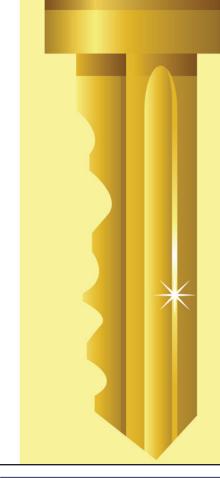
Willits Weekly | Edition 107 | September 11, 2025









COLUMN | Journal

# Sue Ellen Parkinson – 'Exploring the Mysteries'

Bill Barksdale Columnist

Talking with Sue Ellen Parkinson is like taking a journey deep into one's psyche. She's easily one of the most fascinating people I know. Someone who dives deep into her inner world, exploring through her painting. She described her paintings as "icons" in a recent conversation.

"Years ago, I learned through Jungian therapy to dialogue with the images I create. So when I started painting the mystics I began dialoging with those images as well. I didn't know then, that icons were traditionally used as prayer portals - portals to a specific energy," meaning the energy of the image being painted.

Sue Ellen shared a quote from Meister Eckhart, a 13th century German theologian and mystic, "When the soul wants to experience something, she casts an image out before herself, and then steps into it." Sue Ellen explained "He feminizes the soul." I'll add here that intuition is often thought of as a feminine archetype.

I took this to mean that when she creates one of her iconic images in a painting she is first inspired to explore a concept, then begins to let that emerge into her creative vision so that she can create the picture from her imagination onto the canvas.

She shared that the first persona that drew her attention was Mary Magdalene, the companion of Jesus Christ. "She is often portrayed as a repentant prostitute even though it doesn't say that anywhere in the Bible. Magdalene became important to me because she, like so many women who have made contributions to the world, has been either minimized, erased, or maligned in the historical narrative."

In her painting "The Mystic Mary Magdalene Patron Saint of Contemplatives," Sue Ellen says she unexpectedly began to feel a deep connection with Magdalene. To date, Mary Magdalene has been the subject of 22 of her paintings. "There's so much mystery to

explore here. These images can be used to meditate on, to write to, and to open one's heart.'

Read the rest of Parkinson

Over on page RE3







At top, left: Artist Sue Ellen Parkinson poses in front of one of her iconic paintings, while holding another. Photo by Bill Barksdale At top, right and above left and right: Beautiful images of some of the mystics Sue Ellen Parkinson has painted.

At left: Sue Ellen paints on the porch of the family's place in Tidewater, Oregon.



Alicia Kepple REALTOR® (707) 272-7782 DRE #02108446



AliciaMendoRealty@gmail.com 100 South Street, Willits, CA 95490

COLDWELL BANKER MENDO REALTY



# **COLDWELL BANKER MENDO REALTY**

LOCALLY OWNED **SINCE 1983** 

2-bed, 1-bath home on a 0.1823 acre lot. Features vintage architectural details such as tongue and groove redwood siding, wood floors, built-in cabinets and a classic front porch. New roof (2025). Nice

# PRESENTED AT: \$224,000

2 bed, I bath home on 46 acres and only 10 minutes to Hwy 101. Off-grid country homestead with detached studio provides an extra living space, room for guests or a shop. Solar system, abundant spring water, ample water PRESENTED AT: \$319,000

Two residences on the same lot and in need of some TLC. Built in 1900, this main residence is now a duplex. One unit is a 2 bed 1 bath while th 2nd unit is a 1 bed 1 bath which totals 1651 sq ft. The smaller residence is 1 bedrooi 1 bathroom 572 sq ft home. REDUCED TO: \$340,000









22.79-acres, single-wide mobile home with an addition, a garage with a sink and additional bathroom with shower, and a multipurpose ag shed. Fully fenced pasture, gravity-flow spring water with storage tanks, PG&E power,

# PRESENTED AT: \$295,00

3 bed, 2 bath 1,727± sq ft 3 bed, 2 bath 1,72/± sq tt home with large windows and vaulted ceilings. Wrap-around deck off of living room. Pellet stove, plus fireplace, extra room downstairs for office, or artist's studio. Dishwasher, refrigerator, electric stoveton and oven and electric stovetop and oven, and garbage disposal. REDUCED TO: \$325,000



3 bed. 2 bath 1.384± sq ft home with 3 lots and a meticulously cared for yard with pathways that meander throughout the trees. The home has a new roof, attached two car garage and new vinyl flooring. The yard is completely fenced. Walking





Tara Moratti 707-367-0389



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Lee F. Persico

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Carey Pinson 707-513-8687



707-472-6505

Contact one of our experienced agents to find homes for sale in Willits or Mendocino County. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT CBMENDOREALTY.COM

707-472-6380

Using social media strategically

### Posted by UPI

September 7, 2025 - Your insurance company likely uses social media to promote their feel-good, "we're here for you" brand. That's

But if your insurance claim is not moving forward and/or you are being treated unfairly – it does not feel good. You need your own strategy!

