that can produce most of the year. They are grown from cuttings, not seed. Vervain is a drought-resistant, long-blooming herb that butterflies love. It should be sown now in pots outdoors to cold-condition the seed and ensure germination. Everyone loves California poppies, especially bees and beneficial insects. They are another wildflower that will bloom a long time if watered. Early lettuce grows fast and should be eaten when young and fresh. Start some now indoors for transplant, and direct-sow some as soon as the soil is well-drained and over 45 degrees. Emerald Fan and Hyper Red are good choices.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

March: Early spring planting

Early spring marks a watershed in the garden. Instead of shutting down more and more, the world is making new growth. This is the time to plant or prune trees and shrubs. It's a good time to clean up after the storms, assess the condition of your soil, deal with weeds, and make plans for the season.

Jamie Chevalier
Columnist

The gardener's mind jumps pretty quickly to sowing tomatoes for summer. But wait! What about food for the next three months before those tomatoes are ready? That's a lot of grocery bills. Let's think about food for that period first.

We're entering the time traditionally known as the "hunger gap" because the fall harvest may be used up while the newly seeded crops aren't ready yet. A priority for many gardeners is to bridge this gap. There are several ways to do it.

First, you can start fast-growing seeds indoors or under cover. Hardy crops you start now can go outside in April.

But you can also keep some indoors for quick harvest. While you starts for outdoors are in small pots or cells, those for indoor gardens need more root room. Wide pots or trays 3 to 6 inches deep are ideal. There should be holes in the bottom and a drip pan underneath.

Prime candidates for this treatment are lettuce, arugula (particularly the variety Astro), miner's lettuce (Claytonia), greens like early mizuna or beka, cilantro, and peas – not for pods but for clipping the young shoots. Mix extra compost into good potting soil for lush growth.

Your next harvest will come from these same crops (lettuce, peas, and so on, plus spinach, turnips, and beets) sown now and transplanted outdoors in 3 to 4 weeks.

Broccoli, cabbage, kale, collards, Brussels sprouts, and especially onions should be sown indoors now and transplanted in 3 to 4 weeks, but will take longer before harvest.

When you transplant your broccoli, lettuce, etc. next month, you should also sow several things directly into the ground: another round of lettuce, peas, spinach, etc., along with carrots, parsnips, and parsley. Carrots are adapted to a climate like ours, with a wet start and dry finish. So get them in while it's wet.

A major source of fresh food in March and April is overwintered fall vegetables. Hardy annuals from last fall – like kale, collards, turnip greens, mustard, spinach, and the overwintering types of broccoli and cauliflower – put on a final spurt of growth.

Their young leaves and flower stalks are a spring treat. If you don't have these in the garden now, be sure to include them in your plans for the future. They're sown in mid- to late summer, and can go in spots vacated by peas or garlic.

Even if you didn't plant fall vegetables, it's worth looking for things that did survive or that have self-sown. Cilantro, parsley, and arugula often go all winter. Mustard greens,

kale, and other brassicas are at the sweetest now that they've been frosted. Another overwintered harvest that you can tap is the edible weeds and wild greens that are at their best in March. Miner's lettuce, dandelion, dock, nettles, and chicory are all common and nutritious. Seed is also available at quailseeds.com for those who like a wild garden.

Perennial vegetables were developed especially for the "hunger gap" time slot. Their established root systems can produce leaves and sprouts long before seed crops can. Perennial arugula, green onions, and chard love our climate.

Asparagus and rhubarb are classic perennials for spring harvest. Probably the best-loved perennial here in Willits is Purple Tree Collards. At Quail Seeds, we're shipping tree collard cuttings nationwide. If you start some now, they will make food all winter and next spring.

Now, back to those tomatoes. Remember that the best results and fastest crops don't come from the earliest sowings or the biggest transplants. Quite the opposite. Try doing what professional tomato farmers do. They plan on transplanting shortly after their last frost date. In Willits, that's late May. Then they start the seeds 6 weeks before that, in greenhouses with heat mats under the flats.

If you don't use heat mats, start 8 weeks before your last frost date. Study after study has shown that the least transplant shock, the best root development, and the fastest growing comes from transplanting young seedlings rather than big plants.

