

Donations Accepted Edition No. 620

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Read the rest of
Brooktrails
Over on Page 15

Read the rest of
Just Don't
Over on Page 15



Photos by
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Jennison

– *Maureen Jennison.*

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District
Over on Page 15

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Donation
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At left: Museum volunteers gathered Tuesday to decorate for this weekend's event including, from left: Stephanie Price, Scott Ferlemen, Karen Mattson, Beth Onyon, Mark Henriques, Karen Bishop, and Mary Pappadakis (seated). Below, from left: Nightlights with metal trees and quail are available at the gift shop. Mattson smiles at a fox plushie that would make a perfect Christmas gift. The Museum will be open Saturday for viewing and crafting. At bottom, left: Little redwood tree starts would make a gift that could last a lifetime. Beth Onyon holds a beautiful quail.



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.

Wednesday, November 26: Baked Ham, Sweet Potatoes

Thursday, November 27: Center Closed; Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, November 28: Center Closed

Monday, December 1: Chicken w/ Hollandaise Sauce, Veggies, Roll

Tuesday, December 2: Western Bacon Burger, Coleslaw

Wednesday, December 3: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Cornbread, Veggies, Roll

Thursday, December 4: Carnitas Burrito, wet w/Green Sauce

Friday, December 5: Mediterranean Chicken Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

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.

Thanksgiving Dinner at the Senior Center: Willits Community Services presents the annual free Community Thanksgiving Dinner (donations welcome, Thursday, November 27 from 11 am to 3 pm.

Activities: Bingo on Friday nights, 5 to 7 pm (Center closed November 28). Exercise class weekday mornings 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 Joliana at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

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

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

County of Mendocino Winter Holiday Schedules

Submitted by County of Mendocino

All Mendocino County offices will be closed November 27 to 28, 2025, December 25, 2025, and January 1, 2026.

The following offices will be closed to the public on the additional days identified below:

Agriculture: closed November 26 at noon, December 24 -January 2, 2026

Air Quality: closed November 26 at noon, December 24 at noon, December 31 at noon

Animal Care Services: closed December 24 at 3:00 pm. Citizens looking for lost animals may leave a message at 463-4427 or visit the website address below to file a lost animal report: https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/animal-care-services Staff will be checking voice messages and receiving the lost reports via email to see if lost animals can be reconnected with their owners over the holidays.

Assessor/Clerk-Recorder: closed November 26 at noon, December 24 at noon, December 31 at 2 pm

Auditor-Controller: closed November 26, December 24 - December 26, December 31 - January 2, 2026

Child Support Services: closed December 22 - December 26

County Counsel: closed November 26 at noon and December 24 - January 2, 2026

Executive Office: closed November 26 at noon and December 24 - January 2, 2026

Environmental Health: closed November 26 at noon, December 22 - December 26, December 31 at noon, January 2, 2026. Closed to the public; routine field inspections will continue on all non-holiday workdays.

Health Services: closed November 26 at noon, December 24 - January 2, 2026; open for

appointments only.

Human Resources: closed November 26 at noon and December 24 - January 2, 2026

Library closed: November 26 at 2 pm, December 24 - December 31

Museum: closed November 26, December 24 - December 27, December 31 - January 3, 2026

Planning & Building Services: closed November 26 at noon, December 22 - December 26, December 31 at noon, January 2, 2026.

Probation: closed November 26 at noon, December 24 at noon, December 26, December 31 at noon, January 2, 2026

Retirement Association: closed November 26 at noon and December 24 - January 2, 2026

Social Services: closed November 26 at noon, Soft Closure on December 24, December 26, December 31, January 2, 2026 - Emergency service available for Employment & Family Assistance Services. Adults and Children's Emergency Response will continue via the Hotline throughout.

Sheriff-Coroner: closed November 26 at noon, December 24, December 31 at noon. All emergency services will still be provided 24 hours a day.

Treasurer/Tax Collector: closed November 26, December 24 - December 26, December 31 - January 2, 2026

UC Cooperative Extension: closed December 24 - December 31

The public is urged to call a department's office number in advance to confirm the availability of services. Please visit the county's website at www.mendocinocounty.gov/ for departmental contact information.

