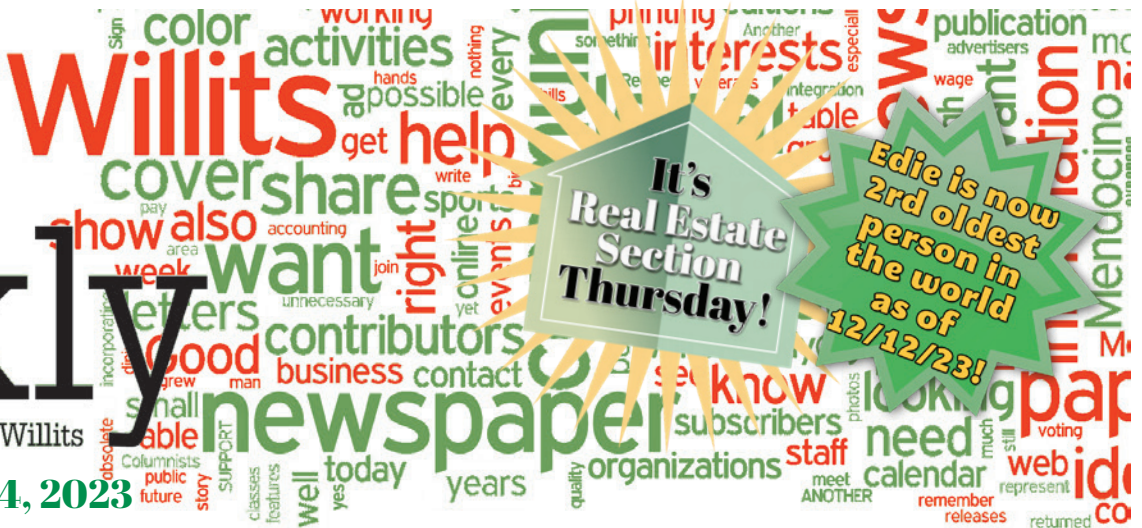


Willits Weekly

Online & Print



EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
 Donations Accepted Edition No. 531 **Thursday, December 14, 2023**

'Where Everyone Belongs' at Baechtel Grove

Annie Evarts
 Reporter
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

Members of Baechtel Grove Middle School's WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) program have been hard at work running their first school-wide canned food drive. The Willits Police Department sponsors the WEB program for BGMS, and the canned food drive is one of several events the group puts on throughout the year.

The students successfully gathered over

Read the rest of **WEB**
 Over on Page 11

New Eel-Russian Project Authority formed

Posted by Mendocino County Inland Water Commission

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, who also serve as the Board of Directors for the Sonoma County Water Agency, voted on December 5 to approve a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement with Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission to form the Eel-Russian Project Authority. (This press release from Sonoma County Water Agency was posted this week by the Mendocino County Inland Water Commission.)

The new entity will have the power to negotiate with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company as the utility moves ahead with plans to surrender operations of the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project and to decommission the Scott and Cape Horn dams on the Eel River. The new authority will also have the legal capacity to own, construct and operate a new water diversion facility

Read the rest of **Authority**
 Over on Page 15



Winter Break

Willits Weekly's final edition of 2023 will be our December 14 edition. We'll take our annual holiday break, then be back with a January 11, 2024 edition.

Thanks to readers, contributors and advertisers for all your support throughout the year



Photo by Maureen Jennison

Above: Craft House Baking owner Jackie Cobbs whips up some delicious magic in her mixer bowl.

At top, from left: A dark chocolate cake is drizzled in ganache and topped with fresh blackberries and blueberries. Edible sequins and buttercream roses lend some glamor to this vanilla sponge cake with raspberry whipped cream and Swiss meringue buttercream. This whimsical chicken cake has feathers made of melted chocolate. Figs and blackberries top a chocolate cake frosted in dark chocolate ganache.

Photos by Craft House Baking



At top: A towering chocolate marble cake, frosted with blue and decorated with delicate pink drips, is sliced and ready to serve. Above, left: Jackie Cobbs pipes the frosting swirls onto the celebration cake. Above, right: Cakes are baked in Cobb's Wedgewood stove.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

Photos by Craft House Baking



Craft House Baking

Willits' Jackie Cobbs bakes beautiful, professional and delicious celebratory cakes and desserts

Whether you're looking for a unicorn cake for a 3-year-old's birthday and delight, an elegant, fruit-laden, ganache-topped dessert for an anniversary dinner, or a dozen spunky-colored, sprinkle-filled cupcakes to take to congratulate a retiring co-worker,

Maureen Jennison
 Graphics & Photographress
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

Jackie Cobbs and her Craft House Baking business have you covered.

Cobbs has been baking cakes for the last seven or so years when she started carrying on the tradition, now with her own boys, that her aunt, Teresa Cecil, started when she would bake Cobbs a birthday cake every year.

In June of 2022, Cobbs committed to turning her hobby into an official part-time business, and is now going full-time, since September of 2023 when she received her Class A Cottage Food Permit, allowing her to sell direct to

Read the rest of **Cakes**
 Over on page X

WPD traffic safety campaign kicks off

Submitted by Willits Police Department

December 12 – The City of Willits and the Willits Police Department receive many traffic complaints throughout the year. It is our practice to utilize these complaints and "tips" to focus our enforcement to areas of concern within our community and to lower the risk to pedestrians, other drivers, and property, caused by excessive vehicle speed and other unsafe driving.

Recently, the City of Willits acquired RADAR speed measuring equipment to aid in speed

Read the rest of **Safety**
 Over on Page 15

CTC approves \$51.4 million for work on Covelo Road

Submitted by Caltrans District 1

December 8 – The California Transportation Commission this week allocated \$1.1 billion for projects that will repair and improve the state's transportation infrastructure, including \$51.4 million for roadway, guardrail and sign improvements on State Route 162 between Highway 101 and Covelo.

Another allocation approved this week was \$13.4 million toward roadway improvements on U.S. 101 just north of Willits, from north of the Upp Creek Bridge to north of Ryan

Read the rest of **Covelo**
 Over on Page 15

Island Mountain searchers find dead body

By Captain Gregory L. Van Patten, for MCSO

Search and rescue teams looking for a missing man in the Island Mountain area found a deceased person in the search area on December 10. "At this time," the latest update from Mendocino County Sheriff's Office says, "the person is unidentified due to the condition of the body."

MCSO received a missing person report on December 7, about Scott William Graves, 63, of Piercy.

Graves was last heard from by family members on the morning of Monday, December 4. He informed family he had tried to leave his property in the

Read the rest of **Deceased**
 Over on Page 15

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

The generosity and kindness of the Willits community was recently exemplified by City of Willits employees who created an "Adopt-a-Family" program. The family chosen is a father with three small children whose mother passed away a few months ago.

With the intention of creating a wonderful Christmas for this family, the city employees will provide the Christmas tree, food, and blankets with toys contributed by Willits Christmas Program.

I was asked to facilitate complimentary tickets for the Santa Skunk Train. The Skunk Train happily contributed tickets, and this family will enjoy a very special time together.

It is the willingness of our community to support each other that makes Willits a great place to live, work and play. Happy Holidays to everyone!

Susan Mahoney, coordinator,
Willits Chamber of Commerce

Cast your vote in the 'Let It Glow' Holiday Light Contest

Submitted by Let It Glow

Voting has opened in the "Let It Glow" holiday light competition in Willits. Please enjoy the fun decorations that our community members have been working on! And then vote for your favorites.

Please vote by location number-(once a day): Text 707-734-3052 for your daily vote. Voting ends December 22; judging will take place December 23; and winner will be announced December 24. More info: contact Jordan Potter or Jennifer Drew at willitsholidaylights@gmail.com

Brooktrails locations	#11 125 Sherwood Hill Drive
#1 1434 Padula Drive	#12 1718 Elm Lane
#2 1598 Padula Drive	#13 258 State Street
#3 27240 Maize Place	#14 274 State Street
#4 1700 Daphne Drive	#15 85 N Marin Street
City of Willits locations	#16 381 Creekside Drive
#5 75 Brookside Drive	#17 1041 S Main Street
#6 410 W Mendocino Avenue	#18 2750 Center Valley Road
#7 216 Redwood Avenue	#19 290 Haehl Creek Court
#8 287 Pine Street	#20 108 Margie Drive
#9 363 Maple Street	#21 70 Nancy Lane
#10 99 Hazel Street	

Winter Break

Willits Weekly's final edition of 2023 will be our December 14 edition. We'll take our annual holiday break, then be back with a January 11, 2024 edition. Thanks to readers, contributors and advertisers for all your support throughout the year!

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT December 2023

By Supervisor John Haschak

'Tis the time to appreciate those who are working diligently to make our communities better. As we all know, the people of Mendocino County are awesome.

The Department of Social Services put on a Holiday Party for foster kids and families. Staff are dedicated to making lives better for these kids who are in difficult situations. There were smiles all around. I am thankful for the people who care, families who take on kids in need, and volunteers and businesses who offer their time and resources to make the party a positive experience and life a little brighter.

Willits residents are working to provide a warning center for those in need when the weather turns cold and nasty. There is the Willits Wild Bunch organizing the Toy Run for kids. The Bud Snider Park was lit up with Christmas trees, and hundreds of people were out and about on a very cold evening to enjoy community spirit. Three volunteer firefighters taking the Firefighters Oath for the Little Lake Fire Department deserve our appreciation.

Laytonville is working on a community emergency response plan. A coalition of local entities including the school district, fire department, the Municipal Advisory Council, Long Valley Health Center, and others are convening to develop their own plan along with the county's response. Whether it is fire or snow, the people are working to be better prepared for the next event.