One strategy to get your insurer's attention is to post a carefully worded public comment about your problem on their social media channels.

When a policyholder posts about a claim problem, insurance companies often catch it right away and use a special procedure for

responding to "visible" complaints. The key to posting as a strategy to gain attention and get results is a short, clear and strong message.

### Here are a few pointers:

 Your post should be specific about their actions (or non-actions) that are problematic. Your goal is to gain attention and resolution of your situation.

· State the facts, don't use profanity or make

 Describe what they've done that violates your state's fair insurance rules. An example: "My adjuster has ignored 3 calls and 7 follow-up emails for 37 days straight! My roof is leaking into my child's bedroom!" To review the rules in your state, visit our free State-by-State Claim Help

· Be sure to also file an official complaint with the California Department of Insurance. You can learn more about filing complaints at www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/101-help/ and you can download a "Request for Assistance" form for home insurance at this link www. insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/101-help/upload/RFAnonhealth.pdf

• Don't exaggerate - your comments will be preserved and can resurface if your claim goes into litigation.

For more on using this strategy to unstick your claim, read: "Using Social Media to be the Squeaky Wheel" at the UP Claim Guidance Library: https://uphelp.org/claim-guidance-publications/using-socialmedia-to-be-the-squeaky-wheel/

To suggest a future Tip of the Month topic, visit https://uphelp.org/ tip-of-the-month-idea/

The information presented in this publication is for general informational purposes and is not a substitute for legal advice. If you have a specific legal issue or problem, United Policyholders recommends that you consult with an attorney. Guidance on hiring professional help can be found in the "Find Help" section of www.uphelp.org

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United Policyholders is a non-profit 501(c)(3) whose mission is to be a trustworthy and useful information resource and a respected voice for consumers of all types of insurance in all 50 states. "30 Years: Educating Advocating – Empowering." To learn more, visit www.uphelp.org.





Nicholas Casagrande

consistently rank them as one of the most unpopular taxes in the U.S. I'm not surprised.

Property taxes are paid on residential and commercial properties and are almost exclusively local - city, county, school district. They support good things - providing a stable revenue stream for local governments to fund:

1. Public education, including libraries

2. Public safety - police, fire, emergency and community services

3. Infrastructure - roads

4. Parks, sanitation, water, sewer, other

Greetings community projects

COLUMN | Numbers by Nick

neighbors:

client work I hear

a lot of negative

comments about

property taxes...

Through

Property tax rates and assessment timing vary

Reframing property taxes

A lot could be debated re: how our local governments operate but it's safe to say the cost of services across our communities has increased. the types of services provided have changed and increased, and many city populations have

Cities provide visibility and transparency for public revenue, budget allocations, and spending, via dashboards, public meetings, and/or annual reports. You can get involved and learn more by visiting your local government website – it's a good starting point.

I want to remind you that: Property taxes are something you can deduct on your federal tax return, and they can lower your annual tax bill. To form Schedule A (1040). Your Schedule A captures deductions like mortgage interest, charitable contributions, local taxes, and medical expenses.

Instead of a Schedule A, you can take the standard deduction - range for tax year 2025 is \$15 to \$30K depending on whether filing as single. head of household, or married. What is the best option: Standard deduction or Schedule A? It is the one that results in the higher-number deduction

and, therefore, a lower tax bill. Let's reframe property taxes – it's great you own property, you can participate in your community

management, you can lower your tax bill. Happy to work with you to make the most of your

property ownership. Let's huddle.