Mendocino College statement regarding faculty arrest

Submitted by Mendocino College

Ukiah, November 21 – Mendocino College is committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for our students, employees, and the broader community. This commitment guides every action we take as an institution.

On November 20, 2025, Mendocino College was informed that Jason Davis, a faculty member, was taken into custody by the Ukiah Police Department on charges involving unlawful conduct with a minor. Davis is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

While the College cannot discuss personnel matters or share details related to ongoing investigations, we can confirm that Davis was placed on administrative leave when the initial allegations surfaced. This step was taken in accordance with College policy and reflects our priority to ensure the safety and well-being of our campus community while the College conducts its own internal review.

Mendocino College is fully cooperating with law enforcement as this matter proceeds. Because this is an active legal case, the College will not be providing further comment at this time.

Comedy New Year's benefit for MCSO Search and Rescue seeks sponsors

Posted by Total Bern Productions

Mendocino County Search and Rescue and Total Bern Productions are seeking community sponsors for a New Year's Eve Benefit Dinner and Comedy Show. All proceeds from the event, December 31 from 6 to 9 pm at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center, will go to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue program.

What comes with your sponsorship?

Diamond Sponsors (\$1500) get all the bells and whistles of their logos (large) on the posters, on all graphics and advertising online and on paper graphics, and a VIP table for 8 at the dinner event. As well as being thanked in

Read the rest of Comedy Over on page 4



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Country Quilts and Crafts for generously providing their machines and space for the Willits Frontier Days Jrs. to create stockings for the Christmas program. We also appreciate the Grapevine Quilters Guild of Mendocino for their remarkable contribution of over 200 handmade stockings. A special thank you goes to Pam Parrish for her efforts in bringing everyone together and guiding the Juniors in their sewing endeavors.

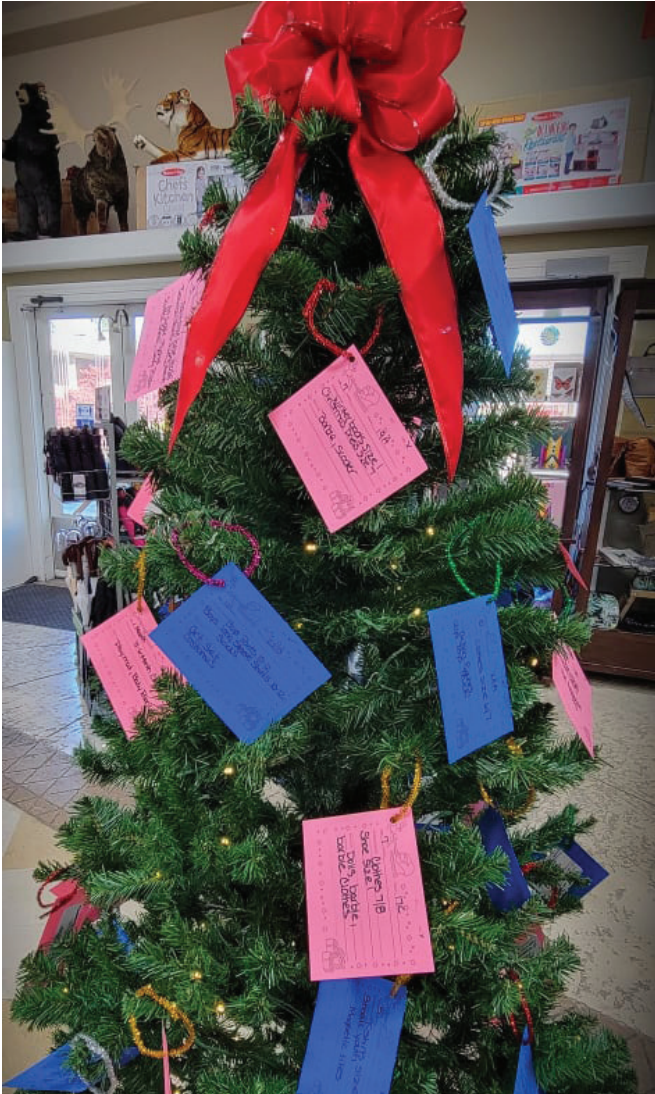
Tag Tree and Willits Frontier Days Juniors Christmas Program Update

The 2025 Christmas Program is officially underway, with the donated stockings collected from the Grapevine Quilters Guild of Mendocino and Carol Bartow. The Willits Frontier Days Juniors are currently working on filling these stockings with treats. We have received our Santa list, and the tags have been completed and distributed to various local businesses, including JD Redhouse, Mazahar, Coast Hardware, Willits Les Schwab, Adventist Howard Memorial Hospital, and 101 Trailer and RV. Look for the trees covered with blue and pink tags.

