

Board hears Library Advisory Board report

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Mendocino County Board of Supervisors praised the county library system employees and the services provided by library branches to local residents and library patrons at Tuesday's board meeting. The opportunity was the presentation to the board of the Library Advisory Committee's annual report by advisory committee chair Michele Savoy.

Savoy started off her November 18 presentation with some history: "The Mendocino County Library Advisory Board was established in 1970. The LAB acts in an advisory capacity to the board of supervisors to make recommendations to the county librarian and the board of supervisors regarding issues of county library operations, policy, services and programs, review of the budget, programs and recommendations, considerations of proposals or requests submitted by citizens or groups pertaining to the county

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

2022 Crop Report shows ag value up from 2021, cattle production down

By Angela J. Godwin, Agricultural Commissioner

In accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the long-anticipated 2022 annual crop report for Mendocino County. It is important to note that the values represented in this report reflect the gross value of agricultural commodities grown in Mendocino County and do not consider costs associated with labor, planting, irrigation, distribution, among other production activities.

(Editor's Note: the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved the Agriculture Department's 2022 crop report at its November 18 meeting.)

The total gross agricultural value for all commodities produced in 2022 was \$262,129,000, a 23% increase from the 2021 value of \$200,556,316. Wine grapes remain the leading commodity in

Read the rest of **Crops**
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Above, from left: Roxy Bees Honey is available in several sizes. The Little Lake Grange is the winter home to the market, and is located at 291 School Street. Apples from Green Uprising Farm look perfect for pie making. Below: Thea Foley, left, and Calayan Knight chat at the Mulligan's Garden booth, which had just a few baskets of fresh tomatoes left on the shelves.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above, left: A sad story known by many well-intentioned shoppers: Get there early, or miss out on some items. Above, right: Scott Miller the knife sharpener offers services at the market. Below, from left: Fresh greens are perfect for winter salads. Mermazing Soaps' "Coal" nuggets made out of shaped soap makes a perfect gift, or stocking stuffer – and if coal's not the right choice, thankfully Santa soap is also available. A few green peppers were also still available at last week's market.



Market at the Grange

Little Lake Grange hosts Willits Farmers Market for winter months on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm

Even though we're well into fall, and creeping quickly towards winter, there's still plenty to purchase at the Willits Farmers Market. Some produce is still being offered, but throughout the winter months meat, eggs, honey, sweets, breads, crafts, and more are still available from a list of local ranchers, farmers and creators.

The market moves indoors from November to April and then returns outdoors from May through November. It runs year-round from 3 to 5:30 pm.

To see more about vendors, other markets, or to sign up to start selling, visit <https://mcfarm.org/> for information.

– Maureen Jennison

At left, from top: The Grange doors open into the main hall where the market takes place on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm. Son and mother Grant and Evelyn Fisher smile together at the Grant's Goodies booth. Allegra and Michael Foley show off the Farmers Market rock made by local artist Laurie Bee. Below, from left: Jesse Tanning from Inland Ranch holds up a Napa cabbage and a kohlrabi. Maggie was excited to get a fresh bunch of parsley, and to smile by the pig and chicken at the Eastside Ranch booth. Beth Riedel and Lotus Baker demonstrate spinning and knitting wool.

Council hears details of proposed mobile vending ordinance

B.B. Kamoroff
Reporter
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Like the Mississippi River in the summertime, the food trucks are rolling, slowly and steadily, towards Willits. After 17 months of meetings, surveys, studies, and Planning Department planning, a proposed mobile vending ordinance was presented to the city council at their November 12 meeting.

Read the rest of **Council**
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Yurok, Round Valley tribes sign treaty on Eel River restoration

Posted by Yurok Tribe and Round Valley Indian Tribes

In an historic milestone, two sovereign Indian tribes have joined together to reverse decades of fisheries decline on the Eel River, the second longest river in California. On October 28, 2025, the Round Valley Indian Tribes and the Yurok Tribe met at the Wildlands Conservancy's Eel River Canyon Preserve and

Read the rest of **Yurok**
Over on Page 7

Town Hall meeting for local food security

Submitted by Little Lake Grange

The Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street in Willits, invites community members to an Emergency Town Hall Meeting for Local Food Security on Saturday, November 22, at 11 am.

Come to ask questions, and find out what is happening locally to feed our community in these uncertain times.

Speakers will include: Mendocino County Supervisor John Haschak; City of Willits; Willits Food Bank - Wendy Copperfield; Farmers Market Manager - Michael Foley; Nuestra Alianza Emergency Food Bank; Willits Daily Bread - Cynthia Savage; Mendo Food Network; Food Not Bombs; and more to be announced.

Bring food to contribute to the Food Bank collection bin on site. Bring \$\$ donations for the Willits Food Bank.

Sponsored by the Little Lake Grange, the Little Lake Grange Garden Project, and the National Grange Rural Life Initiative.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Let's make sure no one goes hungry

To the Editor:

We at the Little Lake Grange aim to provide information and foster dialogue that will help people locate free food assistance in this area, as well as learn how we can support the organizations that provide it. This emphasis on sharing food is very timely...

We encourage everyone who recognizes the importance of the topic to come to the Emergency Town Hall Meeting for local Food Security at the Grange, Saturday, November 22, at 11 am.

The meeting will last approximately 1 hour, and multiple local free food providers will have a couple of minutes to speak about what they do. We want to acknowledge their work, and learn not only what they do but also what they need to do, and have access to, to carry on.

When we pool resources, amazing things can manifest.

And the adage goes: Food is not a privilege, it is a necessity.

Simultaneously, we invite the public to see this as a Food Drive as well. Please bring non-perishable food items and toiletries to this event.

We have a bin for drop-off at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street in Willits, and will deliver donations to the food bank to be distributed to the public.

In other words, it's time to gather and build on common ground. Let's make sure no one goes hungry.

Claudia Wenning, Willits

'The Lightbearers' Chronicles'

To the Editor:

Please celebrate with me the publication of this book, "The Lightbearers' Chronicles." I was asked to contribute a chapter and am thrilled that its launch date, November 22, is approaching.

My topic was a memoir as to how I came to Reiki and what healing this Universal Energy has brought me. Some of you have heard part of the story. Most of you have not heard the entire story.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please send a purple heart to me at reiki@mcn.org and I will send the link to you for the November 22 launch page. I have been told there will be discounts if you choose to purchase a copy of this book on that day.

This is truly all new for me. I've never been involved with anything this huge. Seventeen other women have written their uplifting stories. I'm going to purchase my own copy to read about their lives.

Earlene Gleisner, RN/Reiki Master, Willits

Day of the Divine thanks you!

To the Editor:

Dearest Willits: Thank you for showing up and making the Day of the Divine live up to its name. The experience was fantastic for us, and by the feedback, for you as well! You've told us that you loved the vibe, the rhythm

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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Early publication on Thanksgiving week

As always on Thanksgiving week, Willits Weekly prints a day early – so look for the November 26 edition out on the street Wednesday morning. Deadline to submit items for that edition won't change – end of day Monday as usual – but we'll have less leeway to include late-incoming items. Happy Thanksgiving!

of the lineup, the vendors, the setting and decor, and most importantly, you told us you felt safe and seen. The response has been very heartwarming. We built the container and you all filled it with exuberance and life!

We want to personally extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who participated in making this event a reality. We especially want to thank our sponsors: W.E.L.L., Christopher Martineau, ShenDen Wellness, Big Fish Construction's Evelyn and Adrian Fisher, Moon Lady's Marie Blancas, The Donald Brian Marselis Foundation, Loose Caboose, LEEF Organics, Shanachie Pub, Jane Camp, and the crew at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza and Vinyl. Big ups to Pete Swanton and Caroline at Flying Dog for feeding all the artists and volunteers the amazingly delicious pizzas throughout the day. We could not have made it without you!!!

A huge shout out to Sasha and the board of the Willits Center for the Arts for graciously sharing their phenomenal space. What a resource! You guys were a dream! Thanks to Ashley for greeting everyone at the box office, to our volunteers Gabe, Donny, Sky, Jackson, Daylin, Katy, Alleena, Petra, Caitlyn and Emily. Once again, Shane Grogg at Mendocheeto.com created us a gorgeous poster that helped set the tone of the event. Special thanks to our wonderful MC Raine and the impeccable sound engineer, Lincoln Andrews.

Once again, my unabashed appreciation to the team of co-dreamers at Tommy G Presents: Kelly Viss, vending coordinator and Andre Puccio, stage manager. Kudos for building, flying and landing this amazing event. Kelly, thank you for bringing the concept of the container, casbah tea house, out of the dreamworld and into the third dimension. Your skills at supervising and decorating are magical! The stage was lit beautifully and the acts transitioned smoothly thanks to the perfection that is you, Andre. If the container is the cosmic ship, then Andre is the Chief Engineer of the stage that powered us through this wonderful experience.

Thanks to all you folks that came and shared the Day of the Divine with us. You showed us the same love when we put on WillitsFest last July. We are beyond grateful! Our community is top-notch at turning out and enjoying ourselves. Keep it up, Willits! Support your Local Artists, Events, Vendors, Sponsors and Businesses. Let's keep thriving!

Tom Girdauskas, Tommy G Presents

Winter motel shelter program seeks donations

To the Editor:

The Willits Motel Shelter Program will begin its 7th year of successfully serving the unhoused folks in our community. 2025 marks the first year of having provided rooms to those in need during the winter and spring plus also summer and fall seasons.

There are more unhoused in Willits, with families sleeping in vehicles, adults seeking jobs while sleeping outside, and seniors in poor health without shelter. The program is able to provide warm, dry rooms for a few nights per month at the Redwood Inn, where they can get clean, rest, get warm, enjoy heated meals, and relax in a room with a door that locks.

We are newly sheltered by the Willits Shelter Action Group, aka WSAG, now a 501(c)(3), that receives motel room donations via their P.O. Box 71, Willits CA 95490.

Your gift will help to ensure that this vital program continues through another year. Sincerest thanks to very generous donors who continue to cover expenses.

At this time we are seeking an additional \$12,000 to cover the deficit for the upcoming winter program months' costs.

Sincerest gratitude to those who will give to help this essential service for the Willits community.