Peppers take longer to get to transplant size (4 to 8 inches) but should be transplanted later, into very warm soil. Cold soil can damage their productivity permanently. So you can start them at the same time as tomatoes and transplant 2 to 3 weeks later. Plant eggplants, zinnias, marigolds, and basil then as well. Many other herbs and flowers grow quite slowly and don't need as much heat. You can start them indoors this month.

For the rest, summer crops like squash, cucumbers, corn, okra, and beans can be direct-sown at the same time you transplant tomatoes. Or if you want an early start, you can sow indoors just 4 weeks ahead. And don't forget melons! They need hot days and cooler nights – a natural for our climate. Yet for some reason many people are afraid of planting them.

Be brave. Sow melons along with your squash. Wouldn't you rather have a sweet juicy slice of melon than one more zucchini?

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.*

LEGAL NOTICES

WW474

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name

File No: 2021-F0220
The person or persons listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name: Loet Vanderveen Legacy Editions, 12 Maple Street, Willits, CA 95490, Mendocino County.

The FBN was filed in Mendocino County on April 21, 2021. File Number 2021-F0220. Registered owners: Mas Art, LLC, 12 Maple Street, Willits, CA 95490.

This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

This FBN Statement of Abandonment was filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 2, 2024.

/s/ Martha Ann Seifert
Publication dates: February 15, 22, 29, March 7, 2024.

WW475
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0108
The following corporation is doing business as EURoad Travel Guides, 1816 Buckeye Road, Willits, CA 95490. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2127, Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: Digital Aeon Inc., P.O. Box 651, Nyack, NY 10960.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on December 2016.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 14, 2024.

/s/ Victoria Bertotti
Publication dates: February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 2024

WW474
Order to Show Cause – Change of Name
I, Kylan DuFriend L. Simpson, residing at 59 Alameda Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, am proposing to change my name to Pinky Xohadra Simpson.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

My court hearing date will be 4/5/24 at The Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Hon. Ann C. Moorman Judge, Superior Court of Mendocino County

My case number is 24CV00179.
Publication dates: February 29, March 7, 14 and 21, 2024

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

At right: Edie Ceccarelli poses for the camera at the age of 25, all the way back in 1933.



The rest of **Enchilada** [From page 1]

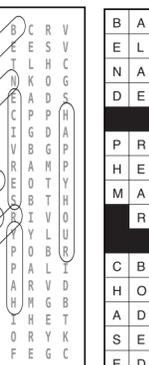
the beans and rice that Marisela Lamprich and I made into the containers, we set up both a chicken and a cheese enchilada station, and they got to work, rolling them all up. We started at 2 pm and had everything ready to go by the time the drive thru was open at 4 pm," said Lamprich.

Lamprich expressed her appreciation to Danny and Shelley Lewis for cooking the chicken; Brandy Sanderson for donating the cheese and tortillas; Windi Kvasnicka for donating the enchilada sauce; Randy Crothers for donating the rice; Nor Crawl for donating the beans and spices; and to Christy Wisdom for donating her time and helping with prep.

The next fundraising event for Sober Grad will be the take-home tri-tip dinner event, which will be on April 26.

"Overall, we're doing better than expected for our fundraising goals," explained Lamprich. "As of now, we have raised just under half of what we need – but the tri tip dinner is biggest fundraiser of the year – keep your eyes open for info!"

If you're interested in helping with Sober Grad, learning more, or getting involved, the public is welcome to attend the board meetings, held on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on March 20, at the Willits High School cafeteria at 6 pm.



Marc Komer
Legal Document Assistant
An Affordable Non-Attorney Service
(707) 459-2775
245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.



At right: Edie Ceccarelli poses for the camera at the age of 25, all the way back in 1933.

The rest of **Ceccarelli** [From page 1]

just after lunch," said Evelyn Persico, a cousin-by-marriage, dear friend, and advocate for Edie. "I kissed her forehead and told her goodbye, just like I've done every time I see her; I just didn't know it was going to be the last time. I got the call about 45 minutes later that she was gone."

There had been hints of health-declining indicators for Ceccarelli, and nerves had been growing as to whether she'd make it for her 116th birthday on February 6, 2024, and the accompanying parade and party the day before on February 5. But, amazingly, she rallied for the festivities, and Persico, caregivers, and event planners all gave a sigh of relief that she not only made it, but even lasted for a good 45-plus minutes, piled under blankets and surrounded by heaters, in the inclement weather for the parade.