Nicholas Casagrande is an accountant and a financial advisor. His firm, NC Financial Group, is a wealth-management firm, serving individual clients as well as small-to-medium-sized businesses. Client work includes personal and corporate taxes, do this you must itemize your deductions on tax investment planning, insurance, and real estate. Office is located at 675 South Main Street, call 855-240-6606 or 414-480-3669. This information is for general purposes





5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS DISTRICT HQ 600 EAST HILL RD, WILLITS

# An evening of expert insight and community connection!



Yana Valachovic on home hardening, defensible space, fire science, Zone 0, and new lessons from recent LA fires United Policyholders on the current state of insurance in California, how to respond to rate hikes or cancellations, and tips for navigating your coverage

### PLUS FOOD AND FAIR!

- Info booths on fire resiliency
- Prizes (giftcards, Mcleods, radios, first aid kits, etc.)
- Insurance guidance
- Resources on Home Hardening
- Q&A with the speakers
- More to be announced!



FREE PIZZA FROM FLYING DOG!



Come see the new California Conservation Corps (CCC) building across from the Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits

Chana Eisenstein, DVM Celina Borucki-Gibson, DVM "Dr. BG" Jamie Conner, DVM East Hill



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# WILLITS WEEKLY IS PROUD TO CONTINUE THE

# REAL ESTATE

IN LOCAL PRINT MEDIA

Runs

Second Week Each Month

Relevant Local Editorial Content Open House Advertisements Available Buyer's & Seller's Agents Property Listings

### **GET YOUR OFFICE, AGENTS AND** LISTINGS INCLUDED IN OUR NEXT EDITION

Ads Commitmen and ad copy deadline is the first Friday of the month

3,500 - 4,000

each week

online and

in-print for

one price

copies

Ads go

color display ad: \$35/month \$40 on one-run basis

3.25" wide x 4" tall color display ad: \$60/month

\$75 on one-run basis

3.25" wide x 2" tall 5" wide x 5" tall color display ad: \$130/month \$140

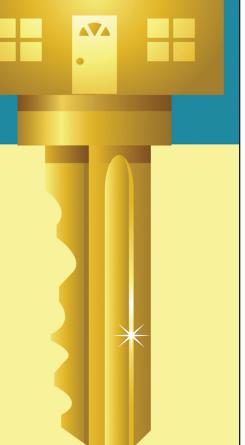
> 5" wide x 10.5" tall color display ad: \$275/month \$300

on one-run basis

on one-run basis

OPEN HOUSE SPECIAL: 5" wide x 3" tall color display ad: \$80





Call for ad space: **April Tweddell** 707-972-2475

Runs on the second Thursday of the month.

left: More of the beautiful images of mystics Sue Ellen Parkinson has painted. At left, below: One of Parkinson's paintings, on the porch of their place in Tidewater,

At far left and at



Parkinson

From page RE1

As she began her first painting of Magdalene she asked "Who are you?" "I began to feel lifted, like you do when you're way out in the ocean." I inject here that water is an archetype for the feminine i.e. water, the womb, birth, creation and creativity, even intuition. The phrase "life affirming" came up frequently in our conversation. Magdalene is "a singular sovereign woman. Women have a different wisdom, a wisdom to envision a new world" - so

"As a visual artist I have responsibility to pay attention to what I put out in the world. I like to take negative archetypes of women and turn them around. For example: this culture says 'youth is what's most valuable,' if you fit into that image that's acceptable - but the gifts of most older women, wisdom, talent and humor, are gifts that are often overlooked. So I include older women in my paintings, and also women of all races. I hope to be giving a more inclusive vision. I like to paint images that show the whole scope of being human, images modeling kindness for instance, and self-worth." Modern advertising certainly exemplifies these ideas she talks about. Often not reflecting most people. Look at the models used for both women and men to sell products, idealized and youthful.

For 35 years Sue Ellen was a graphic designer in the publishing industry. "I realized early on that imagery effects how we feel about ourselves and the choices we make. There's a great deal of power in imagery. If it's negative, or puts people in an impossible box, it can keep you from feeling that you have value." I'll add here as a personal observation, advertising of "products" is built almost exclusively on making one feel that they are lacking and in need, and that by acquiring the product they will be happier and more complete. Usually far from truthful in my

Sue Ellen's current project is a painting titled, "The Goddess Isis," Isis being the ancient Egyptian goddess with magical healing properties, even to resurrect her husband, Osiris, who was murdered and dismembered by his brother Seth so that Seth could assume the throne. She

Selzer Realty & Associate

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walked the Earth that I think of as extraordinary / ordinaries. Regular people who are capable of achieving incredible things. Who truly make this a better world. Those are the saints and mystics that I paint.' She referenced Hildegard of Bingen, a subject she has depicted four times. Hildegard was a 12th century German

had a son by her resurrected husband and thus became

also a symbol of the perfect wife and mother. She was

widely considered the most powerful all Egyptian deities.