Ruthanne Volz, Program Manager,
and Mike Adair, WSAG Board President

RCU donates \$59,000 to expand access to healthy food

Submitted by RCU

Santa Rosa – More people will have food on their table thanks to the commitment of Redwood Credit Union and other credit unions. On October 16, RCU joined credit unions around the world in celebrating the spirit of the global credit union movement on International Credit Union Day, a day for credit unions to raise awareness and reflect on their history and commitment to serving their members and communities.

This year's theme, "Cooperation for a Prosperous World," recognizes how credit unions bring people together through shared purpose and support.

To honor International Credit Union Day, RCU supported local nonprofits focused on expanding access to healthy food: RCU donated 25 cents for each purchase members made with their RCU Visa® debit or credit cards on October 16, to benefit food nonprofits in Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Lake, Mendocino, and San Francisco counties. With 1 in 5 California households facing food insecurity,* this effort helps support organizations working to ensure everyone has access to nutritious food.

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Thursday, November 20: Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy

Friday, November 21: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll

Monday, November 24: Turkey Stuffing Casserole

Tuesday, November 25: White Chicken Spinach Lasagna, Garlic Bread

Wednesday, November 26: Baked Ham, Sweet Potatoes

Thursday, November 27: Center Closed; Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, November 28: Center Closed

Annual Day Before Thanksgiving Bake Sale: Let the Willits Senior Center ease your stress and do your baking for you! Enjoy freshly baked pies, cookies, and much more! Wednesday, November 26 from 8:30 am to 3 pm at the center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

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

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday, excepting holidays. To sign up call Juliana at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments. Senior Center Thrift Shop: 459-2176

The Senior Center is in need of volunteers to help with the many activities here at the center, including volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers. "Volunteers are one-third of our workforce, which allows us to offer many services to our members and community." To learn more about volunteering: 459-6826.

National Forest Christmas tree permits now available

Willows, November 19 – Christmas tree permits are now available to purchase online through Recreation.gov. Details about designated cutting areas, dates, and types of trees that may be cut may be found here www.recreation.gov/tree-permits/TP31

To purchase a Christmas tree permit, visit Recreation.gov and search for Mendocino National Forest Christmas Tree Permits. It is important to carefully read the overview and need-to-know information prior to purchasing the permit. Visitors will also need to set up or log in to a Recreation.gov account to complete the transaction.

Visitors can also purchase Christmas tree permits in person from local vendors and forest offices. Forest offices in Willows, Stonyford, Upper Lake and Covelo will have permits for sale. Hours and availability may vary.

Fourth-graders with an "Every Kid Outdoors" pass are eligible for a free Christmas tree permit and can apply by entering the pass or voucher number when purchasing a permit (note: a \$2.50 reservation fee will be applied).

Cutting a Christmas tree also improves forest health. The permit system helps thin densely populated stands of small-diameter trees. Local forest health experts identify areas that benefit from thinning trees that tend to be the perfect size for Christmas trees. Removing these trees in designated areas helps other trees grow larger and can open areas that provide forage for wildlife.

For more information, visit these online resources:

- Recreation.gov <https://www.recreation.gov/tree-permits>
- Christmas Tree Permit page with map interface <https://www.recreation.gov/tree-permits>
- Search for Help Center article, "How Do I Purchase and Print a Christmas Tree Permit?" at <https://help.recreation.gov/helpcenter>
- Information on the "Every Kid Outdoors" 4th Grade Pass program <https://everykidoutdoors.gov/>



Above, from left: Iliia Shchipunov and Clayton Roos help stack stuffing boxes at the Mendo Food Network warehouse. Ethan Cramer smiles with a sack of purple onions. Roos and Shchipunov also move boxes of sweet potatoes which are always a favorite at Thanksgiving dinners. Below: The 2025 Turkey Toss crew included folks from CAL FIRE and Chamberlain Creek, including back row, from left: Engineer Sean Tittle, Angel Serrano, Ramon Harper, Felipe Chavez, Nick West, Abigail Costello, Iliia Shchipunov, Derek Van Zanten, Cook Specialist Michael Godinez, and Cook Specialist Scott Klaisner. Front row, from left: Marcus Blount, Aiden Karg, Julian Combs, Anthony Vega, Ethan Cramer, Clayton Roos, and Captain Patrick Crow.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Turkey Toss

Willits Community Services and Food Bank dinner to be community-enjoyed and community-cooked this year

The menu might be the same, but the process is a little different to bring it to the tables this year for the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner set for Thursday, November 27 at the Willits Senior Center.

Maureen Jennison Graphics & Photographers willitsweekly@gmail.com

Due to the closing of Parlin Fork Conservation Camp, they were unable to prepare the meal for us this year," explained Wendy Copperfield, Executive Director of the Willits Community Services and Food Bank. "We are fortunate to have the Chamberlain Creek Fire Crew to cook 24 turkeys, and Christy Wisdom of Willits High School Food Services to cook 12 turkeys. The mashed potatoes will be prepared by CAL FIRE and California Conservation Corps volunteers, the gravy will be prepared by volunteer Melinda Clarke at the Little Lake Grange Kitchen, and Little Lake Fire Department will be doing the stuffing."

Copperfield also noted that Little Lake Fire Department and Willits Police Department have also each donated hams for the meal, and pumpkin pies were donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She also expressed everyone's continued thanks to Sherwood Valley Casino who donated \$10,000 to help pay for the meal.

"Although this collaboration has created a lot more effort for coordination, it has also opened up more opportunities for these groups and individuals to participate in a meaningful Willits tradition, and takes this community celebration to a new level," said Copperfield. "Willits Food Bank is grateful to Mendo Food Network for providing the turkeys, potatoes and stuffing mix for the Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner," said Copperfield. "We value our partnership and the support they provide to Willits Food Bank and to me personally as a new director."

Copperfield also wanted to remind everyone that "the core of our event relies on volunteers! We still have some holes in our schedule on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27, that need to be filled."

Please call (707) 459-3333 to sign up to help or email: Wendy@WillitsFoodBank.com.

Below: Moving birds from box to trunk was accomplished by "making a chain," where fowl moved down the line from hand to hand, making light work loading the 24 turkeys. At bottom: Some of the pillars of getting the 2025 Thanksgiving dinner off the ground and running included, from left: Cook Specialist Michael Godinez, Cook Specialist Scott Klaisner, Willits High School Food Service's Dustin Wisdom and Christy Wisdom, Willits Community Services and Food Bank Executive Director Wendy Copperfield, and Mendo Food Network's Executive Director Amanda Friscia, who took a moment to smile with turkeys during the Turkey Toss event.



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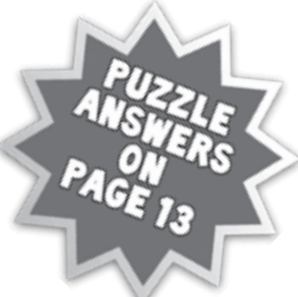
WWW.WILLITSMINISTORAGE.COM

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Beginner



HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

FALL DAYS

WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

ACORN
APPLE
AUTUMN
BONFIRE
CIDER
CINNAMON

CORNUCOPIA
CRISP
FALL
FOLIAGE
GOURD

HARVEST
HAYRIDE
HEARTH
LEAVES
MAPLE

PUMPKIN
SCARECROW
SPICE
SWEATER
THANKSGIVING

			1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
			10				11					
12	13			14								
											18	19
16		17										20
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22								23				
24							25				26	27
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31	32	33					34				35	36
37							38				39	
40												
							41			42	43	44
48							49				50	
51											52	
							53				54	55
							56				57	58
							59					60

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Popular broadcast network
4. Train line
10. Go quickly
11. Straightforward
12. Canadian province
14. Swiss river
15. It can be straight or curved
16. Edit
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Gotten up
23. Sea vessel
24. Agents of one's demise
26. Not out
27. Something to scratch
28. A round water pot
30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit
31. Promotions
34. Masses of matter
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Nightstand item
39. The content of cognition
40. Arab ruler
41. Northern U.S. state
42. Chewed in small bites
48. Hawaiian island
50. More thin
51. Of one
52. Rigid bracelet or anklet
53. Barbary sheep
54. Not even
55. Atomic #106
56. Haggle
58. Boxing's GOAT
59. Division of a group into opposing factions
60. Vietnamese offensive
- CLUES DOWN
1. Horse-drawn carriage
2. Prejudices
3. Peacefully
4. University athletic official
5. Soldiers
6. Large mollusk
7. Take out again
8. Sour or bitter in taste
9. Songwriter Tunstall
12. Husk of wheat
13. Flexible covering in some birds
17. Energy
19. Night monkey genus
20. Small nails
21. Colorless volatile liquid
25. In a way, changes integrity
29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal
31. Remember it
32. 'Good Will Hunting' lead man
33. Pleasant facial expression
35. Sea vessel
38. Lacking poetic beauty
41. Tall, swift and slender dog
43. Sports personality Michelle
44. Robber
45. Liquefied natural gas
46. Snake-like fish
47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid
49. Crimean seaport
56. Bad grades
57. Popular S. Korean rapper

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG
November 3 to November 9
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **80 incidents** in this 7-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

November 3
10:05 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

11:55 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

4:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and Casteel Lane and issued a citation.

7:02 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

10:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 24000 block of Brooktrails Drive.

November 4
8:38 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

11:34 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and West Mendocino Avenue and issued a warning.

12:45 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Valley Street.

9:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Oak Street and Railroad Avenue and issued a citation.

November 5
12:04 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:21 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

Suspects arrested in burglaries of Covelo markets

By Sergeant Jack Woida for MCSO

On November 17, 2025 at approximately 12:08 am, deputies from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to an audible alarm at the Redwood Market in Covelo, located at 76220 Highway 162.

Upon arrival they located signs of forced entry consistent with a commercial burglary. Items from inside the store were determined to be missing, which was confirmed through further investigative efforts, including reviewing in-store surveillance video.

Based on the information gained while processing the scene, deputies began checking the Covelo area. Deputies located a vehicle that was believed to be involved in the burglary based on their review of the store surveillance footage. The vehicle was parked at a residence in the 100 block of Pomo Way.

Upon contact at the residence, MCSO deputies located Doran Lincoln, 20; William Davis, 18, and Orion Dennis, 18. A search warrant was authored for the residence, and upon serving the warrant, evidence associated with this investigation was recovered by deputies.