Residents of Covelo have been researching possible ways to acquire a fire hydrant system for the downtown area. Lew Chichester and Kay Richards met with me and staff in Ukiah to look at grant possibilities. After board discussion on December 5, the county will work on applying for a planning grant when the window opens in January.

Laytonville residents finally found funding to construct a bridge over Ten Mile Creek. Margaret Andrews, Cindy Lassotvitch, and neighbors persisted and overcame the obstacles. With a bridge, the residents won't have to drive through the creek bed. This will benefit the fish and provide for a safer passage for the people and first responders. Funding for the bridge will come from CA Department of Fish and Wildlife and the state Water Resource Board.

May you and yours enjoy good health, peace and love in this Holiday Season.

"Talk with the Supervisor" is the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10 am at the Brickhouse Coffee in Willits. I am thinking of changing venues and times to accommodate people. Please send any ideas you might have. I am available by email haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or phone 707-972-4214.

MCHC encourages locals to apply for CSU Chico healthcare scholarships

Submitted by MCHC

California State University, Chico, is offering two scholarships to help people interested in attaining a Master's in Social Work and eventually practice clinical social work in the medically underserved counties of Northern California, including Lake and Mendocino counties.

The MSW's three-year "distributed" learning track allows students to take online evening classes with only two in-person weekend classes per semester.

This is excellent news for federally qualified health centers like MCHC Health Centers, according to MCHC CEO Rod Grainger, because it enables people to remain in their home communities while earning a degree that will both allow them to achieve their career goals and do

Read the rest of Scholarships Over on page 15

Senior Center menu

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, December 14: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw

Friday, December 15: Chicken Breast, Hollandaise Sauce, Veggies, Roll

Monday, December 18: Sloppy Joes, Mac & Cheese

Tuesday, December 19: Country Fried Steak, Veggies, Biscuit

Wednesday, December 20: Chicken Cacciatore, Veggies, Garlic Bread

Thursday, December 21: Taco Salad

Friday, December 22: Chicken & Dumplings

Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26: Center closed

Herbal Wellness Wagon coming to Farmers Market

Submitted by Community Wellness Collective

The Mendocino County Herb Guild and the Community Wellness Collective are bringing the Herbal Wellness Wagon to the Willits Farmers Market on December 14 and 21 and on January 11, 18 and 25.

What is the Herbal Wellness Wagon? We are herbalists, nurses, doctors, and other volunteers providing free services including blood pressure checks, health consultations, free herbal remedies and (always!) a cup of herbal tea. Find us in the hallway of Little Lake Grange alongside Nuestra Alianza who has graciously offered their consultation room.

The Herbal Wellness Wagon is newly stocked with free herbal remedies donated by Herbalists without Borders and herbal medicines grown and produced by local farmers, gardeners and herbalists.

Are you struggling with a cold that just won't go away, a touch of insomnia, or an upset stomach? Come by the Farmers Market and visit your local Herbal Wellness Wagon. For more information call 707-272-3373 or MendoCWC@gmail.com

Senior Center Holiday Craft Faire, December 16

Join Willits Seniors for a Holiday Craft Faire on Saturday, December 16, from 9 am to 3 pm, at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Free entry. Hand-crafted Jewelry, Coasters, Rugs and much more. "Come enjoy a nice cup of hot chocolate, tea, or coffee along with a sweet treat while you shop!" More info: Call Joliana at 707-459-6826.

Nuestra Alianza de Willits to host Appreciation Gala January 6

Submitted by Wilder Herberston, for Nuestra Alianza de Willits

After 23 years of serving the community, local non-profit Nuestra Alianza de Willits is hosting its first Appreciation Gala, on Saturday, January 6 at the Willits Grange, at 291 School Street. While scheduled events begin at 6 pm, participants are invited to arrive at 5:30 to enjoy the live music, get to know each other, and enjoy beverages by local businesses including Frey Vineyards.

Community members and readers of this publication are invited to join Nuestra Alianza in celebrating their accomplishments for the year, recognizing their staff and board, and thanking their stakeholders and funders for supporting them in being their best.

This gala dinner will have music, speeches, a silent auction, and (best of all) local children performing Mexican folklorico dance. This will be an event both to celebrate Nuestra Alianza's community, and to let our community give to support their mission of empowering their constituency and making the community a better, healthier, and safer place to live.

Nuestra Alianza began in 2000, when a class of English as a Second Language learners at Mendocino Community College, led by teacher Dina Hutton, saw the ways in which the Latino community of Willits and Mendocino County were falling through the cracks, and decided to incorporate as a non-profit organization to fulfill the needs of the community. Since the beginning, every program has been free of charge and open to everyone who walks through the doors.

Since their inception, Nuestra Alianza has utilized over \$3.25 million dollars to serve the community - in just 2022, they utilized \$532,018 in grant funding and donations toward fulfilling their mission and providing services to the Latino and broader communities of Willits and Mendocino County. In 2022, they provided 37,739 services to the community, showing what a critical role they play in the community.

Nuestra Alianza runs over a dozen programs, including a four-week summer program celebrating Mexican culture called Plan Vacacional, free walk-in COVID-19 testing five days a week that has tested thousands of community members, a bi-weekly food bank which serves hundreds of people and even delivers to Ukiah, Potter Valley, and

Read the rest of Gala Over on page 15



Above, from left: Jarrod Flowers, a new vendor, creates these intricate sculptures with chainsaws. Donna d'Terra creates fine textured paper with a proprietary method for writing on the art. Janee Stephens, Organic Attire, is a usual sight at the WCA holiday fair.

At far left: The market was well-attended, especially in the afternoons. At left: Brenda Moss of Kemmy's Pies, brought her daughter, Rome, to enjoy the sights.

Below: Ray Roland came to support his artist wife, Suzanne, with her Sticks and Stones art

At bottom, left: Misty Made brought her colorful and aromatic array of candles.

At bottom, right: Anna of the Meadow creates ancestral healing art and nine-day candles for vigils.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Crafts Fair

Willits' holiday tradition brings local artists and the community together

Willits is a place of endless creativity, as demonstrated by the 36th annual Willits Center for the Arts' Holiday Craft Fair, which took place last weekend, in the Willits Community Center and the WCA Great Room. Thirty-seven vendors set up booths to sell their crafts or to impart information. Crafts, ranging from candles containing hidden crystals to "Cyanotype" prints fascinated the attendees, many of whom were seeking reasonably priced and creative gifts to bestow upon loved ones and friends.

As has been done for the past several years, each vendor donated one item to be raffled off at the end of the show, creating a table with an eclectic mix of jewelry, prints, sculptures, and other valuable and artistic prizes, the beneficiary of which was the Art Center.

On the first day, a Friday, the fair was only open for a couple hours to allow out-of-towners and locals time to set up their booths. Saturday, the fair was open from 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, from 10 am to 4 pm, allowing attendees plenty of opportunity to peruse, schmooze, and purchase.

Bonnie Belt, who has organized the show for many years and is herself a well-known ceramic artist, is grateful to all who pitched in to help and offer their services in the production of the event.

"We have a total of 37 vendors this year," she said. "We discounted the booths in the Art Center because they don't always get the same amount of traffic as the Community Center. We have eight booths upstairs at the Art Center. It's great because they're having the 'Small Works' show downstairs, so one can get a little of everything. I couldn't do this without Lexi Halleck of the Art Center. She's mostly the legs, and I'm the head. Between the two of us it gets organized. She has got the energy to do all the legwork.

"We've got great artists and a few new ones," Belt said. "We have a redwood chainsaw artist who's doing some great work. We have a few new candle makers and a soap lady."

The vendors were a disparate group of artisans with varied disciplines and approaches to their art. Anna Lee (Anna of the Meadow) creates colorful interpretations of "ancestral healing and birth and death and everything in between, honoring the sacred relationship with the earth that

Read the rest of Crafts Over on page 13



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At top, left: The Little Lake Fire Department's decorated tree. At top, right: A couple hundred people gather in City Park to enjoy the lighted trees and tasty sweets. Above: Attendees peruse the wreath table of the Baechtel Grove PTO. At right: Trees decorated by the community stood in front of the large tree placed in the park by the City of Willits. Below, left: A neighborhood Santa shows up to pass out homemade cookies. Below, right: As night falls, the lights on the trees create a festive Christmas scene.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Light up the Park

Christmas trees, hot cocoa, cookies and friends make for a fun holiday community event

"This is our first annual Light up the Park with the FFA," said Kelly Case-Brackett, teacher of the Willits FFA. "We hope to continue it. Each tree that you see here was sponsored by a business. The FFA set the trees up and each business decorated them as they chose, hopefully to represent their business or just whatever they wanted to do.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"We wanted to do something for the community and we thought this would be a fun activity and make the park really pretty," said Case-Brackett. "Each tree has a QR code that links either to their website or a Facebook or Instagram. Some have their business cards so people will know who did each tree. Next year, we plan on having a competition for the best decorated tree. We'll have categories and everyone can vote via a QR code."

Eighteen businesses and organizations participated in the event at Bud Snider City Park on Saturday, December 9: Willits Power, Mendocino College, Ojeda Transport, Little Lake Fire, Sparetime Supply, Willits 4-H, Tango, The Gardener's Pantry, City of Willits Police Department, Synergy Family Services, Atkinson Welding, Willits Lions Club, Wylatti Resource Management, City of Willits, LEEF, Little Lake Grange, Willits FFA, and J.D. Redhouse. The approximately five-foot trees were lit by batteries from small solar panels, allowing them to glow without wires or hookups.

As attendees perused the trees, they were also invited to see the various booths that were mostly from school and community organizations. A couple exceptions were Windi Kvasnicka's Pampered Chef booth and Jennifer Baskin with her Mama Bear wood-pressed earrings. FFA and 4-H had booths to raise funds to continue their work. Baechtel Grove PTO was raising money through the sales of swags, which are akin to wreaths.