"It was a long day for her with all the people and activities of the day," said Persico. "But I do think that she really did enjoy it. She waved at the parade, and had her photo taken, and enjoyed some birthday cake. I was amazed she did so well."

Excitement and speculation about everyone meeting again for Edie's birthday No. 117 stirred in the air among the gathered group during this year's birthday celebrations, which included local and national news cameras, a documentary crew, and many friends and family members. However, those close to Edie knew that this would surely be the last celebration.

"I remember looking at her for what turned out to be that last day, and telling her she just looked so beautiful," said Persico. "Her complexion and coloring looked good. I laughed at her and told her



CLASSIFIEDS

30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks

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 uicearbhall@gmail.com

Help Wanted
Willits Food Bank warehouse associate part-time position. Able to lift up to 40 pounds; patient, tolerant of those less fortunate. Inquire at 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits. Must be Covid vaccinated and substance free.

Indoor Yard Sale
Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from Safeway in Willits). **Saturday, March 9** – 8 am to 4 pm

Love Willits Weekly?
Help support our free-circulation community newspaper by becoming a "street subscriber"! You send in an annual donation, and pick up the edition on the street each week! We love our regular subscribers too: \$75 for home delivery in the Willits area; \$100 for a year's subscription in the U.S. mail. Visit www.willitsweekly.com for a sign-up form and more.

Willits Food Bank at new location
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, pantry staples, hygienic products, and more, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, at their new location at 344 Railroad Avenue. Food distribution is available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.

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

Office for Rent
Office for Rent: 100 sq. ft. centrally located, shared waiting room, off street parking, central heat and A/C. Handicap Access. Utilities included. \$250/mo. 707-354-2473 avail. 3/15.

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

Willits Weekly

BUD GARMAN
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC.
707-459-5859
Environmental Restoration - Ponds
Septic & Water Systems - Site Development
Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery
24900 N. HWY 101 IN WILLITS

CalFresh

Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits. Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify. 707-459-6826

NC Financial Group
675 S Main Street, Willits, CA 95490
www.ncfinancialgroup.com
(855) 240-6606
(415) 480-3669
EA #105394
CA DRE #01854336
CA Insurance Lic. # 0H68496

Best of Lake & Mendocino 2024
Voted Best Financial Advisor
Nicholas Casagrande, EA
CEO & Financial Advisor
nicholas.casagrande@ceteraf.com

Wealth Management
Investments | Tax Planning | Insurance | Business Solutions | Retirement

Advisory services offered through Cetera Investment Advisors LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC (doing insurance business in CA as CFGS Insurance Agency LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity).

The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Bicoastal Media is a vote-based contest for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are finalized and make up the official Best of Lake and Mendocino voting ballot. The audience can then vote on one choice in each category. Voters are allowed to nominate without limits and once the voting period has begun, one vote per category per 24-hour period is allowed. Listing in this publication and/or award is not a guarantee of future investment success. This recognition should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor by any client. No compensation was provided directly or indirectly by the recipient for participation or in connection with obtaining or using the third-party rating or award.

WE HAVE SEED POTATOES!

Rocky Mountain Russet
German Butterball
Carla Rosa
Austrian Crescent Fingerling

SPARETIME STORE HOURS
—GARDEN CENTER—
(707) 459-6791 Mon-Fri Saturday Sunday
9am-5pm 10am-5pm Closed
208 E. San Francisco Ave.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Gentle Buddy

Buddy is a 2-year-old husky mix ready to capture your heart with his unique blend of intelligence, sweetness and charm. Unlike the stereotypical husky temperament, Buddy is a truly exceptional companion who is eager to learn and please his special person.



This handsome fellow has a striking appearance, with his beautiful short coat that is as soft as a cloud. But it's not just Buddy's looks that will draw you in, it's his remarkable personality that shines through. One of Buddy's most endearing qualities is his gentle nature. He takes treats with the utmost care, never nipping or snatching. This delightful trait demonstrates his understanding and respect for boundaries, making him an absolute pleasure to be around.

Buddy's eagerness to learn also sets him apart, as he readily picks up new commands and thrives on mental stimulation. When it comes to leash manners, Buddy is a star pupil. He walks beside you with minimal pulling, making your adventures together an absolute joy. This is a testament to his great training and his desire to please. Whether you're strolling through the park or exploring new trails, Buddy will be right by your side, enjoying every moment of the journey. He would do well in a peaceful and consistent environment, surrounded by loads of affection.