Drop boxes have been set up at JD Redhouse, Willits Les Schwab, Coast Hardware, and Mazahar. As tags are filled, please deposit them in one of the bins so our elves can wrap and prepare the gifts for distribution to families in need. If you prefer to donate items without selecting a tag, those can also be placed in the drop bins.

Additionally, don't miss the Willits Wild Bunch Toy Run this Sunday — come join the festivities! For any inquiries, feel free to reach out to Marcy at 707-272-5395 or Hailey at 707-272-1088; they both work full-time, so please leave a message if they are unavailable. We extend our heartfelt thanks to this incredible community for coming together to make this program a success. The Willits Frontier Days crew truly appreciates your support.

Submitted by Marcy Barry for Willits Frontier Days



Above: Taylynn Arteaga wraps gifts at the holiday headquarters. Below: Elves, including from left, Emmie Arteaga, Danielle Barry, and Trinita Freudenberg, smile while they assemble stockings that will be delivered along with the Christmas gifts to those in need. At left: Trees bearing tags with the wishes and wants of youth in the community hang on trees at several local businesses.

Photos by Marcy Barry



Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)									rainfall since 01Oct25
location	Mon Nov 17	Tue Nov 18	Wed Nov 19	Thur Nov 20	Fri Nov 21	Sat Nov 22	Sun Nov 23	weekly total	
Northbrook Way	0.35	0.00	0.42	0.12	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.92	10.48
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.34	0.00	0.43	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.89	11.17
Valley Rd	0.30	0.00	0.31	0.09	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.72	7.24
Canyon Rd	0.50	0.01	0.37	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.98	8.54
Pine Mountain	0.73	0.01	0.27	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.12	10.71
South Main @ East Oak	0.35	0.01	0.45	0.13	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.95	10.33
average	0.43	0.01	0.37	0.11	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.93	9.75

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

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.

Willits Rain Box

Two cool rain systems moved through the Little Lake Valley last week, bringing an average accumulation of 0.93 inches. This brought the November month to date total to 7.1 inches, where it will likely remain, as dry conditions are predicted through month end. The dry days will come with clear, chilly nights, bringing the possibility of frost to the valley.

Tim Hanna, Willits Rain Box

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Willits Weekly

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

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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In the mail: ☐ 1 year - \$100 ☐ Additional donation included \$ _____

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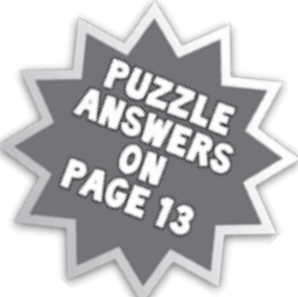
Valid only November 28th 2025

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Advanced



HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

SHOPPING WORD SEARCH

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

aisle	bag	cashier	inventory	receipt
barcode	checkout	clearance	mall	refund
boutique	coupon	delivery	merchandise	retail
budget	discount	online	price	sale
cart		purchase	shopper	storefront

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

CLUES ACROSS

- Popular wine — Spumante
- Greatly impressed
- ___ and that
- Uttered with passion
- Boats
- Veteran actor Harris
- Casserole with game
- Reprehensible acts
- They precede C
- Says under one's breath
- Taxis
- It transfers genetic info
- NFL great Randy
- Where college students sleep
- Major European river
- Taco condiment
- frutti
- Polish city
- Astronomy unit
- Khoikhoi peoples
- Bears QB Williams
- Scrambled, fried, boiled
- Price indicators
- One-time world power
- When you hope to get somewhere
- Farm building
- Choose carefully
- Magnum was one
- One who combines
- Nursemaids
- Partner to Pa
- Notable river
- Officially honors
- Colorless compound
- A fancy chair
- Email function