Macy Davidson, a fifth grader at Blosser Lane, was raising money for

their fifth-grade promotion. "It's what happens when you go into sixth grade. We need money because the promotion usually has things like a field trip and we need money to go to a good place," said Davidson.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: The Willits Truckers Light Parade passes by the park at the end of their route. At left: The Willits FFA with teacher Kelly Case-Brackett organized the event and the gathering of trees from local businesses. Below: Members of the FFA gathered around a portable fireplace to keep warm.

The rest of Lights | From page 6

Across the street, at the City Center and the Willits Center for the Arts, the three-day annual Holiday Craft Fair was happening and a little after 6 pm, the 2nd annual Willits Truckers Light Parade passed the park, much to the delight of the families, some of whom brought chairs to watch in comfort. About 30 trucks, lit up with figurines and a myriad of lights, sauntered by City Park for a few colorful minutes, adding to the festive nature of the event.

The first Light up the Park seemed to be a great success, filling the park with a crowd of local residents to party, enjoy each other's company, see old faces, observe the lighted trees, drink some hot chocolate, say hello to Santa and the Grinch, and just have a good old-fashioned time with friends. With the myriad of townspeople present, it was a true community event, one that hopefully will be repeated for years to come.



Above: Members of the Peace and Environmental Club of Willits High School raise money to continue their work in the community. Below: Karen Mattson and Diana Hernandez of the Baechtel Grove PTO sell swags, which are similar to wreaths, to raise funds for their work.



Independent Whiskey

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

Loving Dugen

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.mendocinoshelter.com.



Loyal Rocko

Rocko is a lovable and affectionate pit-bull-mix who is in search of his forever home. Rocko is a friendly dog who loves to cuddle and shower his humans with affection. He is a true sweetheart who will steal your heart in no time! He is a cuddle bug who loves nothing more than snuggling up with his humans on the couch.

A short walk or two around the neighborhood will suffice, and then, in true couch-potato-style, he's making himself comfy on the sofa, hopefully, with his human next to him. He is a loyal companion who will stick by your side through thick and thin. He is a true learner and eager to please. He would benefit from ongoing training and socialization. While Rocko is OK with other dogs, he can be selective and would be happiest as King of the Castle. He may need a slow introduction to new dogs to ensure a positive interaction.

If you're looking for a friendly and affectionate dog who will be your loyal companion, then Rocko is the one for you. He is ready to find his forever family

Dugen is our longest resident and we want your help to change that! Dugen came to us in October of 2020 after losing his home due to a fire evacuation. Dugen has been in a loving foster home and supported by many wonderful volunteers since then. Our buddy has come such a long way in his time with us and now we just need to find the home that works for him!

Dugen gets along with cats and friendly dogs, too. He LOVES his people and even has experience with kiddos. Dugen might be 7 years old but that is not slowing him down. Dugen wants to be with his people and is happiest when he is included. Dugen has a love for life that is unmatched and he is ready to share that with a family of his own. Give us a call to talk about Dugen or come visit us during any of our open hours!

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

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The Ferocious Few
Saturday, December 30 at Shanachie Pub

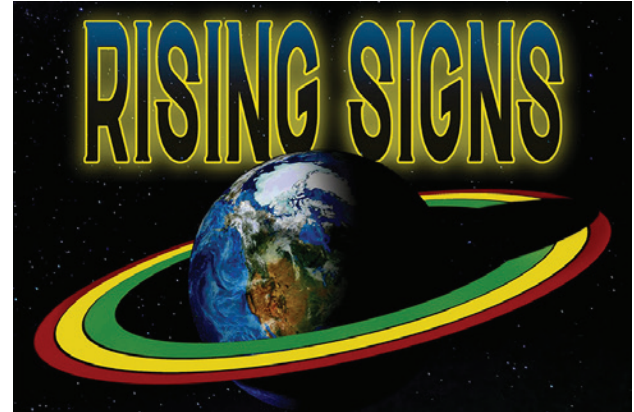
The Ferocious Few headline the Saturday party of New Year's Eve weekend at Shanachie Pub. Francisco Fernandez's blues singed rock 'n' roll band: "a band that blends high paced rock 'n roll, folk lyrics, a punk edge and a rockabilly sensibility" plays Saturday, December 30, at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



THE FEROCIOUS FEW
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

New Year's Eve at Shanachie, Rising Signs

New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31, 9:30 pm, at Shanachie Pub features Rising Signs, a Northern California Reggae band of local musicians who've been rocking classic rock reggae and irie original music in one configuration or another for several decades. Bass, Drums, Guitar, Keys and Ukulele, four part vocal harmonies, and a cornucopia of shared talents up front. \$10. 50 South Main Street.



RISING SIGNS

Candlelight Christmas Eve at St. John

St. John Lutheran Church, 24 Mill Creek Drive in Willits, will be having our traditional Christmas Candlelight service on Sunday, December 24, at 6 pm.

Deacon Cory Paine will be sharing a Christmas message with us. Beautiful music will be provided by local musicians. Plan to worship with us! The community is invited! For questions, call (707) 459-2988.



Noyo Theatre Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyotheatre.com

Starts Friday Dec. 22: Aquaman 2 & Migration

Thursday, December 14

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the winter season at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Local fall produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, 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.

WHS Hot Winter's Night: Come enjoy an evening of Music, Dance, Poetry and Art by Willits youth. Thursday, December 14 at 7 pm at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Special guests include the Baechtel Grove Middle School Band. WHS Leadership class will serve a delicious soup fundraising dinner in the Wolverine Cafe from 5:30 to 6:30 pm before the show. Plus silent auction and goodies to eat.

Friday, December 15

Sequoia Rose Band at Shanachie: Award-winning alt country multi-instrumentalist and vocalist residing in Humboldt County leads a band with hard-driving bluegrass tunes, psychedelic jam band instrumental breaks, and innovative original country songwriting. Friday, December 15 at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, 8 pm.

Saturday, December 16

Wreaths Across America at Willits Cemetery: Please join us, including our local American Legion Post 174 assisted by the Willits FFA and Willits 4-H group, at the Willits Cemetery, 1200 CA-Hwy 20, on Saturday, December 16, to remember and honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our local fallen heroes. Wreath Laying Ceremony at 9 am, followed by the laying of the wreaths, while speaking each veteran's name. Wreaths will be placed at all three local cemeteries and at the Vietnam Veteran Memorial in front of the Mendocino County Museum. We welcome everyone to attend and help lay the Remembrance Wreaths. For more info on Wreaths Across America, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org, email willitswaa@gmail.com, or call Location Coordinator Natalie Spackman at 707-841-7214

FOWL Holiday Season Pop-Up Book Sale

Friends of the Willits Library presents a Holiday Season Pop-Up Book Sale, December 5 to 20, at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Children's books, holiday books, fiction, and more. Hard Back Books, \$1; Soft Cover Books: 50 cents; Children's Books, 50 cents; Special Oversized Books: \$3.

FRIENDS OF THE WILLITS LIBRARY
Holiday Season Pop-Up Book Sale
December 5 - December 20, 2023
At Willits Branch Library
390 E. Commercial Street

Children's books, holiday books, fiction, and more

Hard Back Books:	\$1.00
Soft Cover Books:	50¢
Children's Books:	50¢
Special Oversized Books:	\$3.00

'Let It Glow' Holiday Lighting Competition

A Holiday Lighting competition for City of Willits and Brooktrails residents. Judging will take place December 23; winner will be announced December 24. Volunteers needed for decorating. Donations of unused decorations will be accepted to help houses that have no decorations. Any questions or interest in volunteering, contact Jorden Potter or Jennifer Drew at willitsholidaylights@gmail.com

WONKA
(PG) 1 hr 56 mins
Fri.: 4:30 & 7:15pm
Sat./Sun.: 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 7:15pm only

WISH
(PG) 1 hr 35 mins
Fri.: 4:45 & 7:00pm
Sat./Sun.: 2:30, 4:45 & 7:00pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 7:00pm only

Winter Crafts at the Library: Let's create together - join us at the Willits Branch Library each Saturday through December 23, 11 am to noon, for an easy winter craft the whole family can enjoy. Supplies will be provided. December 16: Candle Votives; and December 23: Snow Globes. 390 East Commercial Street.

Mendo Crafts Holiday Market: extra Holiday Market of local arts and crafts vendors is set for Saturday, December 16 from 11 am to 5 pm. "For some last-minute, one-of-a-kind holiday gifts." Imagination Station parking lot, 11 North Marin Street, by the park.

Laytonville Christmas Light Parade: Saturday, December 16, parade at 5 pm, parade line-up starts at 4 pm. Bring the kids to see Santa before he joins the parade, starts at 2:30 pm, at the Laytonville Fire Department, 44950 Willis Avenue. There will be hot cocoa, hot apple cider and baked goodies for purchase from bake sales.