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

Attention-loving Chia

Chia has lived at the Humane Society as the infirmary cat for over 10 years. She is a very special lady who loves to nap in sunny windows and accepts all of the attention that comes her way. She is an indoor-only lady and refuses to set a paw outside. Chia has particular tastes and is on a special diet to keep her digestion regular. Chia would love to make 2024 her best year and find a home of her very own!



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Kind Amber

Once Amber is comfortable with you, she is friendly, playful and outgoing. This beauty is easy to walk on leash and enjoys getting outdoors for walks. The good citizen who found Amber on the street and brought her to the shelter told us that she was great with her small children.



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.



THE BUNNY IS BACK!

PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY! SUNDAY, MARCH 24 from 12 to 4 pm at J.D. Redhouse

Digital images by Maureen Jennison are just \$5 each!

No appointments, just come by and get in line!

The snuggly, live bunnies are back too!



OBITUARY |

Elaine Robinson

Elaine Hope Robinson also known as "Miss Molly" and "Bubbles" passed away in Willits, California on February 10, 2024 at the age of 85. Elaine was born on August 30, 1938 in San Mateo to Robert E. Barr and Evelyn G. Hyman. She married Alvin K. Robinson, Jr. in Burlingame on June 15, 1957.

Elaine was a housewife and mother for many years, and was also an entrepreneur for over 50 years. She worked for two years as a camp cook for California Conservation Corps, four years for CAL FIRE, and eight years for the Boy Scouts of America.

She was a member of the Black Bart Gunfighters for 29 years, and participated in the Christmas Skunk train for nine years and the Christmas motorcycle Toy Run for seven years. In her spare time Elaine enjoyed rock painting, growing plants, and collecting owls. She would often say that she was so fond of owls that she married one.

Elaine was preceded in death by her husband Al Robinson, also known as "Crusty." She is survived by her three sons Alvin K. Robinson, Jr., Gregory S. Robinson, and Brian C. Robinson; daughters-in-law; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to Ruth L. Robinson, trustee of the Alvin and Elaine Robinson living trust. Donations would be greatly appreciated by the family to assist with expenses.

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



OBITUARY |

Beverly Galten

Beverly Jane Galten was born to Oscar and Harriet Galten July 19, 1943 in San Francisco. In 1960 the family moved to San Bruno where Bev met and married Al Barien. The couple moved to Vermont.

Some years later Bev moved to Willits and worked for her brother Fred's mill. When Bev left the mill, she began working in healthcare and then home care. She joined the IHSS Caregivers Union in 2015. She was heavily involved in her union, attending conventions, board of supervisors meetings where she was very vocal about negotiations with the county for livable wages for care workers. Bev was 80 years old, and still working as a provider. She also belonged to the Eastern Star womens group, another passion to which she scheduled her union duties around.

Bev had her beloved babies Carmelita and Bear, her chihuahuas, and Mittens and Misty, her cats. Her favorite thing to do with her friends was to go to El Mexicano, where she was treated like a queen by her favorite, Emilio.

Bev attended Grace Community, Agape and Calvary Churches. Bev went to Heaven on February 15, 2024. Bev is survived by her brothers Fred, Bob and Doug, various nieces and nephews, her second family SEIU 2015, her clients, and many friends.

A tribute from Raul Gardea:

"Saddened to learn about the passing of Bev Galten, one of the first members I met when I started organizing care providers in SEIU Local 2015 Mendocino County. Bev was no radical labor leader. She was a regular person who saw unfairness in her profession and wanted to be part of the change for her co-workers. She dedicated countless hours to her union in late night bargaining prep, canvassing for candidates, phone banking for a thousand things, and travelling with me meeting caregivers from every corner of Mendo. I heard Bev did a union presentation at a new employee orientation and canvassing for CD1 the day before she passed. Sounds about right.... Rest in Power, my Comrade."

OBITUARY |

Arthur Goheen

You wouldn't call him beautiful, with his acne-scarred face, broken nose, and gimpy leg from a motorcycle accident. But inside was a beautiful man who believed that life's purpose, as Barack Obama said, is "to be kind, and to be useful."