CLUES DOWN

- The central area in a building
- Religion of Japan
- Leggings
- Officially distributes
- Arabian Sea seaport
- Spanish doctors
- It cools your house
- Currency of Poland
- Slowly moves into
- Days (Spanish)
- Unit of volume
- Emit
- With two replaceable hydrogens
- Title for a man
- Equally
- Scarlett's home
- One-time tech titan
- Subway dwellers
- One-tenth of a liter
- Central European river
- Distress signal
- Expression of sympathy
- The bill in a restaurant
- Football equipment
- Dance music
- Russian river
- Cosmetics giant Mary —
- Gym class
- Automobiles
- Roman honorific
- Losses in sports
- Skin tone in summer
- Distant planet
- Critical humor
- Illegally obtained
- Go back over
- Home appliance brand
- Unit of radioactivity
- Home of the Flyers
- Short official note
- Emit coherent radiation
- Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- Most common noble gas (abbr.)
- Toward

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

November 10 to November 16

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **72 incidents** in this 7-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

November 10

11:42 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Madrone Street.

7:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

November 11

4:57 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Monica Lane and Margie Drive and issued a warning.

5:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Alder Court and Alder Lane and issued a warning.

6:02 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

7:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:24 pm: BUTTREY, Kenneth Wayne (67) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance.

November 12

1:23 am: WILEY, Tristin Marlene (30) was contacted in the 1100 block of Poplar Avenue following a disturbance. She was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of carrying a concealed dirk or dagger, illegally entering a dwelling, contempt of court (disobeying a court order), and disorderly conduct (alcohol).

11:19 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

2:34 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of State Street and issued a warning.

7:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

7:50 pm: PICKETT, Jason Edward (48) of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence (any drug), possession of a substance similar to toluene, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The rest of Comedy | From page 2

a press release, in addition they will have their business highlighted at the show.

Gold Sponsors (\$750) Same as diamond with (medium sized) logo with shared sponsor table for 4.

Silver Sponsors (\$500) would receive a mention in the online advertising, a small sized logo from their company, and 2 VIP dinner tickets and their logo included on the poster.

Why is this important?

Because funding for Search and Rescue does not come from Mendocino County or the Mendocino County Sheriff Office budget. Funding comes solely from generous donations from the community. All proceeds from this event will be given directly to Search and Rescue.

Who are we?

Total Bern Productions is a family-owned Ukiah small business. We are a full-service DJ, Sound, and Comedy production company. We have been producing comedy in and around Mendocino County for over seven years. Over the last four

November 13

10:45 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

2:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West Van Lane.

10:32 pm: CURTIS, Rickie Allen (52) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Central Street and Alameda Avenue. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol) and contempt of court (disobeying a court order).

November 14

12:13 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:44 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

3:31 pm: ANDERSON, Brent William Bear (39) of Westport was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (drugs and alcohol) and drinking alcoholic beverages in public.

10:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Mian Street and issued a warning.

November 15

10:53 pm: FIGGHOBLYN, Amanda Irene (25) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, contempt of court (disobeying a court order), and violation of probation.

November 16

2:40 am: VALADEZ, Kaitlyn Kaylee (20) of Bakersfield was contacted in the 400 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or greater, and person under 21 with a blood alcohol content of 0.01 percent or greater.

2:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and West Valley Street and issued a warning.

3:14 pm: FLORESVAZQUEZ, Carlos Enrique (31) of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of child cruelty, and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or greater, and driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or greater.

4:37 pm: DELBELLO, Jonathon Andrew (34) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

years, we've given away over \$150k to local non-profit groups and our schools.

Why are we doing this?

Because we have a great platform to help our community, and we want to continue to support local non-profits that make a difference in our community.

Why should you be involved?

Because it's the right direction to send your support in the community. Because giving back to our community sends a clear message to local consumers about local businesses and that they care.

To learn more about sponsoring this benefit for Search and Rescue, contact Total Bern Productions at totalbernproductions@gmail.com or Jake Bernie at 1-707-367-2370.