More of RCU

purpose that leads to a stronger, more inclusive community," says RCU President and CEO Brett Martinez. "We're honored to help members achieve their goals and dreams, and to support organizations that increase access to healthy food for those who need it most."

This year, International Credit Union Day was celebrated the same week as RCU's Day of Impact. On October 13, RCU partnered with Foster Love, with RCU's full workforce of 1,000 team members assembling nearly 4,000 care bags and birthday boxes – enough for every foster youth in San Francisco and all the North Bay counties where RCU has locations. These resources were distributed to local foster youth in partnership with more than a dozen local nonprofits across 6 counties in RCU's service area.

Through its community giving efforts, RCU has donated more than \$195,000 to local organizations working to combat food insecurity in 2025 alone. In addition, RCU team members volunteer monthly at local food banks to help meet the needs of those facing hunger.

RCU is also collaborating with A Simple Gesture (ASG), a nonprofit startup, to expand and introduce a "porch-to-pantry" doorstep food collection model for North Bay communities and San Francisco.

2:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 600 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:09 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and California Street and issued a warning.

November 6
9:49 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Gregory Lane and South Main Street and issued a citation.

7:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Sout Main Street and issued a warning.

November 7
11:53 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

12:13 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

1:40 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of North Main Street.

8:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of South Main Street.

9:51 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

November 8
12:10 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Oak Street and Central Street and issued a warning.

November 9
1:11 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

7:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

Operation
Christmas Child

Members of Calvary Chapel prepare gift boxes for kids around the world

Church congregations are at their most religiously fundamental when performing activities to help the less fortunate. On Saturday, November 15, the members of Calvary Chapel spent their morning packing boxes full of a selection of fun and useful goods intended to enrich the lives of kids in several countries.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"This is Operation Christmas Child," explained Amy Ragsdale. "We fill shoeboxes full of school items, toys, personal care items for children that get sent out all over the world. They go to 160 different countries. It's through Samaritan's Purse, founded by Franklin Graham. Operation Christmas Child has been going on for 33 years. It actually started during the Benghazi War. Franklin Graham said, 'I want to send these kids shoeboxes full of toys, so they know that they are loved.' He asked the church in North Carolina. They did 23,000 shoeboxes. This year, our goal is over 12 million. Last year we did over 11 million. We're hoping to do over 100 boxes here.

"It's called Operation Christmas Child," said Ragsdale, "but they don't actually receive them at Christmas. They receive them starting in January through June. It's because of how far they have to go, customs, all the logistics it takes to get the shoeboxes to other countries. Once they get into the country, they have to get into the villages. They can go by a small boat or on a donkey's back. There are all kinds of ways these shoeboxes get into the villages."

Once the packages arrive in the villages, a ceremony occurs, prior to the distribution. "The kids will get invited to a celebration, where they learn about Jesus and God's love," continued Ragsdale. "They get so excited just learning about that. They think that God is the event. Then, they get the shoeboxes. It's amazing to hear the stories about these kids, when they open

the shoebox and it is actually something they were hoping that they would have someday, whether it's a toothbrush, a hairbrush, a stuffed animal, something they might not have in their country. We try to get something in every category, school supplies, personal care."

Occasionally, Calvary Chapel gets to hear stories about the effect that their gifts have in the villages. "I spoke with a woman this summer who was actually in one of the countries," said Ragsdale. "She was in a community when the kids were receiving the shoeboxes. They opened the shoeboxes and got all these school supplies. The kids didn't know what they were. They hadn't gone to school. Franklin Graham heard about that and five years later, built a school in that community."

Participants in Operation Christmas Child can be found all over the United States and in 10 other countries.

Calvary Chapel, having outgrown their previous location, took possession of the old Willits Furniture store, next to Safeway and Coast Hardware. "This church was opened on March 16, 3/16," mused Ragsdale. "If you know your bible, 3:16 is, 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish.' We bought the building in May of 2024. It needed some work. It used to be the furniture center. Last winter, we were doing this at the high school and it was cold. We outgrew our last location. It was too small to hold everybody. Now, on Sunday morning, these seats are all full," said Ragsdale, referring to the estimated 300 seats in the chapel.

Under the supervision of congregant contractor Robert Ford, the interior of the building has been completely remodeled to fit the needs of the church. It has been partitioned to create rooms specifically for a

Read the rest of Boxes Over on page 13



At top, left: New Pastor Alex Estrada has only been here for two weeks but loves the lively congregation. At top, right: A member of the congregation arranges some of the completed Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Above: Those in the congregation have a strong sense of community and friendship. At left: Amy Ragsdale leads the participants in an impromptu prayer to thank Jesus. At left, below: Members of the congregation work at a long table filled with a plethora of toys, school supplies, clothing, and other needed items. Below: The new bathroom dividers were created by John Arkelian.

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BY MAUREEN JENNISON!

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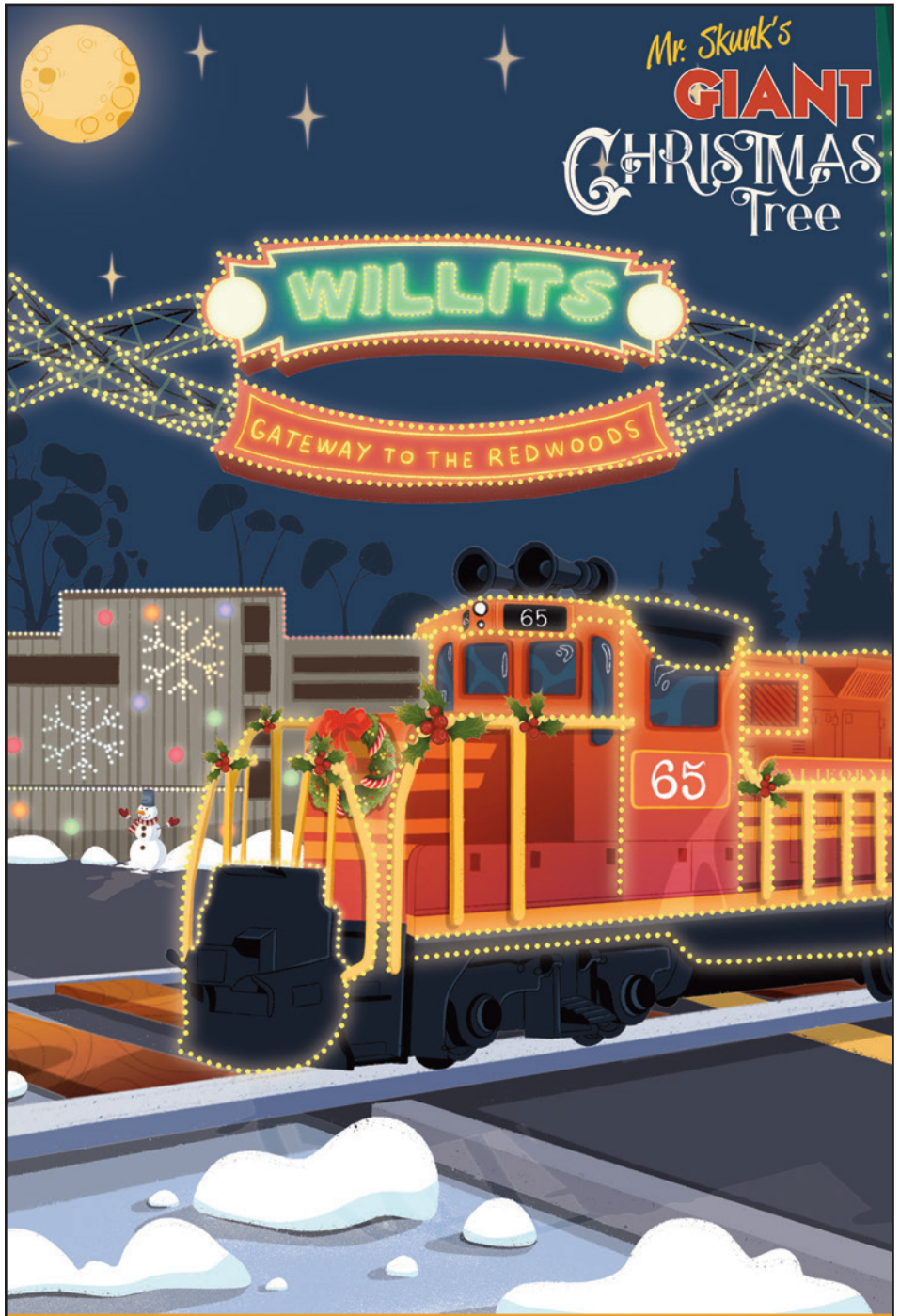
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Above, from left: Diza Hope stands in front of her latest painting, a mural on the side of The Book Juggler. The Book Juggler has several rooms full of books. The 18-by-9-foot mural by Diza Hope is a welcome addition to the Willits streets.

At right: The new Diza Hope marigold mural is on the side of The Book Juggler on Wood Street. Below: Anna Judd's community project has been hung on the back of the stage at Recreation Grove Park.



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Marvelous Marigolds

The Book Juggler gets new improvements, including a gorgeous mural by local painter Diza Hope

Artists often notice what others ignore. An artist can look at a blank wall on a building and see a canvas on which to create a masterpiece of color and design. Such a canvas was previously found on the south-facing outside wall of The Book Juggler. Chris Harper and Greta Kanne of the book shop decided to ask local artist, Diza Hope, to come up with a way to beautify their wall.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"Diza Hope is a great local artist and a friend, and we just asked her if she could do something out there. She just came up with the design, and we loved it, and there it is. Well, she did it in her extra time. So, she'd show up, and it was, of course, the heat of summer. She would show up a couple of hours here and a couple of hours there and do it when she could, when the sun wasn't blasting her the most. And so, it took a couple months. Beautiful! We just wanted something to share some art with the community," related Harper.