Arthur Holden Goheen, 85, former teacher from Berkeley, recently of Willits, California, died January 13 in a Ukiah hospital of a brain tumor.

Born in Boston on December 10, 1938, and raised on Long Island, N.Y., Art in 1950 moved to Stanford, California, where his father was a philosophy professor. He went to Palo Alto public schools and Stanford, graduating in 1961 in sociology. He married his college love, Susan Pierce, and they later moved to Berkeley, where Susan pursued a Ph.D. in classics and Art began teaching third and fourth grades in Oakland. Two sons were born, Matthew and Daniel.

Mild-mannered and soft-voiced, Art showed an abiding sense of empathy. Many people benefitted from his kindness, whether he helped move a household, rebuild a roof, fix a car, or provide a bed to sleep in. Not only old friends but also homeless, ex-cons, drug addicted, dogs and cats found in him a warm heart and generous spirit.

If Arthur was all about kindness, life was not kind to him. Susan died of metastatic melanoma, leaving him to raise his young sons alone. Second wife Marilee Lewis brought along her own children – Mark, Christa, and Andrea – then she too died, of ALS. His third companion, of 24 years, was registered domestic partner Denese Ullom, who had her own medical ups and downs.

Originally an atheist, Art joined the pagan Church of All Worlds, and moved with Denese from Berkeley to Willits, near the group's spiritual home, Annfnw, in Mendocino County.

Survivors are Denese, sister Anne Shelly, Matthew and Daniel Goheen, granddaughter Sofia Goheen; Christa Lewis and Andrea Lewis; nephew Arthur Quinn; Sofia's mother, Michelle Maresco; Matthew's fiancée Audra Hartman; nephew Zachary Ullom; Barbara Ullom and Clayton Ullom; and many others.

Arrangements are pending.



The rest of **WPD** | From page 4

5:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Mendocino Avenue and issued a warning.

January 28

8:01 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

The rest of **Election** | From page 1

Ballot Drop Box outside of Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street, available 24/7 for ballot drop-off, now through the close of the polls at 8 pm on Election Day.

Elsewhere in the Third District, there will be a polling station in Laytonville at the Lions Fire Hall, 44920 Willis Avenue, and a ballot drop-off station in Covelo, Election Day only, at the Round Valley Justice Court, 76270 Grange Street – both stations open from 7 am to 8 pm.

Ballots can also be dropped off at the Mendocino County Elections Office, 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020, in Ukiah, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. The Elections Office will be open from 7 am to 8 pm on Election Day, Tuesday, March 5.

The first local results for the March 5 primary election will start being posted at the Elections Office's "Current Election Results" page not long after the polls close at 8 pm. www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/current-election-results

A note: Don't mistake the "Final Election Night Report" posted online in the wee hours of Wednesday morning with final official results, which won't be issued until all the ballots are counted later in March, although it would be unexpected for final official results to change the outcome of a local election.

In the 2020 Presidential primary election, final official results in Mendocino County had Democrat Bernie Sanders winning the primary with 45.81% (Joe Biden with 18.90%, Elizabeth Warren at 13.38%, and multiple other candidates, most with just a handful of votes.

In the 2020 Republican primary, official results show 91.89% of local GOP voters supporting Donald Trump, with Bill Weld and Joe Walsh each getting less than 3% of the county vote.

Another online resource the county recommends is the online map of Mendocino County's five supervisorial districts, where you can enter your residence address and verify which district you live in: Visit <https://gis.mendocinocounty.org/portal/home/index.html> and click the right arrow for the "Redistricting" map.

For any questions about voting, contact the Elections Office by calling 707-234-6819 or emailing mcvotes@mendocinocounty.gov.

The rest of **Yokum** | From page 5

their high school, from which Roberta graduated in 1942." She wasted no time in marrying Glenn after high school, tying the knot in 1943. They moved to Willits and had two children, James and Chris.

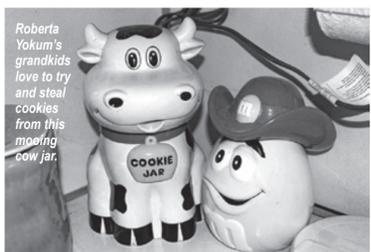
Roberta worked as a telephone operator during high school and after Glenn was drafted in WWII, she worked at the Willits Theatre (now the Noyo Theatre), and at Johnson's Mercantile (in the current J.D. Redhouse building). After Glenn was discharged, they operated the Willits Feed Store and she also worked for Eric Glassey at the Willits Senior Center. Her son, Jim, married Bobbie and had children, one of whom is Jeff Yokum, who took over Yokum's Body Shop (now Carstar) from his father, and has two girls, Maci and Kylie.