To send a sponsorship check, please make check payable to "Mendocino County Search and Rescue" and mail to Mendocino County Search and Rescue, 951 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, CA 95482, attn: Jared Chaney.

Have something to say?

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor about local issues. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com REMEMBER: Deadline is end of day Monday for each week's Thursday edition.

'Train'ber Mixer

Local movers and shakers enjoy a special trip on the Skunk Train's Christmas Train

The city of Willits and the Little Lake Valley are unique. They are as modern as they want to be, but adhere to many of the values and ways of the past. Willits Frontier Days presents the oldest continuous rodeo in California and will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary next July 4. Roots of Motive Power preserves history in its love of the steam-powered era, with its weighty implements: railroad engines, steam shovels, steam donkeys, and more.

But the gem that brings over 24,000 curious and adventure-seeking people to the town is the famous Skunk Train, with its loud whistle and twice-daily excursions (except the Christmas Train which has four trips per day). Although, for the time being, the Skunk no longer travels all the way to Fort Bragg, it still provides breathtaking views, the feeling of journeying back in time to an era when trains were the primary means of transportation, and a strong sense of history. Most importantly, it provides fun.

Last Tuesday, November 18, the very active Willits Chamber of Commerce invited many of the business and political leaders of the city to a mixer, an event where the people could meet, exchange cards and stories, and learn about the Skunk Train and its impact on tourism and the financial effect it creates.

"This is a mixer for the Skunk Train, to remind everyone what an asset it is to the community, and how much it brings to the community," stated John Kvasnicka, Chamber board member. "What would we be without them? What kind of community would we be without a tourist attraction that brings, roughly, 24,000 people to our community. Those are stats that are from the Skunk Train.

"How do we as a business community capture some of this, and bring it to our community, have the visitors spend the night, partake in the restaurants. It's a big population that's dropped right in the middle of our community. How do we capitalize on it? We have to have a way to keep them here. We need to have our business community remember that they are here. I think people have become complacent. They hear the horn, they see the train. It brings 24,000 people to the community."

Willits City Councilmember Matthew

Alaniz enjoyed his time on the train, meeting people that normally he might not get to see, riding one of Willits' biggest attractions, and watching the beauty of the surroundings pass by.

"This is real fun," said Alaniz. "When I thought the Chamber of Commerce was putting something on, a mixer social, I thought this would be a great opportunity to meet some of the leaders and business leaders of the community. Not just to meet them, but to relax around them, have fun with them. That's what I wanted to come for, to talk with people and put our best Willits foot forward.

"This is a great part of our town, the Skunk Train," Alaniz said. "I think it's something unique, something that is a draw to our community, and people drive to come experience this type of throwback entertainment.

"You can't get this just anywhere," he continued. "It is unique to Willits. It ties in with our local downtown business area. It's ideal to both promote and bring people together. It's one of the largest operations to bring money into the town."

The Skunk Train has been around for a long while, previously carrying passengers to and from the coast, as well as goods. Many people in the town have memories of growing up with the train's whistle blowing several times a day. Some have more intimate memories, like City Councilmember Gerald Gonzalez, who mused, "I used to work for the Skunk Train as a kid. I cleaned the train during the day. My dad used to work for the company as a section crew foreman from Northspur to Willits. He worked on the track with his crew. He retired after 35 years with the company. It's a good treasure to have in town."

The Skunk Train was represented by Stathi Pappas, General Manager of the Skunk Train. "Starting this weekend, we're going to be bringing over 10,000 here to be riding the Skunk Train and Mr. Skunk and the Giant Christmas Tree, happening between this weekend and the end of December, so thousands of people are going to be visiting your local area. We want all of you to see your piece of that action.

Read the rest of Mixer | Over on page 15



At top, from left: Willits business owners Martin and Saprina Rodriguez have made a new skunk friend in the Skunk Train gift store. Tamar Kaye of Mendocino Spirits pours generous samples of Crispin Cain's brews. Lisa Kvasnicka, owner of Scoops Deli, and Jill Persico, of the Loose Caboose, are on the board of directors for the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Above: Some of the riders chose to enjoy the comfort of the inside cars where they could have a seat and enjoy the passing terrain. Below, left: Willits Mayor Tom Allman sings a Christmas carol with Singing Conductor Malakai Schindel. Below, right: Gary Martin, art lecturer and past curator of the Willits Center for the Arts, is ready to board, with Lou Celaya. At bottom, left: The bar car was quite popular during the journey. At bottom, right: Willits Chamber board member John Kvasnicka, along with Jill Persico and David Cruz, call the winners of the raffle.