Diza Hope dove into the challenge and ended up enjoying the interaction with the people passing by. "Greta and Chris saw a mural down in Palo Alto that they liked that was marigolds, and so they asked me to adapt it," said Hope. "I was super honored to do some public art. I feel like public art enhances a space, gives it personality. This was a nice canvas to work on. And it catches your eye going north. It's about 9 by 18 [feet]. It's done with acrylic. It lasts outdoors. It's a specialized acrylic from L.A., a company named Nova Color. First, I primed it, and then, I actually came at night. I put a projector up and drew it in on the primed surface. I wasn't going to grid that. So that really helped to get it slammed up. It took about two months. I was surprised when I was working on it, how much I enjoyed the interaction with the public. People were so sweet and engaging, not annoying at all."

This colorful piece of art is a welcome addition to the beauty of downtown Willits. It fits well with the public art project of Anna Judd, that is hanging on the back of the stage at Recreation Grove Park, which was a community-painted mural on six panels, part of the Beautify Willits grant.

In addition to the new mural, Harper and Kanne have been making other improvements to The Book Juggler as well. A newly repainted sign now hangs out front, and the store recently got new carpeting installed – a massive undertaking, considering that the store is a labyrinth of book shelves.

"This was a great project," Hope said. "I really am proud of it. I hope to see more public art in Willits. That big wall across the parking lot from Flying Dog Pizza looks tempting. I was thinking of just doing a design for it. Right now it's a big empty wall."

Black Friday Sales Event

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Above, left: Round Valley Tribal Council Secretary Jill Acosta, Round Valley Tribal Council Member Susan Henao, Round Valley Vice President Neil Britton Sr., Round Valley President Joe Parker, Yurok Chairman Joseph L. James, Yurok Tribal Council Member Toby Vanlandingham, and Yurok Tribal Council Member Ryan Ray. Above, right: Yurok Chairman Joseph L. James and Round Valley Indian Tribes President Joe Parker sign historic Treaty of Friendship.

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

signed a Treaty of Friendship that pledges their joint efforts to restore the Eel River.

"The Eel River is our lifeblood and when it suffers, our people suffer," said Round Valley Indian Tribes President Joe Parker after signing the agreement within the ancestral territory of the Tribes on the Eel River. "We are pleased to join with the Yurok Tribe, which is the leader in restoring the Klamath River through dam removal, revegetation, and habitat restoration," he added. "With this partnership, we hope all Native tribes around the world will be motivated to stand up and fight for their culture and rights," he noted.

"We are honored to contribute the extensive knowledge and experience we have gained through Klamath River dam removal with our relatives from the Round Valley Indian Tribes," added Joseph L. James, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "Together, we are uplifting our communities and forging a new path that aligns with our shared cultural values."

The Treaty of Friendship will facilitate sharing of knowledge and expertise between the two tribes, and it will foster collaboration on restoration projects on the Eel River. The Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project, whose dams block several hundred miles of critical fishery habitat, is being decommissioned by PG&E. These ecological impairments have contributed to the decline of salmon, steelhead, and

At right: Yurok and Round Valley Tribal Council members and staff.

At right, below: Round Valley Indian Tribes' Fisheries Department Manager and Senior Fisheries Biologist Wyatt Smith, Round Valley Vice President Neil Britton Sr., Yurok Associate General Counsel Cam Tredennick, Round Valley President Joe Parker, Yurok Tribal Council Member Toby Vanlandingham, Yurok Chairman Joseph L. James, and Yurok Tribal Council Member Ryan Ray.



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Fire Safe Council works with MRC to extend fuel break west of Ukiah hills

By Sarah Reith, FSC

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council is working with the largest landowner in the county to extend a CAL FIRE-funded shaded fuel break to the west of Ukiah's western hills.

In 2022, CAL FIRE awarded a Forest Health Grant of \$3.8 million to Mendocino Redwood Company to treat about 1,000 acres of high-risk forest above Low Gap Road. The work has largely consisted of thinning understory and selectively harvesting overstory, using a mix of hand crews and mechanical mastication methods.

Standing on the fuel break at the top of the ridge in early July, Ryan Smith, Deputy Chief of Fire Protection for CAL FIRE's Mendocino Unit, described the project and how he believes it will enhance safety for local residents. The work, he said, aligns with the unit's fire-prevention goals because: "It gives us a place where we can put resources and make a stand against a fire either generated on the coast side, coming towards Ukiah, or vice-versa, coming from the city towards all the timberlands and communities to the west of us here on the coast."

Hayley Ross, a stewardship manager with MRC, described the project as providing "a toehold for future firefighting." It extends all the way from MRC property on Low Gap Road to Orr Springs Road, creating access and egress by reducing fuels on either side of the road.

Now Mendocino Redwood Company is sharing \$300,000 of its grant with the Mendocino Forest Safe Council.

MCFS and its partner organizations have already been hard at work securing permissions from smaller landowners for a fuel break that will benefit the entire community. In 2023, MCFS worked with the California Conservation Corps to treat 38.5 acres along Pine Ridge Road, tying into Low Gap Road. This will ensure a viable escape route for residents, as well as a clear way in for firefighters backing up Ukiah's western hills. MCFS plans to extend that work by 30 acres.

The County of Mendocino allocated some monies from another CAL FIRE grant that MCFS is managing, by hiring a contractor to thin an additional 35.6 acres along Low Gap Road closer to Ukiah. The remainder of the county's allocation, plus the funds from MRC, will allow MCFS to treat another 56 acres. Overall, the projects combine to create a coherent north-south and east-west fuel break protecting the northwest approach to Ukiah.

Prescribed burns are also part of the project's fuel management plan, though CAL FIRE Deputy Chief Smith noted that the window for burning is narrow. "There are a lot of challenges," he acknowledged, adding, "That's why there's a broad-stroke approach" to fuels reduction across the state, including thinning, chipping, and burning. All of this breaks up the continuity of fuels, making it harder for fire to spread if it does start.

He urged owners of properties of all sizes to consider a variety of fuels-management strategies on their own lands. "We're trying to diversify as much as possible,"

Read the rest of **MRC** | Over on page 14

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Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:8:00 p.m.

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Worship Service
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For appointments call:
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St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
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Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandman
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
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4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
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St. John Lutheran Church
Sunday Service
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24 Mill Creek Drive
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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
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where all are welcome
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If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com



Thursday, November 20
Willits Farmers Market at the Grange: Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm, now at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food, and tasty treats from local businesses, crafts, live music, Herbal Wellness Wagon, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

Free Groceries and Hot Food at the Grange: All are welcome to come get food and enjoy some music and videos in community on Thursday, November 20 from 6 pm until the food is gone at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Willits.

Behind the Scenes Tours at the Museum: First and Third Thursday of the month from 2 to 3 pm. To reserve your tour call the Mendocino County Museum: 707-234-6365.

Creative Writers Workshop at the Library: Share your fictional works in a supportive environment, receive constructive feedback and discuss publishing. This free event is open to ages 13 and up. Paper and pencils provided and Chromebooks available for check-out with valid library card. Thursday, November 20 from 4:30 to 6 pm, at the Willits Branch Library

'Exploring Green Burials' Presentation at WCA: This presentation by funeral director Seth Furguson will cover a range of earth-friendly burial options and

legal considerations. One of the Howard Foundation's Avenues to Wellness speaker series events. Thursday, November 20, from 6 to 7 pm at Willits Center for the Arts. Free to attend, donations appreciated.

Friday, November 21
Book Lovers Discussion Group at the Library: Come talk about books, authors, and genres on Friday, November 21 from noon to 1 pm at the Willits Library.

S.T.E.M. Activity at the Library: Experiments and Crafts centered on the nature of light and color for kids 9 to 14. This week: Kaleidoscope Making. Friday, November 21 from 3:30 to 5 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

Food Not Bombs in Rec Grove Park: Food Not Bombs Willits presents a free meal, zines and supplies every first and third Fridays around 5 pm. Everyone is welcome. Join us at the picnic tables.

Crimson Revival at Shanachie: Friday, November 21 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Saturday, November 22
Town Hall Meeting at the Grange: This meeting will offer information to help people find food assistance and on how we can support the organizations providing it. Food Bank donation bins will be available if you wish to donate. Saturday, November 22 at 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Willits.

Craft Fair at the Muse Complex: Lots of local vendors, crafts, food, live music, Tarot readings and more on Saturday, November 22 from 11 am to 4 pm in the Muse Complex, 32 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits. Interested vendors email ministryofdivineconsciousness@gmail.

Wreath Making at Baechtel Grove Middle School: Step-by-step guidance in making your own holiday wreath. Cost is \$30, includes materials and all proceeds benefit the 8th grade class and PTO. Saturday, November 22 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Baechtel Grove Middle School Cafeteria, 1150 Magnolia Street, Willits. For tickets text: 707-291-3758. Bring your own pruning shears!

Miller's Wheel at Shanachie: Saturday, November 22 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Sunday, November 23
Grange Pancake Breakfast: All you can eat of our "scratch" pancakes (sourdough, wholegrain, Hank's famous buttermilk, or gluten-free) plus organic, local farm-fresh scrambled eggs, Beeler's Quality bacon, real butter, juice and organic coffee or tea for only \$12! (\$11 for Seniors, \$5 for kids under 10). Extra sides of organic fruit, Amish organic maple syrup, fresh fruit syrup or bacon for a small additional fee. Fourth Sunday of the month, 8 to 11 am, Little Lake Grange.

Fresh, Fast & Frugal Cooking Class at the Grange: This free class taught by nutritionist Ann Waters will focus on how to shop wisely and frugally, and make quick and healthy meals on Sunday, November 23 from 1 to 4 pm at the Little Lake Grange. Please register by texting: 707-889-2449.



Vegan Thanksgiving Potluck at Long Valley Garden Club: Bring a vegan dish to share at this potluck hosted by Laytonville Organic Vegan Experience (L.O.V.E.) on Sunday, November 23 from 4 to 6 pm at the Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road, Laytonville. Meet at Willits Library at 3:30 pm if you wish to carpool.

The Lucky Losers perform at WCA: Enjoy libations and bar-bites and dance to a powerful

blend of a throwback mix of R&B, Soul, Rock and Gospel on Sunday, November 23 from 6 to 8 pm. Tickets are \$18 at willitscenterforthearts.org or \$20 at the door which opens at 5:30 pm at Willits Center for the Arts.

Wednesday, November 26
Holiday Bake Sale at the Senior Center: Let us do your holiday baking with freshly baked pies, cookies and much more on Wednesday, November 26 from 8:30 am to 3 pm at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits.