An Evening with Spencer Brewer and Friends at WCA: Willits Center for the Arts presents an intimate Evening Concert with Spencer Brewer and Friends, a fundraiser for your art center. Featuring Mendocino Piano Quartet, Ben Reub, Dr. Wenbo Yin, and composer/pianist Spencer Brewer. This Saturday, December 16 event kicks off a new concert series coming to the WCA Great Room with their new baby grand piano. 7 pm at the Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street. Tickets are \$20; purchase in advance at www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Jon Gonzales at Shanachie: Ukulele-strumming artist from the Bay Area, "Jon Gonzales weaves



WCA Winter Choral Performance December 17
Featuring Nancy New's Just For Fun Choir
and Nancy New's Just For Fun Choir



Light parade COME SEE SANTA
Saturday 16 Dec 2:30-4:30

New Year's Eve Bingo

The Willits Senior Center presents New Year's Eve Bingo on Sunday, December 31, from 6 to 9 pm. Enjoy the New York Times Square Ball Drop live at 9 pm California time. Doors open 4:30 pm. Dinner at 5 pm, with a sandwich buffet. \$35 buy-in includes meal and one 10-Game Pack and one double action special. 1501 Baechtel Road; info: 1-707-459-6826

WONKA
(PG) 1 hr 56 mins
Fri.: 5:00 & 7:45pm
Sat./Sun.: 2:15, 5:00 & 7:45pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 7:45pm only
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners

What's Happening Around Town

ukulele folk-hooks with lyrical psychedelic satire and paradoxical, universal subjects in his songs." Saturday, December 16 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, December 17

'The Aramaic Lord's Prayer': Experience the deeper meaning of Jesus' prayer in the cosmological language he spoke in and conveyed through body-prayer. Sunday, December 17, from 11 am to 1 pm, at The Muse, 30 East San Francisco Avenue.

Wednesday, December 20

Harmony Keepers at Brickhouse: Duo Kate Black and Anita Blu perform at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street, Wednesday, December 20, from 12 to 2 pm, and on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Beautiful vocal harmonies, with guitar and keyboard, and some songs with dulcimer or ukulele. Music from Joni Mitchell, Carole King, James Taylor, Phoebe Snow, Laura Nyro, Leonard Cohen, and more.

Willits Stamp Club: Monthly meeting, third Wednesdays, Wednesday, December 20 this month, 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Bring your collection and enjoy time perusing stamps. All are welcome. Refreshments served. Info: talsfam@pacfic.net



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Spencer Brewer, Mendocino Piano Quartet, Ben Reub, Dr. Wenbo Yin
An intimate evening with Spencer Brewer and Friends
Saturday, Dec 16th at 7 pm

2023 Winter Solstice Spiral Dance: Celebrate the Return of the Light, with Drums, Songs, Stories, Candles and a Community Spiral Dance. All are welcome to attend. Rehearsals on December 15 and December 18 at 6 pm at the Grange for children and adults wanting to participate in the story and/or ceremony, to sing in the choir, etc. Event is Wednesday, December 20, at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Ceremony begins at 7 pm, followed by the Spiral Dance. Suggested donation: \$5 to \$10. Children are free. A benefit for the Little Lake Grange.

Thursday, December 21

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the winter season at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Local fall produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, 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.



Friday, December 22

Santa visits the Willits Post Office: Santa is stopping by the Willits Post Office on Friday, December 22 for a last-minute, free meet and greet before the big holiday! Bring family and friends - but not pets please! - to 315 South Main Street, between 10 am and 2 pm and don't forget to bring a camera if you want to get a photo!

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library
Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.
Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

All branches of the Mendocino County Library will be closed from Sunday, December 24, 2023 through Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Normal hours will resume Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

Story Time: Tuesday through Friday each week, 10:30 to 11 am. "Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in the children's area of the library."

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. "We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe". Topics will range and will be announced ahead of time."

LEGO Club: Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

Willits Walk and Talk: Join the Willits Branch Library staff for a 20- to 30-minute walk around the neighborhood. Come enjoy a little bit of exercise as well as some pleasant conversation. All ages are welcome. Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am; meet at the front entrance to the library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or call the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

Games at the Library: Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month we will be bringing out the cards and board games. All ages & player levels welcome. Bring your own games to add to the fun!

Tech Help: Every first and third Saturday from 11 am to 12 pm: Is your computer on the fritz? Want to install a new app? Bring your tech questions and get help from the library's tech savvy volunteer

Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library from 1 to 4:30 pm. "All skill levels welcome! Spinning circle 1 to 2 pm, Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm."



MCCARTY'S BAR PRESENTS NEW YEAR'S EVE 2024
DECEMBER 31ST 9:50PM-10:15PM
FEATURING BOV

15th Annual Christmas Carol Sing-Along, December 17

The First Presbyterian Church-Ukiah presents the 15th annual Christmas Carol Sing-Along, on Sunday, December 17 at 5:30 pm. Under the direction of Denise Beckler and Carole Hester, there will be many special attractions at this popular free event including world-renowned harpist Anna Maria Mendieta from San Francisco; a community ensemble, directed by Les Plutzenreuter, former conductor of Ukiah Symphony Orchestra; Les Boek, vocalist; and Gwen van Wyck, dancer. Pianist for the event is Denise Beckler.

Receptacles for cash donations will be available at the church, corner of Dora and Perkins streets, Ukiah, for Redwood Gospel Mission's Center for Hope. Serving the homeless in our community. More info: Denise Beckler at 707-468-9235 or denise@fpoukiah.org or Carole Hester at 707-972-2795 or carolehester@juno.com



Willits 4-H offers gift wrapping

Willits 4-H is happy to announce the opportunity to get your gifts wrapped at JD Redhouse. Kids will be in the warehouse offering gift wrapping on the following dates and times: Friday, December 15 starting at 4:30 pm; Saturday, December 16 starting at 12 noon; and Sunday, December 17 starting at 12 noon.

Self-Fulfilling Prophecies at Shanachie: A favorite at the Pub, Friday, December 22 at 8 pm. Features Morgan Stocker (nacho the stockrocker) Buckminster West and Bodhi Idarius, who all grew up in Ukiah, formed a band, moved to Portland and came back to their hometown taking their music to a new level, adding Willits' own Blair "Blaze" Rowland on drums. The music has elements of punk, folk, and rock, all original compositions. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, December 23

Winter Crafts at the Library: Let's create together - join us at the Willits Branch Library for the final Winter Crafts event on Saturday, December 23, 11 am to noon, for an easy winter craft the whole family can enjoy. Supplies will be provided. December 23: Snow Globes. 390 East Commercial Street.

Cosmic Jam Band at Shanachie: A local Mendocino County jam band, "sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community. Saturday, December 23 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, December 24 & 25

Happy Christmas Eve, and Merry Christmas!
See you next year! We're back 1/11/24!

Ongoing Events

Willits Tennis Club: Meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School courts. New members welcome. Free. Show up or call 707-484-3385.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every week on Mondays, 6 pm, at the Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866.

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial 7pm. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Sack lunches served at the City Park (or across the street in case of rain) every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm. Come early to be assured a lunch! Provided by various churches and community organizations.

Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl: "Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Games start at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of two, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've got everything you need!" Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main Street.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank: Twice-monthly drive-thru food distribution in Willits, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, located in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields, 9:30 to 11 am. Groceries to go, senior basket (for low-income seniors 60 or older), and diapers.

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Modified Worship Service 10 am.
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 Bandanadam
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://stanthonywillits.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 Bruneau

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/willitsumc

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Facebook: facebook/willitsumc

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



Letters for Santa

Imagination Station Preschool sends letters to Santa

'Tis the season for sending letters to Santa, and the United States Post Office's Willits branch helped the students of Imagination Station Preschool and Childcare Center's Blue Diamond and Pre-K classes get their messages where they need to go – and just in the nick of time!

Students wrote their own special messages outlining some of their holiday wishes – take note of an increase in rubber chicken requests and a special note about crab appreciation – in the letters transcribed from students, at right.

– Maureen Jennison



Photos courtesy Imagination Station

Dear Santa,
I want to tell you that I want a transformer. I only want a transformer. I been good.

From Erik

Dear Santa,
My name is Lexie, I am 4 years old, and I have been very good. For Christmas, please bring me a rubber chicken, new shoes, and a tent.

Dear Santa,
My name is Jamison, I am 4 years old, and I have been very good. For Christmas, please bring me transformers, a teddy bear, a racetrack, Hot Wheels for the racetrack, a necklace because I never had one, a teddy bear for my sister, and a Christmas tree necklace for mom.

Dear Santa,
My name is Nelaya, I am 4 years old, and I have been very good. For Christmas, please bring me an Elsa and Anna toy, Cinderella toy, Belle toy, Ariel toy, baby doll, make-up set, and an Elsa make-up set.

Dear Santa,
I want for Christmas, a laptop. A laptop is a kind of computer. I just want a stuffed animal dog. That's all.

From Leo

Dear Santa,
My name is Cristian. I have been very good this year. I really hope to find these presents under the tree: a big toy gun, a new shirt, a monster truck, and a pig. When you visit, please make sure you drink your apple juice and eat all of your carrots and cookies. You can share the carrots with the reindeer, they'll be hungry, too.

Dear Santa,
My name is Antonio. I have been very good this year. I really hope to find these presents under the tree: a robot, a rubber chicken, and a puzzle. When you visit, please make sure you drink your milk and eat all of your cookies. You can share the cookies with the reindeer, they'll be hungry, too.

Dear Santa,
I want a blue shopping cart. Been a good boy. That's all. My name is Anakin.

From Harlow

Dear Santa,
I want an Elsa doll for Christmas. I want a purple playground slide that I can put by my bed. I also want an Anna doll the same size as the Elsa doll. A Wednesday Addams doll. A toy kitchen. I'm being nice to my mom.

From Harlow

Dear Santa,
I love you Santa. For Christmas I would like: 1. A toy deer. 2. A baby deer. 3. A baby cow that moos. 4. A real horse. 5. A baby crab. I like crabs.

From Syarose

Dear Santa,
I want a big emoten troll [remote control] Monster Truck. I want something for my little brother. His name is Patrick. And I will give him a rubber chicken. Mommy always takes care of me, so I want to give her a rubber ducky. Daddy also takes care of me. I want to give him a guitar with a long box. That's all my family. I been good.

From Barton

Dear Santa,
I want a Pikachu. I also want a mermaid doll. I have been a nice girl. A bus. A yellow, toy-sized bus. A rainbow jacket. A pair of pink dancing shoes. A toy pizza.