Often depicted with the horns of the cow holding a solar

"This new painting of Isis represents grace and power.

It's not about just being 'pretty.' I'm focusing on the totality

of her, and the freedom that comes with being comfortable

in your own skin." When I asked Sue Ellen what a

"goddess" means to her, she replied, "Present everywhere,

She went on to say: "There are also people who have

to everyone, and present within everyone."

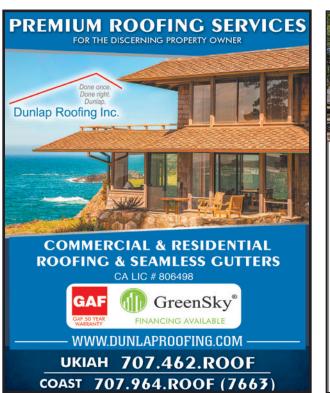
Benedictine abbess who was also an anchorite. She was tithed to the church when she was 8 years old, and bricked up into a small cell for 30 years. Hildegard had visions where God appeared to her in the form of a woman. She became a prolific composer writing both words and music, she wrote theological, botanical, and medicinal works, and far outlived most of her contemporaries , living into her '80s when most people died in their '40s. "The Pope pronounced her a prophetess and called her, The Sybil of the Rhine. Even into her' 70s, she was riding her horse throughout the country speaking truth to power.

Sue Ellen commented, "I feel free and blessed when I'm painting these women." She continues: "Creativity is an emotionally clearing experience that washes your heart and calms the mind. I recommend it!"

Bill Barksdale has served on the County of Mendocino Tax Assessment Appeals Board, the Board of Realtors, its Legal Affairs Committee and Multiple Listing Service, and a number of other boards and nonprofits. DRE# 01106662, 707-489-2232.



**611 HAWTHORNE LANE - \$365,000** 



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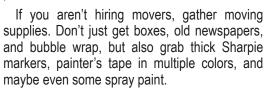
# Plan ahead for an easy moving day

Although it can be exciting to move to a new home, it can also be stressful. Here are some tips to make the process as easy as possible.

### A few weeks before

Even if you're not usually a planner, now is the time to get organized. Moving is expensive and time-consuming. The more you prepare beforehand, the better things will go.

Anything you can give away, sell, or discard before the move reduces your costs, from furniture to specialty items you never did get around to figuring out. I can't tell you how many times I've moved junk like expired food or other things I didn't need, only to throw them away when I arrived at my new place. You might consider whether the new occupants of your old place house would like to purchase the cord of firewood in the back yard from you, so you don't have to lug it to your new place.



You'll also want to gather friends who are willing to help you move. I was once told that a friend is someone you can invite to lunch, while a great friend is someone who will help you move. You're looking for great friends.

Consider friends with various skills. You want fastidious packers as well as brawny furniture lifters. Also, see if you can find any great friends with pick-up trucks. (If none of your friends have trucks, you can hire a U-Haul for the day.)

### A week before

Work with the incoming occupants of your previous home to transfer utilities into their name and arrange to have utilities in your new place turned on when you get there. It's no fun to work in the dark or be without electricity as you try to move. Pick up snacks and beer for moving day, preferably something you don't need to cook or refrigerate in case the electricity doesn't get turned on.

Make a plan for the days and weeks after you move: what will you need immediately versus what can you live without for a while? This should

determine how you pack (and unpack) your moving boxes.

If you plan to put anything in storage, make sure the things you can live without are in the back of the storage unit and the things vou'll need immediately are accessible from the front. If you're moving directly into your new place, create a few boxes clearly marked as "essentials," so

you can find clothes, medications, and toiletries the first day you wake up in your new home.

Whenever I move, I use a colorcoding system that I can easily explain to my packers and movers so they know how to help me. I use colored painter's tape to indicate the room and red spray paint to indicate anything fragile. I label contents so I know in some detail what I'll find when I open the box. Also, I think about the weight of boxes, since I might be forced to move them

around. I distribute my books and other heavy items among several boxes, because lifting a box full of books is a great way to throw out my back.

### Moving day

Richard Selzer

Columnist

The first thing to do on moving day is arrange for pizza (or whatever lunch you plan to feed those great friends helping you move). Then it's time to assign duties - careful people on packing, strong backs on lifting. Furniture goes first, then the items that populate each room. Load trucks with this in mind – last in, first out.