Willits Community Services & Food Bank's 36th Annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner
November 27, 2025
11:00am – 3:00pm*
*Or until we run out, whichever comes first.
Held at the Willits Senior Center
1501 Baechtel Road, Willits
All are welcome to sit down and join us for a meal in gratitude and celebration of our Willits Community.
There is no charge for this event. Anyone may dine for free. Donations are gladly accepted and will benefit WCS & Food Bank.
We give special thanks to the following organizations for making this event possible:
Sherwood Valley Casino, Willits Senior Center, and Little Lake Grange
This community effort requires many volunteers working hard behind the scenes, in the kitchen, and on the floor. We thank all our friends, neighbors, local businesses and organizations for your help. Together we are making a difference. Thank You!

WICKED: FOR GOOD
(PG-13 1hr 17m)
Fri: 3:15, 6:30
Sat/Sun: 2:30, 6:30
Sun: 1:15, 4:00, 7:00
Opens on Wednesday, November 26!!
Showtimes: November 21 to November 27 Closed Monday/Tuesday Thrifty Thursday: \$8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.

Thursday, November 27
Willits Thanksgiving Dinner at Senior Center: All are welcome to dine for free on Thursday, November 27 from 11 am to 3 pm (or as long as the food lasts) at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Laytonville Thanksgiving Community Dinner: Show your EBT or CalFresh card and you and your family eat for free (max 6 people). Otherwise, cost is \$10 with proceeds benefitting the Laytonville Toy Drive. Dine-in only, no no-go orders. Thursday, November 27 from 1 to 3 pm and hosted by 101 Grill & BBQ, 44911 Highway 101, Laytonville. RSVP by calling 707-984-6888.

Friday, November 28
Back Porch Trio at Shanachie: Friday, November 28 from 8 to 10 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Saturday, November 29
Photos with The Grinch at the Toy Depot: Come to The Toy Depot between 10 am and 1 pm and have your photo taken with The Grinch with photographer Maureen Jennison. Digital images are just \$5 each and there are no appointments necessary, just stop on in! More information: 707-972-7047



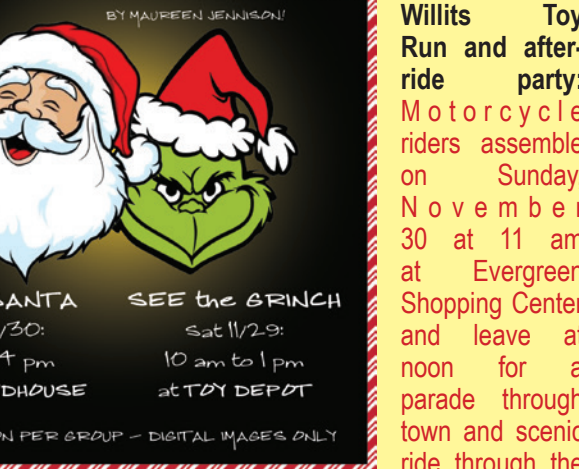
Rover Oak Charter School Winter Faire
Craft + Makers Market
Sunday, December 14
10:00am - 2:00pm
Embrace the season's warmth and magic! Enjoy enchanting puppet plays, live music, handcraft making, a marketplace of local artisans, and a cozy cafe offering warm soups and freshly baked treats.
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Felted crowns
Wreath making
Wood fairies
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NATIVE NOW: K'EDI WADIM
Opening reception is Thursday, November 20th 4:30-6:30
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MENDOCINO COLLEGE GALLERY

featuring vintage calendars issued by small, county businesses and a collection of holiday stationery, family and community generated recipes, and mail order gifts from bygone years. Saturday, November 29 from 11 to 5 pm at the museum, 400 East Commercial Street, Willits.

Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: Saturday, November 29 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Sunday, November 30
Photos with Santa at J.D. Redhouse: Come to J.D. Redhouse between 12 and 4 pm on Sunday, November 30 and have your photo taken with Santa and the elves with photographer Maureen Jennison. Digital images are just \$5 each and there are no appointments necessary, just stop on in! More information: 707-972-7047



Toy Run and after-ride party: Motorcycle riders assemble on Sunday, November 30 at 11 am at Evergreen Shopping Center and leave at noon for a parade through town and scenic ride through the Little Lake Valley, then on to the Grange for an after party from 12:30 to 4 pm, featuring lunch, music, a raffle and silent and live auctions. Cost to attend is one new, unwrapped toy for the Willits Children's Christmas Program. All are welcome for this event, sponsored by Willits Wild Bunch.



TOWN-WIDE ONGOING EVENTS

Willits Tennis Club: Meets every Monday and Wednesday from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School Tennis Courts. All levels welcome. More info: 707 484-3385.

Drop-In Life Drawing Group at WCA: Every Thursday from 1 to 4 pm at Willits Center for the Arts. Cost is based on sliding scale. More info: Margaret 707-459-9251.

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Saturdays at 1 pm, sack lunches are served by local churches, community organizations, and families at Bud Snider City Park on East Commercial. Come at 1 pm to be assured a lunch!

Willits Indivisible Democracy Vigil: Every Friday from 5 to 6 pm at Babcock Park on South Main Street. More info: "Willits Indivisible" on Facebook.

Lunch to Live Music at Brickhouse Coffee: every Wednesday from noon to 2 pm featuring various artists. Corner of Main and Commercial Streets, Willits.

Pickleball: Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 5 pm and Saturdays at 9 am at the Willits High School tennis courts. Free to play and all levels welcome.

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

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Friday at 7 pm, at St. Francis of the Redwoods on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

Literacy Volunteers of Willits: We teach adults to read! Free personal tutoring at the library.

Call or email to make an appointment: LiteracyWillits@gmail.com or 707-456-7729.

Mobile Showers Available in Willits: Mobile shower is in Willits every Monday and Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, behind St. Francis Church at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Toiletries, towels and washcloths provided. Those with disabilities may



need to bring a helper. Sack dinners are served from 4:30 to 5:30 by Willits Daily Bread.

Inland Valley Women's Chorus: Every Thursday (except holidays) from 6 to 7:30 pm to sing songs of peace, joy, social justice and healing. No audition or experience required. Carpooling available from Willits. Holy Trinity Church, Mary & Martha Room, 640 South Orchard Avenue, Ukiah. More info: Madge Strong, 707-459-1493.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, Tommy G will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub. Bring any instrument and explore your creativity!"

Bluegrass String Jam: An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm, with all Bluegrass musicians welcome!

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Every Wednesday–Enter your name in the lottery from 3 to 7 pm to choose your 20-minute time slot, with performances beginning at 7:20.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Sunday and Monday.

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Wednesdays, 11 am to 1 pm, in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe."

LEGO Club: Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 pm. "Bring your imagination and start building."

Tech Help: Saturdays from 11 am to noon, come get computer help and your technical questions answered!

Spinning and Knitting: Saturdays at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome! Spinning, 1 to 2 pm; Knitting, 2 to 4:30 pm.

Story and Playtime: Fridays from 11 am to noon, bring the kids for a story followed by play time in the Children's Area.

ABC Art Artists Meet-Up: Work on your personal art project, meet other artists and find inspiration Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 3 pm. Ages 18 and up.



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At far left: Willits High School and Redwood Christian Academy join together to pray before the game, showing that it really is more than just football. At left: Damian Reiter catches an interception made by the Redwood Christian quarterback. Below: WHS cheer poses for a photo before the game: from left, Emmaalia Pyle, Serenity McCarty, Head Coach Tabatha Hulsey, Bella Bickford, Kayla Matney-Bolton, Dulce Angulo, Kira Wilburn, Macy Barnes, Malayna Lavendusky, Stormie Nowlin, Tessa Simpson, Leah Blakely, Allissa Glass, Khatia Earton-Geiger, Jade Luna, Aleiah Barragan, Mia Chavez, Emma Hulsey, and Sophia Punihaole-Figurea (bottom). At bottom, Redwood Christian fans get in good blocking, making sure the Redwood Christian defenders don't break through. At bottom, right: Rickey Ramirez makes a leap to get through Redwood Christian defense.



Savanna.

Buddy.

Majestic.

Easygoing Majestic

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from 9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinanimalshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for more information.

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GENERAL MANAGER (GM)

Sherwood Valley Casino is seeking a skilled and driven General Manager to lead our gaming operations with excellence and integrity. This role is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the casino's daily activities, supervising gaming operations, and providing regular updates on business performance.

Contact the HR Dept at HR@svrcasino.com or 707-459-7335




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Benefits, Salary: \$98K - \$110K

Sherwood Valley Casino is seeking a strategic and detail-oriented Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to lead our financial operations and safeguard the integrity of our assets. This executive role is responsible for driving financial performance, maintaining robust internal controls, and ensuring full compliance with regulatory standards. The CFO will play a key role in shaping the financial future of the casino while upholding transparency, accountability, and operational excellence.

GENERAL MANAGER (GM)

Benefits, Salary: \$95K-\$115K

Sherwood Valley Casino is seeking a skilled and driven General Manager to lead our gaming operations with excellence and integrity. This role is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the casino's daily activities, supervising gaming operations, and providing regular updates on business performance.

Contact the HR Dept at HR@svrcasino.com or 707-459-7335

COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS
WHS varsity football wins
first playoff game 27-0

Willits High School varsity football came ready to play as they faced off with Redwood Christian Academy from San Lorenzo for the 2025 North Coast Section football playoffs.

Sheri Dockins
Sports Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The WHS football playoffs roster consists of 27 players who all deserve recognition for having made this team: Eddie Perez, Cameron Raymond, Porter, Garman, Corey Rockey, Isaac Silva, Donny Alexander, Cole Simpson, Grady Cooley, Rickey Ramirez, Carlo Diaz, Ryan Carter, Jordan McLean, Brayden Norbury, Damian Reiter, Ricky Britton, Pancrazio Bertolino, Devon Colyer, Donald Glenn, Jayden Schlegel, Aaron Diaz, Zani Marshall, Jackson Barbitta, Thomas Rano, Kai Schwebs, Raymond Campbell, Adrian Lopez and Davin Swenson.