From Kalani

Dear Santa,
My name is Judson, I am 5 years old, and I have been very good. For Christmas, please bring me: Spiderman Legos, blaster that shoots bullets, tools, strawberries and watermelon, cowboy boots, rainboots in rainbow color, a real monster truck this big (1 foot tall).

Dear Santa,
I have been a nice boy. I want a little gun. I also want a real chainsaw. A leaf blower, too. I also want a rope as long as a redwood tree. Regular black boots for climbing trees.

From Wyatt



Above, left: WEB students pose for Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Above, right: The WEB group takes a field trip to the Taylor Observatory in Kelseyville. At right, from top: WEB program participants make ribbons for Breast Cancer Awareness Day. WEB program students gather for the WEB social. At right, bottom left: WEB members Zain Marshall, left, and Grady Cooley decorate Halloween cookies. At right, bottom, right: WEB members decorate Halloween cookies, from left around the table: Zoe Cobain, Dulce Angulo, Talia Massey, Taylor Valente, Moises Pema, Melissa Ayala, and Chloe Rogers.

Photos courtesy WEB

The rest of WEB | From page 1

550 nonperishable food items between late October and mid-November. Donations were made to the Willits Food Bank in preparation for Thanksgiving. WEB supervisor and Social Science teacher Holly Sanbeck was really impressed with how well the drive went, saying "We're trying to build WEB as a community-oriented program, so now I think our goal is to beat the previous year, and next year will be 600 cans."

Members of WEB consist of sixth- and eighth-grade students collaborating in a mentor/mentee partnership. Teachers oversee the program and help structure and coordinate its activities. To be a WEB member, seventh-graders transitioning into the eighth grade go through an application process. Most seventh-graders apply, and conduct is the main qualifier.

There are behavioral standards WEB members commit to when they join the group. Eighth-grader and WEB leader Frida Friend said, "You don't have to have good grades, but you have to be a good role model ... three demerits can get you kicked out [of the group]."

WEB, as an enrichment program, was designed to foster leadership and communication skills in the eighth-graders, who act as coaches for the sixth-graders. The passage from fifth grade to sixth grade can be a big adjustment: New teachers, a new school, and new rules, so the eighth-graders serve as guides, helping to make the process a little less stressful and more welcoming.

One of the ways the WEB members do this is through weekly activities with the sixth-graders. Eliseo Nunez Lopez, another eighth-grade WEB leader, described what a normal activity for the younger kids looks like, saying, for example, "We teach them about creativity and how not to spread rumors." In this instance, WEB leaders offered the sixth-graders alternative behaviors if they found themselves hearing gossip.

Nunez Lopez said: "One choice is to not talk at all. Just plead the fifth." Basically, choose silence, a choice not all kids realize they have when it comes to rumors. By playing the telephone game, the eighth-graders were able to show the sixth-graders how, in just a short amount of time, a rumor can be created and how little it can have to do with the truth.

The WEB team also has brunch with their mentees

every other Tuesday as a way to socialize and casually get to know each other.

By creating friendships between the two grades that, without the WEB program, might not have developed, teacher Sanbeck said: "The sixth-graders feel comfortable going to [the WEB leaders] with their problems. If there's bullying or they're having drama, they go to their WEB leaders to talk about it."

The WEB leader's protocol is to then report the issue to a teacher or to the office. Leader Friend said, when it comes to sharing the concerns of the sixth-graders with BGMS faculty, "It's good that we're in a position like this, which is more of a position of power ... our voices are more heard."

The eighth-grade WEB leaders are also approaching their own set of new challenges. Next year they'll be in high school. They themselves will be starting over in a brand-new environment with new expectations, but there are crucial and essential skills they're developing now, as members of WEB, to help prepare them for their transition.

Leader Nunez Lopez said the WEB program has helped him to be more open. He said: "I feel like I've grown out of my shell. I was usually a quiet person who didn't really talk to anyone, and since I'm a WEB leader now, I feel like I know a lot of people more, and I talk to more people."

He said he's hoping his involvement as WEB leader helps the sixth-graders understand, "When something doesn't go your way, you can always be flexible, and kind of move around it, and still get to your goal." A critical skill in itself.

The WEB group has lots more planned for the future. Most immediately, they're doing a jacket drive for the winter so folks in the community have easier access to warm, protective clothing. A community cleanup is also on the horizon. Sanbeck says her long-term goal is to get the WEB kids out in the community doing more and more acts of service.

If you'd like to be a part of the WEB jacket drive, new and gently used donations of winter coats can be dropped off at the main office of Bechtel Grove Middle School, 1150 Magnolia Street.



Season's GREETINGS
from Wylatts Resource Management

Wylatts
LIC#95497
(707) 983-8135

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WILLITS CENTER FOR THE

ARTS

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Dec. 23

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New Year's Eve After Party

JANUARY 1 1AM – 3AM

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PLUS YOU COULD WIN \$2,024 CASH

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NOV. 25-DEC. 31

Tickets regularly \$59.95
Local's Price Up to 50% Off
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SKUNKTRAIN.COM | 707.964.6371

GET READY SENIORS!

It's almost time for your formal senior portrait!

Schools will have order forms soon!

Willits Charter School
January 17, 2024

Willits High & Sanhedrin High
January 18 & 19, 2024

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mdtreemanagement1@gmail.com

Dustin Gregg
Manager
707-354-0950
mdtreemanagement2@gmail.com

T and T TOWING

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277 N. Lenore Ave. WILLITS, CA
24-HOUR RADIO DISPATCHED TOWING

Where are you going to hide your gifts this year?

WILLITS MINI STORAGE

261 Franklin Avenue
Willits
707-459-2529



Above, left: Each of the Eagle Scouts received one of these plaques containing a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol. Wendy and Kevin Copperfield say hello to Tristan Wartell who was ill and watching on Zoom. Below: Inductees with their parents and others who have aided them in becoming Eagle Scouts stand on stage. At bottom: Several past Eagle Scouts attend the ceremony.



At right: Ryan Watson receives his Eagle Scout bandana from his parents. Scoutmaster Ken Pederson addresses the crowd with serious notes and amusing quips. Scoutmaster Kara Garvin tells the attendees about the flags that she had flown over the Capitol and put into these plaques. Ryan Watson honors his troop leader, Ken Pederson, with an appreciation pin.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: The honorees smile for the audience and camera: Ryan Millimore, Ian O'Keefe, Ryan Watson, Annalee Gonzalez, and Tristan Wartell (on Zoom).

Eagle Scouts

Ceremony honors five young adults who earned the highest rank possible in Scouts

Receiving the honor of becoming an Eagle Scout is a big deal. It is the culmination of years of service, education, and refining of one's character. Although the rank can be earned in a minimum of three years, most take up to six years of hard work to obtain it. It's a commitment to the scout oath and scout law and a demonstration of a personal sense of honor and duty to one's community.

"It's a pretty long journey to become an Eagle Scout," said Scoutmaster Ken Pederson. "They have a group of ranks when they first join. Once they get their start, it becomes individualized where they earn merit badges. They have to earn 21 merit badges, leadership positions and community service. At the end they have an Eagle project that they do."

On Sunday, December 10, Tristan Wartell, Ryan Watson, Annalee Gonzalez and Ryan Millimore had the honor, badges, and sashes bestowed upon them from BSA Scout Troop 42 at the Willits Methodist Church to a full house of well-wishers, past recipients, parents, and other

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

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The rest of **Crafts** From page 3

we all have and can access," as she describes her work. She also brought a group of Prayer Candles that should last nine days through any prayer vigil.

Gary Colson paints on saw blades and wrought iron pots as well as doing watercolors on paper. He was showing several miniature paintings that would be excellent for gifts or ornaments. Metals by Nature artist, Carrie Fox, makes "jewelry with meaning. I research all of the shapes and the stones and put meaning toward it," she explained.

Rio Palley, a mainstay at the Willits Farmers Market, can be found serving coffee and offering a myriad of ceramic coffee mugs. He also sells the mugs at Mariposa Market. A vendor, new to this event, is Jerrod Flowers of Flowers Sculptures and Gardens, who creates weighty redwood sculptures with various-sized chain saws. Cherisa Franklin of Laytonville brought her Mermaizing Soaps in a variety of aromas and shapes.

Janea Stephens' Organic Attire has been showing at the Holiday Craft Fair for many years, with her brightly colored tie-dye and other patterns. "It's fun to be at the hometown fair. I've done shows all over, traveled far and wide. It's just fun to do one here, go home and sleep in my own bed. Our socks are made from organically-grown cotton in the United States. We design all the clothing which has our label in it. It's been a challenge to find the styles I want to offer in organic cotton."

Donna d'Terra, an herb enthusiast and instructor, was showing her "Earth Voices" Handmade Paper Wall Hangings. "The paper is made from cotton," d'Terra said. "I make it with a very simple press. While it's still wet, I do the patterns on it. The calligraphy is done with a proprietary method."

D'Terra also sold her "Earthfans," assemblages using natural materials, such as wood, feathers, crystals, shells, lichens, etc. "I go on hikes all over the land I live on and come back with my pockets full of things I find, and I get excited to do things with them. I have to stop myself sometimes, so I'm not dragging bags of stuff that I find."

Tamara Wilder's Paleotechnics teaches children and adults ancient living skills. "These skills go back a million and a half years," explained Wilder, "which is the oldest evidence of using fire as a tool. Using stone and fiber are my specialties. More recently, I've been tanning skin. I teach people how to process animals. These are the oldest technologies."

Wandering the aisles and speaking with the vendors is a joyful, educational, and pleasant experience, as well as the opportunity to see old friends and acquaintances who have also come out to do their Christmas shopping.