According to the Blue Zones Project, the pillars of long life are, in part, a positive attitude, having close family and friends, a purpose (a reason to get up in the mornings). Roberta Yokum has these attributes.

"She puts on a great front for people who come to see her," said Stella Bonnet, who has been Roberta's caregiver for around two years. "She's in great spirits to have a party. She has a lot of stamina. Her balance is good. She sleeps mostly. Half a beer will put her to sleep. We used to do a whole beer right before bedtime and it was hard to get her to bed because she was so relaxed."

Roberta is the great grandma that everyone likes to visit. "She always has cookies in a little jar over there for us," laughed Maci Yokum. "She always has Oreos for us in a little cow cookie jar that moos every time you open it. Kylie and I learned that every time you open up the cookie jar, you put your hand on the button real quick so it doesn't moo and Roberta doesn't know that we're getting the fifth cookie."

Roberta is enjoying her life, even though she can't do all of the things she used to. "Just be happy," she said. "You have to stay happy." When asked what makes her happy, she answered, "My family. I love my family. I've had a good life. What a beautiful day today. How's life? So far, so great. Being 100 was easy. Getting old was easy."



Roberta Yokum's grandkids love to try and steal cookies from this mooping cow jar.

The rest of **Veterans** | From page 1

since then, and before I head down that path, of meeting with community groups and meeting with the veterans, is there support by the majority of the board to move veterans back to Observatory?"

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams was first to agree, acknowledging "unanticipated consequences" from the unwelcome move and suggesting apologies were in order. "The appropriate action would have been to reach out to the veterans ... the board should take ownership for it, not staff," although Williams did comment he still hadn't received information from staff about the "financial analysis" reportedly done before the move was decided on.

"I haven't enjoyed sitting up here ... not having answers," Williams said. "These are people who fought for this country.... We ought to honor them and give their building back."

First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty weighed in next. "This has been rolled out so poorly.... Everything was incorrect from the start" ... and veterans are a "pretty important protected class." McGourty commented that the board needed to do even more "to find a way to help the people who stood up for us at a critical time," but that rescinding the move was "definitely the right direction."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak commented on the poor communication between the county and veterans and their advocates and agreed: "If the veterans really don't feel comfortable in this kind of industrial Public Health building, I'm all for giving them what would best serve their needs."

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde noted that county

The rest of **Opposes** | From page 1

Board of Supervisors' chambers, and the turnout by the public was substantial. The board's chambers filled to capacity with folks who'd waited in a long line outside the chambers in order to sign up to speak in front of a small panel of commissioners representing the CPUC.

Those who didn't arrive early enough for a seat inside were herded to a large conference room beyond the chambers where the hearing was aired on a big screen TV. Once that room filled, chairs were lined up in the courtyard outside so more people could see and hear the television. And once those seats filled, everyone else had little other choice but to stand for the duration of the 2.5-hour presentation.

AT&T's Vice President for External Affairs Tedi Vriheas was the first to be called to the podium. She read from a prepared statement that attempted to assuage the concerned public, saying in part, "AT&T has been the COLR in California since it was Pacific Bell, 25 years ago. I want to assure you that no one is going to be left without service. All of our customers will have access to voice service, and especially 911. In addition, we will continue to provide service where we are the only provider, and we will work to update antiquated copper phone lines to ensure customers have better technologies, either from us, or another provider."

The pressing issue for most all who attended the forum, however, is that there are no good alternatives for reliable voice service *everywhere* in Northern California should AT&T's requests be allowed.

According to Peter Pratt, policy supervisor of the California Office of Public Advocates within the CPUC, who also spoke at the forum: "The fundamental principal here is the ability to reach all that request service. The so-called alternative providers are not equivalent providers because none of them are legally obligated to offer service to everyone."

Without their landlines, lots of people in the rural parts of Northern California are consistently without phone service. Even though in some cases there is the assumption that they ought to have service according to their wireless provider's service maps.