The players ran on their home field in warrior fashion as a united front, heading into the playoff battle. The time-honored WHS Maize Field stands, sidelines, and end zone were packed with community fans, alumni, and family, who all stood proudly as Steven Daniel Hayes sang an electric national anthem. The cheerleaders shined bright, leading the well-known green and gold chants to keep the crowd hyped for the players.

The team, coaches and staff all took a knee on the field for a beautiful game prayer. Then, it was time for football. After kickoff, it was evident that the Wolverines were ready to fight with voracious runs and long yardage bombs that really got the crowd on the edge of their seats. When Redwood Christian got the ball, WHS defense remained stacked against any odds. The Wolverines lit up the field, playing in sync, picking up where the other left off. It was clear this was a night they would all get to shine.

During halftime, the WHS cheer squad had great energy, displaying an awesome Buzzard's Roost for an amazing burger, beer, and Wolverines football.

dance with captivating stunts. With the help of their team, the scorers of the night, with rushing touchdowns, were Porter Garman, Corey Rockey and Isaac Silva with two touchdowns, along with kicker Damian Reiter making every field goal.

Redwood Christian fought hard, but in the end, the Willits Wolverines dominated for a 27-0 victory! The victory will lead them to the hills of Oakland to square off with Piedmont next Friday for the second game in the North Coast Sections playoffs.

"I'm incredibly proud of our team and how they competed tonight," said Head Coach Brandon Norbury. "A 27-0 playoff win speaks to their effort, focus and preparation. Our defense played four physical quarters of Wolverine football, our offense executed when it mattered, and our special teams helped us control the field. It was a full-team effort. Redwood Christian deserves a lot of respect. They had a strong season, played hard, and made us earn everything, exactly what we expected in playoff football."

"These young men have worked all year to raise the standard and build something we can all be proud of," said Norbury. "We'll enjoy this tonight, but our focus shifts to Piedmont on Friday the 21st in Oakland. This group is hungry and ready for the next challenge. Thank you to our players, families, coaches, and community for your support! Go Wolverines!"

Your community is rooting for you, Wolverines varsity football! You have made us all very proud with your talent, heart, and your incredibly hard work in a very tough sport. We're with you all the way. Wolverines pride! Let's GO!

Any fans or family that aren't able to travel to Oakland on Friday and want to watch the game can download the NFHS Network app to watch the game live, or head on down to our awesome local Buzzard's Roost for an amazing burger, beer, and Wolverines football.



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Final Fundraising
Wilma just \$2,330 short of final total needed
for her building and installation next
summer for Willits Frontier Days 100th year

As the sponsorships continue to come in, large and small, the total raised for Wilma, the giant statue planned to stand alongside Cowboy Willy at the Willits Frontier Days grounds, has reached \$36,170 as of mid-November.

The goal is to get Bell Plastics, the company who will custom-create Wilma to the designated specifics, the rest of the total due before the end of the year. She will be made over the winter/spring of 2026 and will be installed and unveiled at the 2026 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Dinner and 4th of July events in June/ July of this coming year.

Standing alongside Willy and creating even more public art in Willits, the two will be a sight to see for locals, and for those who enjoy traveling around the country to see other Muffler Men and Uniroyal Gal Statues (the pair's originally intended lives). A map of many other statues can be seen on the wonderfully informative www.RoadSideAmerica.com.

Many individuals, families, businesses and organizations have stepped up to sponsor some of the major items, listed at left, but all amounts are greatly appreciated in helping reach the final \$38,500 total. Willits Frontier Days is a non-profit and can provide tax forms on request.

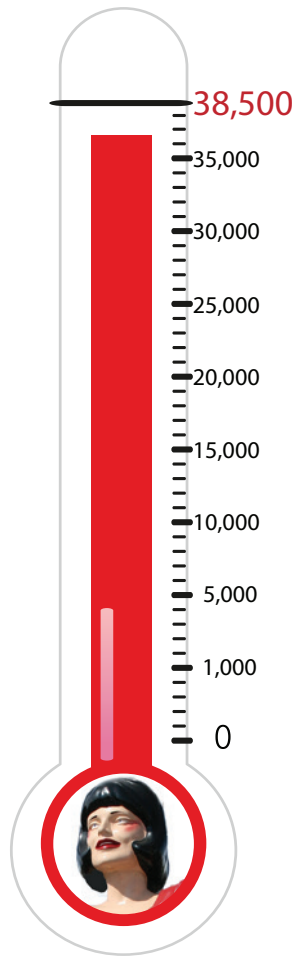
If you would like to help finish the fundraising efforts, you can mail a check to PO Box 800 in Willits, CA 95490, or visit https://www.willitsfrontierdays.com/wilma.html where you can pay online digitally.

BRING WILMA TO WILLITS!

Table with 3 columns: ITEM TO SPONSOR, COST, and SPONSORED!. It lists various items like 'Confirm name Wilma', 'Choose hair color', 'Choose eye color', etc., with their respective costs and whether they are sponsored.

Donate online: willitsfrontierdays.com/wilma.html / Mail check: PO BOX 800, Willits
Additional donations of any amount accepted and appreciated to help reach goal!

TOTAL NEEDED: \$38,500.00



Willits Fronter Days Christmas Program

The holiday season is upon us, and we are thrilled to announce that Willits Frontier Days will be continuing the Willits Christmas Program this year, previously managed by Willits Rotary. We will maintain the existing structure of the program, with referrals continuing through the Willits School District.

The Willits Wild Bunch will also oversee the Toy Run, operating as usual. For inquiries regarding the Toy Run, please reach out to Rich Venturi at willitswildbunch@gmail.com.

For over 25 years, our community has united to support less fortunate children in Willits by providing essential items such as rain gear, winter coats, shoes, sleepwear, blankets, and other holiday gifts.

A few years ago the Willits Frontier Days Jrs. added the stocking program which ensured all children receive a Christmas stocking (items for stockings are fundraised and funded by the Willits Frontier Days Jrs.).

Individuals wishing to help a specific child can choose a card from display trees located throughout the town, which detail the child's clothing and shoe sizes along with their wish list. If you are unable to fulfill the card, we encourage you to just donate a toy or clothing item in one of

the drop-off bins. This helps us ensure that each child receives both necessary and desired gifts.

While selecting a single child is a popular option among supporters, some have expressed interest in adopting an entire family. This year we will be located in the old Remco building. Thank you, Bruce and James, for letting us use the space.

If you or your group would like to adopt a family, please contact me, Marcy Barry, one of the coordinators for the Willits Frontier Days Christmas Program, and I can assist you in identifying a suitable family. You can reach me at barrys bunch@yahoo.com or by phone at 707-272-5395. You may also contact Hailey Riley at 707-272-1088. If we are unable to answer, please leave a message, and we will return your call promptly.

To ensure we meet the needs of families before our usual referral process begins in late November, we encourage you to reach out as soon as possible to discuss adopting a family.

We would like to thank the Willits community for making sure this program continuous. Happy Holidays.

- Marcy Barry for the Willits Frontier Days Christmas Crew

LEGAL NOTICES

WW573

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0465

The following person or persons are doing business as Northern Roots Handyman; 707-495-5533.

Registered owner: Shaun Payne, 70 Nancy Lane, Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/14/2025.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on 11/14/2025.

/s/ Shaun Payne
Publication Dates: November 13, 20, 26, December 4, 2025

WW571

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0456

The following person or persons are doing business as Creative Craft Loft, 1490 Baechtel Road, Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: Yover OK LLC, 1490 Baechtel Road, Willits CA 95490. State of incorporation: California. 33-1343470.

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on 11/14/2025.

/s/ Jeff Yokum, President, Yover OK, LLC
Publication Dates: October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025

LEGAL NOTICES

WW574

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Shawn David Blower

CASE NO.: 25PR00394

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Shawn David Blower

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Gavin Blower in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that: Gavin Blower be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action). The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

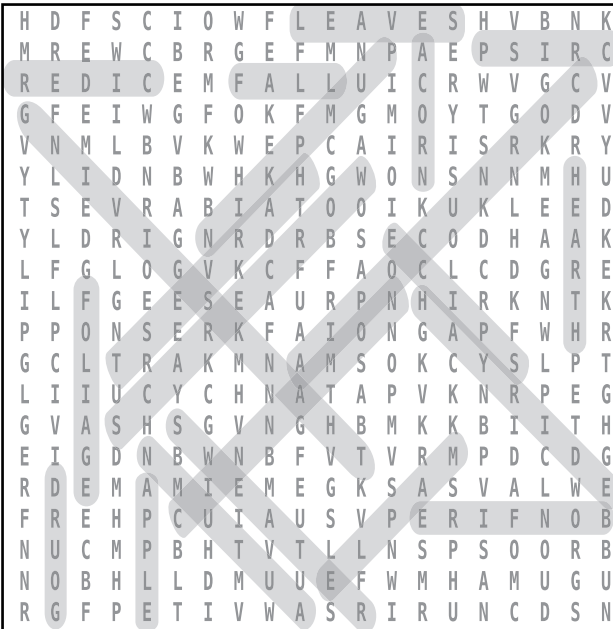
DATE: 12/19/2025 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept.: E, located at: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner: Gavin Blower
1220 East 7th Ave, Unit 213 Tampa, FL 33605
(727) 902-3293

Publication Dates: November 20, 26 and December 4, 2025



LEGAL NOTICES

WW575

CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Annual Invitation for Inclusion on the 2026 City of Willits List of Qualified Bidders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that:

The City of Willits is soliciting applicants for its 2026 List of Qualified Bidders. Interested parties should complete the City of Willits Informal Bidding Annual Pre-Qualification Application for 2026 and submit to Brandy Sanderson at:

bsanderson@cityofwillits.org

or

Brandy Sanderson
City of Willits

111 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490

Re: 2026 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.

Request should be received by December 31, 2026.

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: 11/20/25

Publication Dates: November 20, 26, December 4, 11, 2025

Advertisement for Eastside Ranch, featuring a cow logo and text: 'Locally raised in Willits, organically fed and pasture raised Beef, Pork and Lamb'. It also mentions 'Personal and Commercial orders available' and provides contact information for Melissa at (707) 513-5705.