Music was organized by Chris Cichacki of the Cosmic Family Band, who booked Vern Morninglight, Bunny, Mitchell Holman, Clay Hawkins, and others, creating a pleasant shopping experience in both locations.

The rest of **Eagle** From page 12

interested people offering respect and encouragement.

Wartell, due to COVID, could not attend, but was present via Zoom from his dorm room at Santa Cruz. Another honoree, Ian O'Keefe, had earned his Eagle status in Pennsylvania and had not had a ceremony due to COVID restrictions. He was surprised when he was called up and saw his mother in the crowd.

"This is truly a special occasion," said Pederson, speaking to the group. "We get to celebrate multiple young people earning their Eagle Scout. It's quite an accomplishment for a little town and a little troop. To see these guys come through to earn this is very gratifying. As a scoutmaster, there is a father's pride today. I got to work closely with all four of these scouts."

"Years ago, these scouts accepted a challenge, not only to learn the scout oath and law but to live them out in their daily lives, not only as a good scout but to become one of the best," said Pederson. "Only five percent of all scouts end up attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. They have successfully met that challenge and we are gathered here today to celebrate their achievement."

Each of the Eagle Scouts had to choose a project to perform that would benefit the community. Gonzalez created two public pantries where people could leave food for those less fortunate to pick up.

"Ryan Watson did a fountain at the high school for the Peace Garden," explained Pederson. "Ryan Millimore redid the horseshoe pits at the Rec Grove. Tristan did a refurbishment on the museum's train depot. He redid the decking and added a handicap ramp. We have one coming up, Isabella is doing some work on the round pen at the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center. Hopefully, in January, she'll be getting her paperwork in and we'll be having another ceremony coming up soon."

The rank of Eagle Scout does not come without responsibility. Although the highest honor a scout can receive, it is not the culmination of the Eagles' lives. There is still much expected of them and they are considered an Eagle for life.

"The foremost responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. To an Eagle Scout, honor is the foundation of all character. Honor is not only important to them but to set an example for all other scouts," Pederson said in coordination with Michael Remy, a longtime scout leader. "The second obligation of an Eagle Scout is loyalty. Their loyalty to their fellow scouts makes them want to pitch in with their share of the load."

"The third obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. To a scout, courage means not only the ability to face physical danger but the determination to stand up for what's right. The fourth obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be cheerful."

"The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. The Eagle Scout extends a helping hand to those who still toil on scouting's trail, just as others helped them in their climb to the rank of Eagle," said Pederson and Remy.

The girls' scoutmaster, Kara Garvin, told of her project of having Representative Jared Huffman fly five flags over the U. S. Capitol, one for each recipient. The flags, having been flown, were then neatly folded and encased in a plaque given to each of the Eagle Scouts.

These five scouts attained their honors by adhering faithfully to the scout law which states, "A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

OBITUARY |

Bobbie Powell

Celebrating the wonderful life of Roberta "Bobbie" Powell who passed away at home December 3, 2023.



Roberta was born in Willits, on June 21, 1933, to her parents Leslie and Myrtle Stewart at Howard Memorial Hospital. Roberta is survived by her daughter Susan Gravier; grandchildren, Josh, Carly and Jeremy; great-grandchildren Christian, Taylor, Rickey, Grady and Aaliyah; and a great-great-granddaughter Violet; sister (in-law); and numerous nieces and nephews and cousins. Roberta is also survived by her son Gilbert L. Gravier and family.

Roberta was a resident of Mendocino County most of her life, living in Dos Rios, Covelo, Laytonville and Willits. Roberta loved her family fiercely and the wonderment of Mother Nature.

Roberta worked all her life in small cafes, however, after retirement and an empty house, she started her volunteer path at Willits Community Services and Food Bank. She dearly loved the people that came and really truly cared if they were doing alright. With that, in lieu of flowers please donate to WCS and Food Bank.

Roberta's Celebration of Life will be held December 18, 2023, 11 am to 3 pm, at the Little Lake Grange in Willits. Please come and help her family celebrate the amazing, beautiful life of Roberta Powell.



Mendocino County invites applications for:

Cook
\$47,403 - \$57,595

Corrections Deputy
\$54,184 - \$65,873

Deputy Probation Officer I/II
\$51,937 - \$69,617

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
\$62,628 - \$87,214

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner in Training
\$23.48 - \$28.54 Hourly

Director of Nursing - Public Health
\$123,406 - \$150,009

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
EOE

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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 uicearthall@gmail.com

Firewood for Sale

Firewood and Douglas fir poles for sale. FIR \$300/cord. OAK \$400/cord. KINDLING \$15/box (14x20). Delivery \$45 near Willits, \$75 near Ukiah. POLES: Please call for price. Call Fred (707) 456-0270. (707) 354-2244

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

Comfortable furnished office space for rent in downtown Willits for psychotherapy and body work. Available three days a week M-W. Includes all utilities and massage table. Contact Ruth at 707-972-2163

Help Covering News

Willits Weekly needs help covering the local news. We'll be taking our Holiday break after the December 14 edition, but will be back with a January 11 edition next year. Interested in covering the monthly school board meetings? Or writing about different kinds of news? Please email willitsweekly@gmail.com with any news experience (not required, but welcome) or specific interests in news you have, or call Jennifer at 707-459-2633 (please leave a message if you get voice mail).

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

Willits Food Bank Open

Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the front office at 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits CA 95490 - knock or leave in the locked mailbox in front. Food distribution is available at the back door on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.



Willits Weekly
Online & In Print

WWW45

CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES DEPARTMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS Annual Invitation for Inclusion on the 2024 City of Willits List of Qualified Bidders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that:

The City of Willits is soliciting applicants for its 2024 List of Qualified Bidders. Interested parties should complete the City of Willits Informal Bidding Annual Pre-Qualification Application for 2024 and submit to Brandy Sanderson at:

bsanderson@cityofwillits.org

or

Brandy Sanderson

City of Willits

111 E. Commercial St. Willits,

CA 95490

Re: 2024 Qualified Bidders List

Bidders are hereby advised that the previous bidders list will be replaced with the new list and no contractors will be carried over from the previous list.

REQUESTS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY December 29, 2024

Questions concerning this notice should be directed to Brandy Sanderson at bsanderson@cityofwillits.org.

The application can also be found on the City's website on the Engineering page;

<http://www.cityofwillits.org/147/Engineering>.

CITY OF WILLITS: s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk

DATED: 11/30/23

Publication Dates: November 30, December 7 & 14, 2023

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You deserve more reliable answers, faster.

That's why Adventist Health Howard Memorial features the latest tools to detect breast cancer at the earliest stages, including 3D mammography, a breakthrough in imaging and early detection. And we offer a team of experts who will get you the imaging you need quickly.

Scan the QR code to request a 3D mammogram appointment or call 707-456-3090.



Adventist Health
Imaging at Howard Memorial

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

customers from her home kitchen.

"For me, it was always chocolate on chocolate!" laughed Cobbs as she put the finishing frosting swirls on top of a blue-and-pink celebration cake she was making in her warm and welcoming kitchen. "Having a special cake made for me was always a wonderful thing. I remember my aunt made me a 'Beauty and the Beast' cake, a Winnie the Pooh cake, a hamburger cake – but it was always chocolate ... well, sometimes they had some raspberry filling, too."

While Cobbs says that chocolate is still a big seller with the cakes she's now making, there are also other flavors she's offering, including lemon, peanut butter, red velvet, chocolate marble, confetti and many more.

"I am also offering many dairy-free and gluten-free cakes," explained Cobbs. "I have experimented a lot and have found some great recipes – and I'm selling a lot of them. I have also found that a lot of people enjoy sponge cakes, as opposed to butter cakes which can be so sweet, rich and dense. The sponge cakes are mostly egg-based and stay light and fluffy. I am also using a lot of Swiss meringue frosting, which again, isn't as sweet. A lot of people who proclaim they're not 'cake people' really seem to enjoy my cakes as they are not nearly as sweet as what people are sometimes used to."

Those interested in ordering a cake can do so in one of three sizes: 6 inch, which feeds 10 to 12 people; 8 inch, which feeds about 25 people; or 10 inch, which feeds about 35 people. Cakes are available in single, or multiple tiers, and customers can select their cake flavor, filling, frosting and decoration themselves from Cobbs' available flavors. They can also choose from the menu of specially crafted combinations, too, including a tiramisu cake: a vanilla sponge cake, brushed with espresso, layered with mascarpone whipped cream, cocoa powder and then topped with vanilla buttercream.

Some of the other crafted combinations include Maraschino Cherry Chip, Matcha Passion Fruit, Lemon Blueberry, and Pina Colada. Cobbs likes to use frosting, decorating drips, ganache and other decorations atop, but always likes to keep things edible, using fruit, hand-sculpted marzipan, fondant and chocolate to complete the cake's décor.

"I do also offer cupcakes, and occasionally cookies and specialty items, too," said Cobbs.

"I recently made some gingerbread cookies for the Willits Rotary Golf Tournament. I have made wedding cakes, and also my first gender-reveal cake! I was so nervous to make sure that there weren't any crumbs showing!"

While Cobbs is occasionally able to accommodate shorter time-frame orders, she notes that she prefers a two-week lead time when possible. A 30 percent deposit is required at the time of order, with the final payment due at pickup. Cobbs is happy to deliver cakes free of charge to in-town locations, she can also meet up with those who live farther out at an easy downtown business or location for pickups.