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Friends of the MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM

400 East Commercial Street Willits, CA Contact us at FOTMCM@GMAIL.com



Above, from left: The Gardener's Pantry at Sparetime is getting to look a lot like Christmas. Jaime Wilkes and Laurin Hosford get prepared to run the Pumpkin Succulent class. Laurin is holding her own pumpkin arrangement. Laurin Hosford gives suggestions to a couple of the participants. At right: All of the completed arrangements are placed on a table for photos and videos. Below: Anna declares that her gourd is finished. At bottom, left: Christine Griggs, wife of Sparetime founder Mike Griggs, enjoys creating her own pumpkin arrangement. At bottom, right: Brook Woodruff, who works at The Gardener's Pantry, decided to use this broken candle to brighten up her area since it couldn't be sold.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Fall Centerpieces

Crafters create festive pumpkin succulent arrangements at The Gardener's Pantry

The Gardener's Pantry & Decor at Sparetime Supply has proven that one does not have to be an artist to create something beautiful. Last Saturday, under the watchful eye of Laurin Hosford and Jaime Wilkes, two sessions of crafters tried their hand at making centerpieces out of pumpkins and other gourds, utilizing some natural materials: moss, succulents, berries, branches, acorns, and more. The intrepid crafters turned their gourds into works of art that would last many months and grace any Thanksgiving table and beyond.

"This is a pumpkin succulent arrangement class," explained Hosford. "We have a whole bunch of pumpkins that people will get to pick. Then, we have succulents that are the main exciting part of the arrangement, and we have a lot of beautiful additions to use to make a piece for your fall table. They last for around six to eight months. We don't carve the pumpkins. We use moss and build a base on the pumpkins and glue the other pieces on top of that.

"If you spray the succulents periodically with water, they will stay alive. They can last six to eight months, depending on where you store them and the temperature and so on."

"We decided to do this class last year, for the first time," added Wilkes. "Laurin did a pumpkin display for her home and we thought it would be a great idea to have people in the community come and do it for fun for a minimal fee. Then they have a centerpiece for fall and winter that they created themselves. I think that we have about 20 people signed up through the two sessions. We have around eight to 10 signed up for the 1 pm session and the rest at 2:30. We like to do two classes. That way we're able to walk around and help and give ideas. We also offer a discount in The Gardener's Pantry for those in the class. Today, they get 15 percent off."

Hosford instructed the participants on how to create their pumpkin succulent art: "I picked this pumpkin. The top is ugly but it doesn't really matter. If you want to take off

Read the rest of Succulents Over on page 13




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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.

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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.

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From far left: A Mad Hatter Tea Party guest shows off her beautiful hat. Some of the lovely china cups tea drinkers enjoyed at the Mad Hatter Tea Party. Mad Hatter John Keleher and Rachel Britten, creator of scones and laughter. Photo by Annie Waters.

From far left, below: A Tea Party table set for arriving guests. Tables of tea drinkers enjoy the Mad Hatter's Tea Party at the Grange. Julia Sotomayor as the March Hare and her friends had a lively time.

Below: Producers Annie Waters and Claudia Wenning were pouring tea at the November 9 Mad Hatter Tea Party.



Mad Hatter Tea Party at the Grange a 'sparkling success'

By Annie Waters, for the Grange

The Mad Hatter Tea Party was a spectacular and sparkling success! We drank tea from beautiful china cups, poured from vintage teapots, special herbal blends for either the immune system, relaxation, or body mind spirit uplift.

Most of the herbs came from the Grange garden and from those who have been tending the Grange garden. We educated the attendees about the herbs in their drink and their food as part of our mission to teach wellness, and herbal remedies for home health needs. Fun and humor to deliver our message.