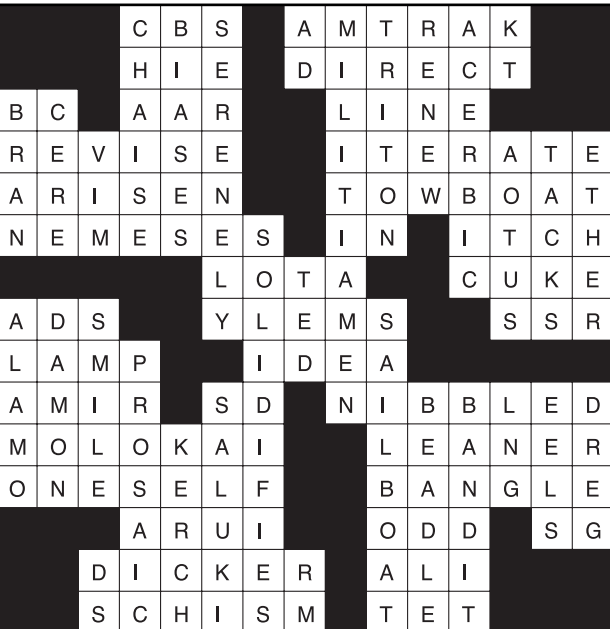
Advertisement for Rotary Club of Willits, featuring a rotary logo and text: 'People of Action', 'Serving our Community Since 1948', 'www.willitsrotary.org', and 'WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com'.

The rest of Boxes | From page 5

youth game room, a youth religious school, a toddler playroom, pastor's office, chapel, a large reception area, and other rooms necessary to the church.

In addition to the new surroundings, the church has welcomed a new pastor into their community. Alex Estrada, although only 26 years old, has been a youth pastor in Buckeye, Arizona for the last four years. He looks forward, enthusiastically, to serving the congregation, whom he observes is "an amazing congregation. It's been a good two weeks here," said Estrada. "It's a lively church. A lot of people participate. I'm excited about serving the community and I'm happy to be here."

When asked about the main tenets of the church, he replied, "The main characteristic of Calvary Chapel is the emphasis of verse-by-verse Bible teaching, teaching the word of God. It's something like you see in scriptures that the purpose of the church is for the equipping of the saints for the ministry. All of us, everyone who is in Christ, is a saint and each of us has a purpose of serving God. That is through serving one another. That's things like we are doing here, packing Christmas boxes for kids. Any way we can serve others is the way that we are serving God, bringing God's glory to them."



CLASSIFIEDS

Advertisement for Brown Bag Lunch Program by Teresa, stating: 'Every Saturday at 1 pm sack lunches are served by local churches, community organizations, and families at Bud Snider Park on East Commercial. . Come at 1 pm to be assured a lunch!'.

Advertisement for RV/Trailer Space for Rent, stating: 'Space for RV's and Trailers - starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at http://www.oakvine.net/lp'.

Advertisement for Firewood, Fir, 1/2 cord delivered \$150.00. Call 707-354-4394.

Advertisement for Free Food for All Pop-Up, stating: 'Mendocino Food Network presents food pop-ups with free food for all on first Thursdays of the month; 10 to 11:30 am. 1250 Blosser Lane, Willits. Info: Rachelle@mendocfood.org or 707-615-6654'.

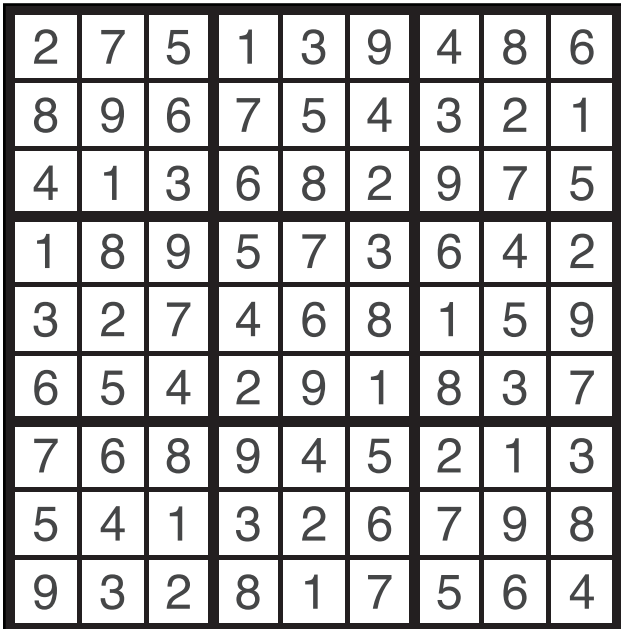
Advertisement for Help Wanted, stating: 'Local nonprofit seeks an Office Organizer independent contractor with experience in Google Drive, databases, mailing and electronic file organization for part-time work. Email resume to info@rednet.org to schedule an interview.'

Advertisement for Want to support Willits Weekly?, stating: 'Help support our free-circulation community newspaper by becoming a "street subscriber"! You send in an annual donation, and pick up the edition on the street each week! We love our regular subscribers too: \$75 for home delivery in the Willits area; \$100 for a year's subscription in the U.S. mail. Visit https://form.jotform.com/61915582053153 for a sign up form and more info.'



At top: Carrie Hoefler shows a couple of the Lite Brite kits that will go in some of the boxes. Above: The new lobby is light and airy and fills with congregants on Sundays.

Photos by Mathew Caine





Clockwise, from above, left: "The Older Sister" by Natyia Whipple. "From the Ashes She Rises" by Hadassah Greensky. "Two Flickers" by Hadassah Greensky. "Elsie III" by Luna Enriquez.



'Native Now: K'edi Wadim' opens at Mendocino College Gallery

Submitted by Mendocino College

Ukiah – Mendocino College Gallery is honored to announce the opening of "Native Now: K'edi Wadim" (meaning "Walk Well" in Northern Pomo dialect), an exhibition featuring contemporary art by artists of Native American descent living and working today.

The show celebrates Indigenous creativity, heritage, and resilience through a diverse range of artistic expressions, from drawing, painting, and photography to regalia, beadwork, weaving, and basketry.

The opening reception takes place on Thursday, November 20, 2025, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at the Mendocino College Gallery, 1000 Hensley Creek Road, in Ukiah. The event is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be provided.

The exhibition runs through February 8, 2026, with gallery hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 3:30 pm, and Wednesdays from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Visitors should check the website for limited hours during winter break or make an appointment by contacting gallery@mendocino.edu.

Most participating artists are from the local community, highlighting the region's vibrant Native American heritage. The exhibition also features artists from Kansas City, Portland, Oregon, and across California, providing a broad

spectrum of Indigenous perspectives.

Participating artists include: Chris Archer, Melody Clearbrook, Mona Cliff, Luna Enriquez, Tanya Estrada Ruiz, Jocelyn Garcia, Bonnie Lockhart, Meyo Murrfo, Corine Pearce, Chris Polk, Victoria Ramos, Buffie Schmidt, Allegra Silveira, Tony Smith, Monique Sonoquie, Lina Veronica, Daniel Weber, Natyia Whipple, Kyle Whiterock, Callia Williams, Candace Zamora, and more.

Mendocino College proudly supports the largest population of Native American students of any community college in California. This exhibition reflects the College's commitment to honoring Native cultures and fostering a thriving community of Indigenous scholars and artists.

Alongside Mendocino College Gallery Director Jazzminh Moore, the exhibition was co-juried by Kyle Whiterock of the Native American Student Resource Center and Victoria Ramos, a Financial Aid Technician, both of Northern Pomo descent. This collaborative effort reflects colleagues working together across the College to bring this vibrant show to life.

For more information, contact Mendocino College Gallery at (707) 468-3207, email gallery@mendocino.edu, or visit www.mendocino.edu/art-gallery.



At far left: The view to the west of Ukiah from the fuel break at the top of Low Gap Road. At left: Lop and scatter work on the Low Gap Road Forest Resilience Project. This practice redistributes woody material, especially smaller diameter material that is likely to break down quickly, around a site where material has been cut. Below: Mendocino Redwood Company's Director of Forest Policy John Andersen and Mendocino Redwood Company forester Cody Easton discuss the fuel break during a tour this summer of the work the partners had done around Low Gap Road.

Photos by Sarah Reith

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FRIENDS OF THE WILLITS LIBRARY REPORT

Friends of the Willits Library meetings are held monthly at the library on the third Saturday at 10 am.

The Willits Friends has continued to focus its efforts on providing financial assistance for programs and specific needs for the library. The updated roster has close to 250 members, and there are increased efforts to recruit more members.

The Willits Friends has a permanent for-sale bookshelf, offers weekend sales in the meeting room twice yearly, and provides several pop-up book sales. Working with Better World Books has provided some income as well as a means to get all usable books into readers' hands.

There are free adult and children's books available at the site and these are also provided to the food bank and other community areas.

Recently, the Friends administered the Downey Fund, which began with a \$10,000 donation earmarked for non-fiction books for the Willits Branch. Members can continue to donate specifically to this fund or choose to make general donations.

In addition to funds provided for program and specific needs, this year the Friends will contribute \$10,000 towards the book collection.

The completion of the Willits Branch roof has been a welcome sight! Other needed improvements identified several years ago are now in the beginning phases of being planned toward implementation.

The Friends will work with the librarian to re-establish the working group as a way to offer input on needs and ideas.

WW RAIN BOX

Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)

location	Mon Nov 10	Tue Nov 11	Wed Nov 12	Thur Nov 13	Fri Nov 14	Sat Nov 15	Sun Nov 16	weekly total	rainfall since 01Oct25
Northbrook Way	0.01	0.01	0.04	1.63	0.01	0.02	1.07	2.79	9.56
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.00	0.00	0.03	1.77	0.00	0.00	1.02	2.82	10.28
Valley Rd	0.00	0.01	0.06	1.21	0.01	0.00	0.66	1.95	6.52
Canyon Rd	0.00	0.00	0.15	1.58	0.02	0.00	0.75	2.50	7.56
Pine Mountain	0.00	0.00	0.31	2.58	0.03	0.01	1.20	4.11	9.59
South Main @ East Oak	0.01	0.00	0.03	1.81	0.01	0.00	1.02	2.88	9.38
average	0.00	0.00	0.10	1.76	0.01	0.00	0.95	2.84	8.82

data compiled from weatherunderground (<https://www.wunderground.com>)

The first full week of November brought more rainfall to the Little Lake Valley than was received the entire month of October. Accumulation across the valley averaged 3.32 inches, well within the range predicted for the period. That brought the rain year to date average to 5.98 inches, which is a good start for the year. Look for another 2-3 inches of accumulation by the weekend.