When she's not at the oven, Cobbs enjoys spending time with her family, camping, hiking and crafting with her husband, Kale, and the two boys, Henry, 7, and Marshal, 5. She also has been participating in "The Greatest Baker" contest online where the winner will receive \$10,000, meet celebrity baker and "Cake Boss" Buddy Valastro, and have their work in Bake from Scratch magazine. The contest is also a benefit for the Andrew McDonough Be Posiive Foundation which supports over 1,200 families dealing with childhood cancer. Participants encourage online voting through social media. Each week, candidates are narrowed down until a winner is announced in February. To vote for Cobbs, visit <https://greatestbaker.com/2023/jackie-cobbs>.

"I'm not used to putting myself out there this way, asking people to vote for me online," said Cobbs. "But it really showed me how many people there are out there, enjoying my cakes and wanting to support me, and rooting for me!

"I just want to make sure that people enjoy my cakes and have fun celebrating the moments in their lives. I used to be a waitress at Ardella's, that's probably where a lot of people would know me from, and I always loved the joyful atmosphere of people enjoying a meal out, and in a way, I got to experience that happy moment with them. Now, making cakes for people celebrating special moments kind of hits the same thought for me. I get to be a little part of many people's celebrations, and help them have happy memories of that time."

Orders can be placed by calling Cobbs directly at 707-272-3523 or by reaching out to her on Facebook or Instagram under "Craft House Baking" or by emailing cobbs.jackie@gmail.com.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Above: Jackie Cobbs of Craft House Baking adds decorative drips to the sides of a celebration cake. Below, left: Mountain scenery is "painted" onto a chocolate cake for a plain air look. Below, right: Aces are high on this poker-themed lemon raspberry cake. At bottom, left: The not-too-tall, but still-rather-tall cakes make an impressive presentation, but are still easy enough to cut and fit on a plate. At bottom, right: The cakes are carefully packed into sturdy boxes for easy transport and delivery.



Photos by Craft House Baking



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

Creek Road in Mendocino County.

The funding includes more than \$300 million for projects across California that will make the system more climate resilient while investing in bike and pedestrian pathways and increasing natural disaster preparedness.

Fifteen projects, totaling \$309 million, are funded through the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program, which is part of Governor Gavin Newsom's historic \$15 billion clean transportation infrastructure package in the 2022-23 state budget to further the state's ambitious climate goals. The funding will help climate-vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

"California is making historic transportation investments and building a climate-resilient system to connect every community in a safe and reliable way," said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. "The funding will maintain and repair our roads while investing in public transit, bike and pedestrian pathways, and climate-adaptation projects."

The \$1.1 billion allocation approved includes \$323 million from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 and more than \$115 million via Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

Projects in Mendocino County and Del Norte County that the CTC approved this week include:

- Approximately \$51.4 million including more than \$45.5 million in federal IJA funding and \$630,000 in SB1 funding in support of allocations toward roadway, guardrail and sign improvements on Route 162 from U.S. 101 to east of Poonkinney Road near Covelo in Mendocino County.
- Approximately \$13.4 million including more than \$11.8 million in federal IJA funding and \$272,000 in SB1 funding in support of allocations toward roadway improvements on U.S. 101 just north of Willits from north of the Upp Creek Bridge to north of Ryan Creek Road in Mendocino County.
- Approximately \$8.5 million in emergency allocations toward the removal of hazardous trees and slide material, roadway repairs, and the construction of retaining walls and rockfall barriers on U.S. 199 from Hiouchi to the Oregon State Line in Del Norte County following a series of wildfires that started on Aug. 15, 2023.
- Approximately \$1.7 million in SB1 funding in support of allocations toward fish-passage improvements along Route 1 near Anchor Bay at Sunset Drive and near Fort Bragg at Tregoning Drive in Mendocino County.
- Approximately \$4.4 million in support of allocations toward roadway improvements and construction of retaining walls on Route 197 near Crescent City from Kaspar/Keene Road to Ruby Van Deventer County Park and U.S. 199 from north of the Patrick Creek Bridge to north of Siskiyou Fork Road in Del Norte County.

The LTCAP provides \$400.5 million over five years, with \$148 million in state funding and \$252.5 million from the federal "Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation" Formula Program established in the IJA.

The IJA, also known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law," is a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's infrastructure to improve the sustainability and resiliency of our energy, water, broadband and transportation systems. Since 2021, California has received more than \$32 billion in IJA funds, including more than \$24 billion for transportation-related projects.

In addition, SB 1 provides \$5 billion in transportation funding annually that is shared about equally between the state and local agencies. Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of SB 1 funds, including projects that are partially funded by SB 1.

For more information about California transportation projects funded by the IJA and SB 1, visit <https://rebuildingca.gov/>

The rest of **Gala** | From page 2

throughout Willits, a free tax preparation program which served over 350 people last season, free bilingual mental health sessions with registered Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, a multicultural enrichment program for 250 children through the Willits Kids Club, public health initiatives including 10 mil pasos, a monthly 10,000 step walk (weather permitting), English as a Second Language classes per week for beginners and advanced learners, parenting classes, and support, assistance and referrals for social services such as CalFresh, Medi-Cal, housing support, and more, immigration assistance and referrals, gang, alcohol, and drug abuse education, math tutoring, and translation services.

The Appreciation Gala on January 6 will honor these achievements and the people that made them possible. This includes our event sponsors, Black Oak Coffee Roasters and Frey Vineyards. If you're interested in attending, email Nuestra Alianza's Business Manager/CFO Wilder Herbertson at wilder@nawfric.org for more information.

To buy tickets for this event, you can go to <https://nuestraalianzadewillits.org/2023-gala> where you'll see the inclusive pricing structure that we developed so that all members of our community can come.

We also have a Spanish-version website at <https://nuestraalianzadewillits.org/2023-gala-esp> If you cannot attend but would like to donate to support their work and mission in lieu of attendance, you can donate via PayPal at the bottom of their website's home page <https://nuestraalianzadewillits.org/>

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

73000 block of Island Mountain Road in Piercy, but it was too wet and the roads were unsafe for travel. Graves informed family he would instead attempt to leave on Tuesday, December 5.

When family members had not heard from Graves by Thursday, December 7, they became worried. Family members then traveled to Graves' property, but they were not able to locate his whereabouts. It did not appear Graves had left the property as the majority of his personal belongings and vehicle were at the property.

On December 7, at about 11 pm, deputies arrived in the 73000 block of Island Mountain Road in Piercy. Deputies and family continued searching for Graves until 3 am but were unsuccessful in locating him.

The Sheriff's Office deployed local Mendocino County Search & Rescue resources for a further search during the morning of Friday, December 8. Search & Rescue was unable to locate Graves and were deployed again on December 9 and 10.

The following is a detailed list of mutual aid resources provided to the Sheriff's Office:

Saturday, December 9: 6 teams (and CalOES representative) with a total of 51 members:

- Mendocino County Sheriff's Office SAR (8 members)
- California Search and Rescue (from CalOES) (5 members)
- CalOES Assistant Chief (1 member)
- Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit (11 members)
- Napa County Sheriff's Office SAR (4 members)
- California Rescue Dog Association (6 members)
- Marin County Sheriff's Office SAR (16 members)

Sunday, December 10: 11 teams (and CalOES representative) with a total of 72 members:

- Mendocino County Sheriff's Office SAR (5 members)
- Sonoma County Sheriff's Office SAR (3 members)
- Lake County Sheriff's Office SAR (4 members)
- California Search and Rescue (from CalOES) (5 members)
- CalOES Assistant Chief (1 member)
- California National Guard Blackhawk Crew (6 members)
- Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit (11 members)
- Napa County Sheriff's Office SAR (6 members)
- California Rescue Dog Association (8 members)
- Marin County Sheriff's Office SAR (16 members)
- San Mateo County Sheriff's Office SAR (2 members)
- Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office SAR (5 members)

Anyone who might have information that could assist Sheriff's Office detectives in this investigation are urged to contact the Sheriff's Office Tip-Line by calling 707-234-2100 or the WeTip Anonymous Crime Reporting Hotline by calling 800-782-7463.

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

enforcement efforts. All officers of the Willits Police Department have now been certified on visual estimation of vehicle speed, as well as the use of RADAR/LIDAR speed measuring equipment. These officers have been tasked with enforcing the various speed laws and the continued enforcing of California Vehicle Code laws within our community.

In the coming days and weeks, you will notice an increase in enforcement of traffic laws by WPD officers. The primary goal of this enforcement is increased traffic safety for both pedestrians and the motoring community.

We will use a speed awareness trailer as part of our efforts to educate drivers in high traffic or problematic areas, along with this increased enforcement.

With the holidays and winter weather upon us, we would like to remind everyone to slow down and be aware of our local speed limits. Wet or icy roads will require additional slowing and stopping time. Please keep this in mind, especially around our many school zones.

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

near the Cape Horn dam.

"This is another important step in the process to find a truly regional solution to the challenges facing the Eel and Russian River watersheds," said Sonoma County Supervisor and Sonoma Water Director David Rabbitt. "We're grateful to all of the partners who are working diligently to achieve our co-equal goals of continued diversions into the Russian River and improving fisheries in the Eel River."

The Potter Valley Project, currently owned and operated by PG&E, has been diverting water from the Eel River into the Russian River watershed for more than a century, playing a critical role in supplying water for agriculture, homes, and instream flows to benefit aquatic ecosystems and threatened salmonids in Mendocino and Sonoma counties.

The Potter Valley Project is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In 2019, PG&E announced that it would not proceed with relicensing the project and would instead enter into a license surrender and decommissioning process. PG&E stated that its application would propose to remove Scott and Cape Horn dams and end any operations, including water diversions to the Russian River, unless it received a complete and credible proposal by July 2023.

To meet this deadline, in July, the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, the Round Valley Indian Tribes and Sonoma Water submitted a proposal to PG&E to preserve water diversions into the Russian River, while also prioritizing upstream and downstream fish migration in the Eel River. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, County of Humboldt, California Trout, and Trout Unlimited subsequently signed on to a revised proposal in November.