Once you've moved everything, go back and look in every cabinet and closet one more time. Check in those dark corners in the back where your old yearbook may be lurking. Sweep, vacuum, and dust. Wipe down counters, and bid that place farewell.

If you have questions about real estate or property management, contact me at rselzer@ selzerrealty.com. If you have ideas for this column, let me know. If I use your suggestion in a column, I'll send you a \$25 gift card to Loose Caboose! If you'd like to read previous articles, visit www.selzerrealty.com and scroll down to click on "How's the Market"

Dick Selzer is a real estate broker who has been in the business for more than 46 years. The opinions expressed here are his and do not necessarily represent his affiliated organizations.



CITY OF WILLITS - PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE TO DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2025

(h) TIME: 5:30 PM

**† LOCATION: WILLITS CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS** 

111 E. COMMERCIAL STREET, WILLITS, CA

The City invites all community members to attend an Ad Hoc Committee meeting to discuss the development of a mobile vending ordinance. This meeting is a chance to:

- Learn about the City's efforts to regulate mobile vending
  - Ask questions and share input
- Help shape policies that support safe and successful vending practice

We encourage all interested community members to attend and share their thoughts!





of the Willits Little Lake Valley. This unique property offers spacious land, ideal for horse lovers and livestock owners alike, with a convenient corral and plenty of room to roam--all situated on a paved county road for easy access. Property Highlights: Prime Location:\*\* Situated at the intersection of Canyon and East Side Road, with paved county road access providing year-round convenience and easy commuting. Land & Livestock:\*\* 4.9 acres of generous land with room for horses, a functional corral, and open space for your agricultural pursuits. Historic Dwelling:\*\* An older, charming house on the property is believed to be the oldest residence in the Willits Valley. Currently rented, it provides a steady source of modest passive income. Main Residence:\*\* A cozy three-bedroom, one-bath home featuring Western-themed decor reminiscent of Willits' early days, perfect for relaxing or entertaining. Outdoor Living:\* Abundant shade trees create a cool, inviting atmosphere, and the very good fenced-in backyard is ideal for dogs or outdoor gatherings. Natural Beauty:\*\* A seasonal stream adds to the tranquil setting, enhancing the property's appeal and providing a peaceful backdrop. A Rare Opportunity: This property combines historic charm with modern rural living, presenting a rare chance to own acreage in the coveted Willits Valley. Whether you're seeking a weekend retreat, a hobby farm, or a permanent rural residence, this home offers endless

possibilities. Don't miss out on this exceptional property--schedule your private tour

Tom Allman, REALTOR® Pamela Hudson Real Estate (707) 272-4924 DRE #02208752









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### 550+/- Acre Ranch Property. **Incredible Big Mountain And Eel River Canyon Views**

Cattle/Hunting ranch maintained to perfection. Lovely 2 bedroom 2 bath home featuring a wraparound deck and a swimming pool. There are barns, cattle chutes and pens, fenced pastures and spring water for livestock. The power is all top of the line, professionally installed solar, battery and backup enerator. Ample spring water, excellent hunting area wildlife abounds here. This is an amazing property. \$1,300,000.



760 +/- Acres, Mountain top views in Branscomb ny building sites, excellent water at Headwaters to Cahto Creek; Forested property. \$500,000

#### Level Commercial Lot on Main Street - Hwy. 101

Great visibility for a business. It may be possible to have a residence as well as a business location. All utilities are avaiable. \$105,000





# Ranch Property

Lovely location with a 2 bedroom 1 bath home and a detached garage. All level valley land with fenced pastures. There are dog kennels, and a barn. Great valley property for horses and livestock. Well water. Close to town. \$669,900.

### 3.3+/- Level Acres Great opportunity for a commercial business or

investment property. There is a 1,700+/- sq. ft. office building with 4 separate offices and 2,646+/- storage attached. The metal shop is 4,608+/- sq. ft. with drive thru bays and roll up doors. Approximately 3 acres are paved. There is a new septic system and city water. Used previously for years as a truck shop business. Many more details call for information.

# \$595,000

For information or an appointment to view please call: Randy and Ruth Weston

707-459-4961 • 707-489-3333 CalBRE: 00990817 ruthweston@pacific.net

557 South Main Street • Willits