Ruth Valenzuela, field representative for Second District Assembly Member Jim Wood, read a statement from Wood, including: "ATT appears to be out of touch with their customer base and the viability of the options they believe are available. Additionally, there is an incentive for service companies to over-represent their service area. We cannot afford to be the unattended consequence."

Many elders throughout the area who received letters from AT&T stating its intentions to end copper service, took their turn to speak passionately about the anxiety they feel when they think of losing their most reliable form of communication. Several of these older folks told the commission how they came to Mendocino and Humboldt counties decades ago looking for a change of pace in the hills where there is limited, if any, cellphone reception.

They described their landlines as how they regularly talk to their children and grandchildren; how they contact

did "need to keep consolidating into fewer buildings.... This was a sincere effort to reduce the county's footprint." Gjerde said he's just taken a tour of the Public Health building and he thought it would be "a really nice location for another county department."

This move by the supervisors came after another lengthy and eloquent session of comments from veterans during Public Expression at the beginning of the meeting. Comments ranged from the negative effects on veterans of losing their Observatory Avenue VSO, with anecdotes about the inadequacies of the space in the Public Health building they'd been moved to unwillingly, to reminders that the VSO brings in funds to the county's general fund, and the better services offered, the more funds are possible.

When asked about the potential timeline of getting the Veterans Services Office moved back to Observatory Avenue, County CEO Darcy Antle said "at least give us a couple months."

When pressed again, Board Chair Mulheren repeated that the board had all committed to this policy, and suggested that there could be an update on progress at the March 5 meeting.

Pay for caregivers

In another "commitment" announced by Board Chair Mulheren after a lengthy closed session, she said: "We don't usually report out on this information, but the board is committed to getting everyone in SEIU 2015 to \$20/hour within the life of the contract with SEIU Local 2015. We unanimously agreed that we will attempt to obtain additional dedicated funding, and if we are able to do so sooner, we will attempt to get there sooner than the third year of the contract."

Nevada. In her earlier presentation for AT&T, Vice President Vriheas said that California was the last state where AT&T still served as COLR. AT&T's applications for relief from its obligation as COLR had been granted in 20 other states. Ellis spoke as someone who experienced the end of AT&T's role as COLR in Nevada.

Ellis said: "Let me tell you exactly what AT&T will do. I'm a technician for AT&T. I work in rural Nevada. I have to do whatever I can to keep these lines working. They [AT&T] will not upgrade, they will not maintain. I have to MacGyver every which way. And then I have to go and tell these elderly customers, 'I'm sorry ma'am, I can fix this maybe three more times. I can't tell you how long it's gonna last, but when I get to my last time, you're gonna have to find an [alternative] way to communicate.'" He warned the commission: "Don't let happen in California what happened in Nevada. It's a horrible idea."

Public comments ended at 4:30 pm for the first hearing, and a break was taken before the second hearing began at 6 pm. The Board of Supervisors' chambers were again full for the second hearing. Mendocino County Sheriff Matthew Kendall spoke candidly about his views on the matter. He said, bluntly, "Mendocino County is not ready for this." Kendall echoed the concerning lack of cell reception along the 101 and in rural areas of the county. He repeated the necessity for landlines during emergencies, saying "When we go to put out a reverse 911, you don't have to sign up for a reverse 911 when you have a copper line. It goes out to everybody I need it to go out to."

Sheriff Kendall appealed to the commission about the poor timing of AT&T's request. "Right now," he said, "This is a gamble. Somebody is gonna lose their life over this." He persisted: "If I were a betting man, I would not slide my chips forward on the hand that's being dealt to us right now. Please. Let's not do this right now. We're not ready for it right now. There may be places in the state that are. But it's not here."

No decisions have been made regarding AT&T's application. No changes will occur until there is a vote by all five commissioners. According to the CPUC website, "the Administrative Law Judge assigned to the proceedings is scheduled to issue a Proposed Decision in the case for consideration by the CPUC within a year."

For more information on upcoming public forums regarding the Application of AT&T California to Withdraw its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation (A.23-03-002) and the Application of AT&T California for Relief from its Carrier of Last Resort Obligation (A.23-03-003) visit the CPUC website: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/pph>. Two sets of online only hearings are set for March 5 and March 20.

More info: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov Or call: 866-849-8390 or 415-703-2074, TTY 866-836-7825, or write: CPUC Public Advisor's Office, 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102.