PG&E released an initial draft surrender application on November 17, 2023 which includes several of the measures proposed by the coalition. PG&E is set to release a final draft surrender application in June 2024. The final application is expected to be submitted by January 29, 2025.

The new Eel-Russian facility proposal submitted to PG&E also called for the creation of a regional entity, which this board action will move forward, with the capacity to develop a yet-to-be designed facility that would allow for ongoing water diversions through the Potter Valley Project's tunnel between the Eel River and Russian River, while providing for fish migration to support naturally reproducing and self-sustaining native fish populations.

The Eel-Russian Project Authority's five-member board of directors will initially consist of two representatives from the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, one from Sonoma Water, one from the County of Sonoma, and one from the Round Valley Indian Tribes.

For more information, visit <https://sonomawater.org/pvp>.

The rest of **Scholarships** | From page 2

a great service to their community by expanding access to healthcare.

"This is a great opportunity to earn an MSW without taking on much, if any, educational debt. It opens up the path to become a therapist for those who would not otherwise be able to attend university," Grainger said.

Currently, the nationwide shortage of providers across many sectors of the healthcare industry makes it difficult to provide adequate care, especially in small, rural communities. To combat this, MCHC and other federally qualified health centers support programs and initiatives that lower barriers to entry into healthcare careers, especially when those programs and initiatives help local community members gain the education and skills they need for a meaningful career.

Grainger said, "We know that people who grow up in a specific community are often uniquely qualified to provide culturally competent and holistic care there because of a deep understanding and connection to their home."

Chico State's MSW Behavioral Health program is an accredited program that meets all the requirements for students who wish to pursue becoming licensed upon graduation, and the vast majority of the program can be completed from home. Licensed clinical social workers often serve as therapists or primary care counselors in community health centers.

The two scholarships for Chico State's MSW program, available only to Northern California residents, are the Behavioral Health Expansion Program, which offers a \$10,000-per-year stipend, and the California Social Worker Education Center's public behavioral health program, which offers a \$25,000-per-year scholarship.

The three-year online MSW program option is considered an extended learning program with a tuition cost of \$499 per unit. In addition to tuition, students pay university fees each semester. On average, a spokesperson for the Chico State MSW program estimated per-semester costs to be about \$8,500. So, with the financial support of these programs, a student could have enough money to pay for books, tuition, and travel.

Anderson said, "In essence, the cost to the MSW student would mostly be the time they dedicate to earning their degree."

The Behavioral Health Expansion Program seeks to expand licensed clinical social workers in Northern California. The program includes no obligation to repay the annual \$10,000 stipend. It also offers ongoing peer mentorship and trainings to MSW students seeking to work with children, youth under 25, or families in historically underserved communities in the "Northern California Service Region," specifically, the region encompassing Mendocino, Lake, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, and Nevada counties and all counties north of them.

Participating in the expansion program entails no post-graduation service obligation, but does require students in the program to serve their field placement training with an organization that provides behavioral health services in the service region and asks for a commitment to provide behavioral health services in that region after their graduation.

The California Social Worker Education Center's public behavioral health program is based out of the University California, Berkeley, and is focused on the retention and development of MSW graduates in publicly funded behavioral health programs. Chico State MSW scholarship recipients must serve one year at a public behavioral health agency for every year the scholarship is awarded.

Students who participate in the program will spend their practicum placement in a community-based behavioral health setting, and their field training will focus on providing publicly funded behavioral health services. MCHC and other FQHCs satisfy the requirements for service during the MSW program at Chico State and the required post-graduate service.

In California, to become a licensed clinical social worker, you must complete 3,000 hours of supervised clinical practice after graduate school. Federally qualified health centers often work with those who have completed their graduate coursework and passed the licensing exam to provide them with the experience they need to complete their training.

The Chico State University MSW application deadline is January 15, 2024. For more information about the distributed learning program, contact Program Coordinator Molly Calhoun at macalhoun@csuchico.edu.

If you are interested in pursuing a career in healthcare but are not ready to get a Master's in Social Work, there are other avenues available to you. The Mendocino County Office of Education (mcoe.us) offers entry programs into the medical and dental fields, and Mendocino College (mendocino.edu) has a well-regarded nursing program. There is also a program sponsored by the California Medicine Scholars Program ([avenuem.ucdavis.edu](https://www.ucdavis.edu)) to create a pipeline for students in community college who plan to transfer to a four-year institution to eventually pursue medical school.

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

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Above, from left: WHS JV Girls Basketball Tournament Champions, top row, from left : Coaches Tommy Daughton and Amanda LaRae, Ava Holmen, Arion Martin, Kate Winter, Micaella Williams, Audrey Sherf, and Coach Gary Williams. Bottom row: from left: Amsatou Ndoye, Lyly Herman, Jazmarie Henson, Amelia Franco, and Izabella Sims. WHS Varsity Girls Basketball Tournament Champions, from left: Leah Blakely, Chloe Wright, Elena Arkelian, Mia Chavez, Cecily Potter, Charley Lamprich, Narianny Bertolino, and Hazel Cooke. WHS Varsity Basketball Tournament Champions, from left: TJ Woods, Justin Coleman, Kooper Dockins, Donny Alexander, Kolbe Bufardeci, Leo Moratti, Finn Lessner, Jake Grooms, Jayden Schlegel, and Coach Marcus Newby.

Photos by Ava Dockins-Kline

WILLITS WOLVERINES SPORTS

Three WHS basketball teams win local championships

By Sheri Dockins, for Willits Weekly

Willits Wolverines basketball did not come to take part, they came to take over! Junior varsity and varsity girls, and varsity boys, all took 1st place, reigning as tournament champions at the Willits and Potter Valley tournaments this last weekend.

Junior varsity girls

The tournament began on their home turf in the Willits High School Short Gymnasium named after our local legend in basketball, Steve Short. JV girls enjoyed each game immensely. There was a strong notation of their togetherness as a team. First win, they played South Fork, final score 42-12. Then Fort Bragg, final score 52-8. Lastly, Middletown, with a final score of 64-17. Three smoldering scores to take the crown!

"Tom, Gary, and I feel very lucky to be coaching this particular group of girls," said Coach Amanda Larae. "They are amazing student-athletes. Usually, there is one or two dominant players on a team. We have several, which makes us unstoppable. We have six sophomores and six freshmen. So far this year we are 4-0.

"Arion Martin was a top scorer and is a superior athlete," Coach Larae continued. "Kate Winter is a natural leader and hit 16 clutch points against Middletown. Jazmarie Henson's defense was incredible, and in the final game, she scored 13 points. We can't wait to see what the season brings! Come support the Lady Wolverines!"

"Every single one of us played our hearts out and never let up! This is gonna be a fun season!" Shooting Guard Lyly Herman received an all-tourney award for scoring 14 points per game, solid defense, and great sportsmanship.

Varsity girls

Varsity girls took center stage, beaming with pride, in Potter Valley. They won four out of five games. First Anderson Valley, final score 58-23. Next, Potter Valley, final score 55-10. Then, South Fork, final score 42-33. Lastly, the Championship game against Round Valley, with the final score to take home the tigriss of trophies: 39-31.

"The Championship game vs. Round Valley was our best preseason game so far," said Coach Dawn McClelland. "I am so proud of these girls. We learned from playing some Division 4 teams the previous weekend in Arcata that we need to play with intensity! The girls played defense with intensity, which caused the Round Valley team to make a lot of mistakes offensively, which helped our momentum.

"Round Valley has a very strong team offensively this year," Coach McClelland said. "They don't miss many shots, you can't give them any space. This game came down to us keeping up the intensity the whole game, playing smart on the offense, and sinking some important free throws in the final quarter.

"Narianny Bertolino and Charley Lamprich took turns playing defense against Eliana #14 who only made three field goals the entire game. Mia Chavez and Chloe Wright shared the job of defending Claudia #20 who scored the first three baskets of the game for RV. We quickly adjusted our defense during the second quarter, and they rotated duties of facing off with RV's quick shooting guard. Mia and Chloe's efforts paid off as they kept her scoreless in the second half. Our offense was led by Cecily Potter (12 points) and Hazel Cooke (11 points.). They played smart and sank very important free throws to keep us ahead. I try to remind the girls every game to BE MAGIC and play with

INTENSITY! It was a great overall team effort from all eight players," Coach Mcllelland concluded.

"Our team worked really well together last week. It's a great feeling knowing all that hard work paid off." Hazel Cooke, our Power Forward, received MVP honors with a score of 80 total tournament points.

Varsity boys

Varsity boys hit the ground running in Potter Valley with vigilant strength and fortitude as they had only one practice before the initial season began. They started with a loss to Covelo 35-59 that lit a spark of ambition to tighten up the defense. It did not take long for them to tune into what was needed. Their efforts were recognized as they went on to beat Grace Christian Academy, final score 54-48. Then, another win against Potter Valley, final score 67-22.

Then came the moment to face Covelo once again in the Championship game. These boys turned it up with a fierce tenacity that did not back down, and they took the victory! Final score 48-47.

"Kooper Dockins, Finn Lessner, Kolbe Bufardeci, and TJ Woods played lockdown defense," said Coach Marcus Newby. "Jake Grooms had some great moments. They all played well and chipped in along with Jayden Schlegel, Donny Alexander, Claude Hoaglen, Cole Lane, and Justin Coleman to achieve this win. Leo Moratti and TJ Woods were high scorers."

"We did good in the games we played with limited practice, and players still putting the pieces together." Point Guard Kooper Dockins led as the highest scorer with his supreme athleticism to gain MVP of the tourney.



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