– Tim Hanna, Willits Rain Box

The rest of RCU From page 4

Community members can sign up to donate at any RCU branch or online here: www.asgeventmanager.com/c/SantaRos0065

On December 13, volunteers will pick up the shelf-stable food from donors' homes and deliver them to local food banks and pantries.

*Source: California Association of Food Banks

Founded in 1950, Redwood Credit Union is a full-service, not-for-profit financial institution providing personal and business banking to consumers and businesses in the North Bay and San Francisco.

With a mission to passionately serve the best interests of its members, team members, and communities, RCU delivers many ways for its members to save and build money through checking and savings accounts, auto and home loans, credit cards, digital banking, business services, commercial and SBA lending, and more. RCU has more than \$9.7 billion in assets and serves more than 514,000 members with full-service branches from San Francisco to Ukiah. For more information, call 1 (800) 479-7928, visit redwoodcu.org, or follow RCU on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn for news and updates.



Above: Redwood Credit Union celebrated International Credit Union Day, October 16 this year, by donating to nonprofits and volunteering at local food banks monthly.

Photo courtesy of Redwood Credit Union

The rest of Crops From page 1

2022, with a value of \$109,012,000, up 29%. Fruits and nuts combined totaled \$127,702,000, a 32% increase, including a 23% increase in Pear production of \$17,676,000 and an Apple production increase of 125% due to corrected production acreage.

Nursery production increased by 134% due to increases in recorded acreage to \$4,269,000. Vegetable production increased by 9% to \$1,511,000. Field Crops, which include grains, hay, and pasture, decreased by 53% to \$6,545,000, primarily related to the drought conditions.

Agricultural production, excluding timber, totaled \$148,586,000. Timber was the second leading commodity, with a gross "at mill" value of \$113,181,000, a 28.5% increase over the previous year's total of \$67,128,681. Mendocino County ranked 4th in the State in timber volumes and produced roughly 8.4% of the State's total timber harvest in 2022.

Cattle production decreased significantly in the number of head (42%). Still, the price per unit was stable, even as the ongoing drought reduced forage availability, forcing ranchers to purchase supplemental feed at record-high prices. This prompted selective herd liquidations to curb costs, minimized impacts through rotational grazing, participation in the USDA's Livestock Forage Disaster Program, while preserving breeding stock. Comparative data from the 2017 and 2022 USDA Census Data indicate a roughly 55% decrease.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the agricultural industry and the various state and national agencies that furnish the necessary statistical information that makes this report possible. Using a combination of Mendocino County Crop Report Survey results and USDA NASS 2022 Census Survey data, we have made some long-overdue reconciliations/ adjustments. I would also like to thank the University of California Cooperative Extension and all the members of my staff, especially Andy Walker, John Dunsford, II, and Cannabiss Division staff, Sara McBurney, and Heidi Cremelle, for their hard work, valuable input, and assistance in producing this report.

The rest of Council From page 1

Willits Senior City Planner Swetha Venuturupalli said that the city conducted a citywide survey that received 548 responses. 78% of the people responding want food trucks operating in town. Beyond that one agreement, where and when the trucks can set up has enough differences of opinion that Mayor Tom Allman has repeatedly warned, "No one is going to be entirely happy."

Planner Venuturupalli examined mobile vending ordinances in six nearby cities and used them, along with input from food truck operators, local business owners, and the public, as a guide to propose an ordinance for Willits. Venuturupalli emphasized that the ordinance needs to "ensure compatibility with existing brick-and-mortar businesses" (stores and restaurants). Among the provisions of the proposed mobile vending ordinance:

Vendors are prohibited from operating in the public right-of-way. Vendors can set up only in commercial or industrial zones. Vendors must maintain a minimum 50 foot buffer from residential zoned properties.

Vendors may not set up within 400 feet of the high school or middle school property lines, or within 350 feet of the elementary schools. (Why vendors can be 50 feet closer to little kids than big kids was not explained.) Vendors setting up for more than an hour must locate within 200 feet of a public restroom. Vendors may not set up within 300 feet of a special event, such as Frontier Days, unless the vendor is part of the event.

There are no restrictions on the number of days a vendor can operate or how many vendors can set up at the same time. Vendors can operate only from 8 am to 9 pm.

Generators, and their noise, fumes and pollution – a major concern of some city residents – are permitted with restrictions. Generators must meet state requirements for emissions and volume levels, and "not conflict with the quiet enjoyment of property within 300 feet."

Vendors must have a Willits city business license and city zoning permit. Vendors operating in more than one location in the city will need a city zoning permit for each location. The business licenses and zoning permits must be renewed every year. Vendors must also have a state sales tax permit (resale license) and an Itinerant Permit from the Mendocino County Sheriff. Food vendors must have a county food facility permit.

The above provisions apply to all mobile vendors, not just food trucks, operating out of motorized vehicles or from trailers. There is a different, separate set of provisions for sidewalk vendors: vendors walking or sitting, or selling from a stand, a pushcart, pedal-cart or other non-motorized conveyance. The different rules for sidewalk vendors are mandated by a recent state law (SB 946) that gives sidewalk vendors much more freedom from local restrictions than trucks and trailers.

Whether all of these provisions will be in the final ordinance, or be changed, is unknown. Councilman Gerry Gonzalez was concerned with sidewalk vendors selling "stuff," referring to reports from San Francisco about street vendors selling stolen or other questionably obtained goods. Gonzalez wants the Willits ordinance to deal with that possibility, "do all our cleanup at once." Mayor Allman, obviously not fully pleased with the ordinance, stated that "I believe we need to find ways to tweak this for the better." (Councilman Bruce Burton recused himself because a mobile vendor operates on property he owns.)

The council voted to bring the ordinance back for a public hearing and possible vote, tentatively at the December 10 city council meeting.

For more information, including a staff report and the proposed draft language for the ordinance, scroll down to item 9b, in the agenda packet for the November 12 WCC meeting at https://cityofwillits.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_11122025-363

The rest of Library From page 1

library operations."

"The LAB is comprised of nine voting members, one from each district and one from each city," Savoy noted.

Current advisory board members are: District 1, Jody Nyberg (Secretary Elect); District 2, Michele Bisson Savoy (Chair); District 3, Lew Chichester; District 4, Carole Poma; District 5, Megan Riley; City of Fort Bragg, Linda Stumpf; City of Point Arena, Vacant; City of Willits, Olga O'Neill (Vice Chair), City of Ukiah, Susan She'r; and County Librarian, Melissa Hannum (non-voting).

"Thank you for the thorough report and for all the work that the libraries do throughout the county," said 2nd District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren. "I think that opportunities to keep our community connected happen in the libraries every single day, and I'm really proud of all of the work that you do that for every area even the outlying areas."

"The written report that I submitted," said LAB Chair Savoy, "has some really good highlights in it, including three pages of programs and services...." Savoy characterized the new roof on the Willits Branch Library as "the big highlight" for the year.

The public can check out the 2024-25 annual report, and previous years' reports at www.mendolibrary.org/about/annual-reports

A-87 charges

Chair Savoy and several supervisors did discuss an ongoing budget topic which has an impact on the Library budget, what are called A-87 charges.

"The one request that the LAB does have," Savoy said, "is we'd like a detailed report on the A-87 charges for the 2023 2024 budget. They exceeded our budget by \$220,000. And on a small budget under \$4 million, in which we allocated \$367,000 for A-87 charges, an increase of \$220,000 is a big hit. So the surprise cut is a budget buster."

Adding that decrease "to the loss of the money from the state, due to the federal grants cuts," Savoy said, "has forced the library to cut services, personnel, and programs going forward."

Supervisor Ted Williams suggested the budget ad hoc committee might help the Library get their questions answered about A-87 would be something that they would be willing to work on. Because it does seem as though it's been a question for quite some time. I could definitely support that."

"That's not within the jurisdiction of the budget ad hoc," said ad hoc budget committee member and First District Supervisor Madeline Cline.

"But since this has been an ongoing discussion, it seems for years," Williams said, "and recognizing that the board can't arbitrarily decide how much A87 to charge, right? The spirit of it is to report where expenses actually occur. So my thought is, could we ask that the line items that are being charged to the library appear attached to our agenda? Can we get that in the upcoming packet? I just want for transparency ... a good starting point would be to show exactly what are the charges for county services we're attributing back to the library."

Auditor-Controller / Treasurer-Tax Collector Chamise Cubbison came to the podium to comment: "We do have a request to meet with the Library Advisory Board that we just received last week, and we will schedule that conversation. I'd just like to caution the board for assuming that there's something wrong with the A-87 [charges]. It is a massive calculation, and it is reviewed and approved by the state every year, and it is audited very closely for some programs in the county, for instance Social Services and some of the other state-funded programs.

"The methodology is something that is looked at," Cubbison continued. "The county did also previously contract with an outside consultant ... to run a concurrent calculation to determine if there were things that we were missing or if we weren't doing it properly, and the differences were very small and insignificant."

Cubbison continued: "It is my understanding that part of the issue is that the library may have budgeted based on a prior year value of the A-87, and so this year this previous year's actual amount was higher, because the cost plan was not approved at the time that the budget was prepared. So there was some difference, I believe due possibly to that factor, I'd just like to caution the board = the intention is always to recover the cost of the internal services. So, it's not about trying to charge the library as much as it possibly can."

Also, Cubbison suggested: "Because it is a two-year process, there's also kind of a true-up that happens and so sometimes there's a significant uh increase or decrease because we're always basing the next year on the experience from two years prior. So as you can imagine when we have significant salary increases there can be delays in when that is actually felt in the A-87 and so that can cause a carry forward of costs that have to be trued up," she said.

"I just want to assure the board and the public that this is a process and a document that is reviewed by the state every year and that there's procedures that have been in place," Cubbison said. "That doesn't mean that it's not possible for there to be an error in methodology ... but I'm pretty confident that that we're actually applying the A-87 costs based on what they are."

After more discussion, the board agreed to Chair John Haschak's suggestion to schedule a discussion about A-87 charges for the board's January 2026 workshop.



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