Above, from left: Several of the items left for sale are accessories, including a chandelier, modeled by Kyle Brandon; a folding side table, modeled by Mike Smith; two lamps, modeled by Curtis Dashiell; a vase and silk flowers, modeled by Tanya Brandon; and two kissing fish, modeled by Margie Smith.

Closing the doors

Willits Furniture closes on Saturday, March 2 after 55-plus years in business

There's still a last-minute chance to purchase any of the remaining inventory at Willits Furniture before they officially close their doors for good at 5 pm on Saturday, March 2 – and at a deep discount.

“Everything is a minimum of 70% off,” said Mike Smith, owner of Willits Furniture. “We’re trying to clear out everything that’s left, which is only about 5% of our original inventory. While there’s still a few big pieces, we do still have lots of smaller accessory items including lamps, mirrors, wall art, centerpieces, nightlights, kitchen towels, and more.”

Everything sold between February 22 and March 2 will be tallied, and 15% of that amount will be divided evenly between local non-profits including Willits Rotary, the Soroptimist International of Willits, the Willits Lions Club, the American Legion Post 174, and also the Willits Community Services and Food Bank.

Of the traffic coming into the store since the closing was announced four months ago, Smith said at least one or two of each day’s customers have explicitly expressed their appreciation for the store, the pricing, the selection, the quality – and that almost every piece of furniture they own has come from the store.

“That’s got to be 400 or 500 people who’ve come in to say things like that,” said Smith. “It’s been so humbling and wonderful to hear.”

But, even with the great track record, COVID, the collapse of the marijuana industry, the bypass, and the rise in online shopping has been a “perfect storm” of problems for small independent furniture stores, and the Smiths said it just wasn’t working anymore to stay open.

“We’re making a huge life adjustment, closing the store,” explained Smith. “The original store opened in 1968, and I started here in 1978. The original 4,500-square-foot store was at the north end of the Safeway building, but when the grocery store bought the property from us, we built this building on what was once a basically empty lot. There was just one old tree and an old saw shop here. This has been

our home away from home for many, many years.”

But new adventures await Mike and wife, Margie, who have uprooted and moved to Tucson, Arizona, a place where they loved to vacation, and where they will reside now.

“I’ve loved Arizona since I was a child, we would drive through there when we would head to the East Coast to visit family,” explained Smith. “At one point, we were visiting Margie’s family near there, and spent time on vacation there, and it really felt like a great place for us to settle and enjoy retirement.”



Above: The staff and owners of Willits Furniture stand in the emptying showroom.

Smith said they plan to do lots of hiking, join the local Rotary Club, and “hopefully do a ‘reasonable’ amount of golfing.”

What’s “a reasonable amount”? Smith said twice a week would be a great start.

The Smiths say they’ll be back to Willits to visit some, though, and hope to be around for a week or two before the annual Claws for a Cause event.

“We’ll miss all our friends and the beautiful Willits valley,” said Smith. “But it’s time for a new adventure!”

Willits Furniture will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm, and then will close their doors. Stop by and say hi, get some great deals, and give the Smiths and the rest of the staff a final send-off and good luck in their next adventures.



Ruth McLarty, MD
General Surgery
AdventistHealth.org/RMcLarty



Cristina V. Cueto, MD
General Surgery
AdventistHealth.org/CCueto

Now welcoming new patients

Adventist Health Howard Memorial
3 Marcela Drive, Willits

707-459-6115

If you’re looking for a partner for your complex healthcare needs, look to Ruth McLarty, MD and Cristina V. Cueto, MD, our new general surgeon team.

You were made for more. More knowledge. More compassion. More expertise. That is why we’re proud to introduce two new general surgeons and welcome them to our team.

Dr. McLarty, PhD, is a skilled, board-certified general surgeon, caring for ages 2 and older with such common conditions as cholecystitis, diverticulitis, bowel obstructions and hernias. Dr. McLarty also specializes in colorectal surgery.

Dr. Cueto, is a skilled, board-certified general surgeon, and speaks both English and Spanish to best care for patients ages 18 and older. Some common conditions she treats are biliary disease, hernias, benign and malignant diseases of the colon and small bowel, soft tissue conditions and diseases of the breast.

Together, this experienced general surgeon team is available and ready to serve our community.