There were great hats and beautiful people under those hats at the November 9 event. Look at the photos to see how much fun and how beautiful everyone looked! So proud of our community on a day like this.

We planned for 30 and ended up seating 50 people!

The Tea Party treats were carefully selected to be similar to traditional British tea accompaniment, such as scones. These scones were extraordinary because they were made from our local Mendocino Grain Project flour, by Rachel Britten.

She also planted the wheat, grew the wheat, harvested the wheat, threshed the wheat, and ground the wheat into flour for these scones! What other community can claim that opportunity for their vital food system?

And applause for more delicious delights, such as the cucumber sandwiches, made by Deb Bee Gee from Reza focaccia, with local organic dill-infused goat cheese,

and topped with microgreens as well as cucumbers.

The list goes on! Everyone who contributed, volunteered, and helped with this deserves credit and to be named here. I will do my best.

Diane Smalley brought our major protein item in the form of a lovely custard, baked from all organic local ingredients, whole milk and eggs, a traditional way to feed children or elders who are feeling poorly, or people who need protein and are uninterested in food. Because everyone is interested in custard! Wellness disguised as a dessert.

Devora Stern made her famous secret recipe brownies, using her neighbor's eggs, and local walnuts.

Karina McAbee developed a gluten-free, no sugar, dairy-free lemon Ashwagandha poppyseed muffin that disappeared quickly, although many wanted another helping.

A special thank you to Claudia Wenning for supporting and helping with this event from the minute it was conceived, even though it was a crazy idea that grew too big for its own britches, or perhaps its own hat!

And most of all, we applaud and offer a big thank you to the Little Lake Grange, for supporting and hosting this event, free to the public.

Despite the costs, we were supported most entirely by the National Grange Rural Life Initiative, who through their generous grant allowed us to offer many free events educating our community about resilience, sustainability, and wellness in 2025. Thank you to the National Grange.

WELL (Willits Economic Localization) Presents

SOUP-ER YEAR-END PARTY
SIP SOUP & BREAK BREAD

Sunday
December 7th
4:00-6:30pm

@ the HUB
630 South
Main Street

Brainstorm with Community
- Bring Ideas to Fruition
Short WELL Membership Meeting

For info, contact mstrong827@outlook.com or ljtrowland@gmail.com

FILL YOUR BOWL AND YOUR SOUL.

WELL hosts 'Soup-er Year-End Party,' December 7

Submitted by WELL

Fill your bowl and refresh your soul at a "Soup-er Year-end Party" hosted by WELL (Willits Economic Localization) on Sunday, December 7 from 4 to 6:30 pm at the Hub, 630 South Main Street (two doors south of Mariposa Market) in Willits. This is a FREE event.

WELL will provide choices of vegan and organic soups, brought by our board members and Marie Blancas (caterer and owner of Moon Lady). We also have donations of delicious breads from Tam Adams of Emandal Farm and Reza's Breadery. If you wish you can bring munchies or side-dishes.

In addition to sipping soup and breaking bread, we'll review previous ideas and develop new ones for moving WELL and our Willits community towards a more sustainable future. For a few examples: improving walking and bike-riding opportunities; community/town hall meetings; local food feasts; involving youth; services for mental health and the unhoused; and emergency preparedness.

We'll also have a short WELL membership meeting to elect our Coordinating Committee members (as required by our non-profit bylaws). This is a good time to become a member or renew for 2026!

For more info, contact mstrong827@outlook.com or ljtrowland@gmail.com.




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P.O. Box 489, Willits
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
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"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
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Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-
6-7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-
7-8:00 p.m.

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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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ALL ARE WELCOME
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St. John Lutheran Church
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(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
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707-459-5714
Friendly, open worship
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Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
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www.willitsumc.org
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If you want to be included in
this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com



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.

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. Donations always welcome!

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 to-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
New Exhibit and Woodland Crafts at the Museum: Make a Woodland Acorn Ornament or Enchanted Forest Wand, enjoy the hot cocoa bar, and participate in a scavenger hunt. Plus, browse the museum's new exhibit, 'Mark Your Calendar: Post, Parcels and Paper,' 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.

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

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



Christmas Program. All are welcome for this event sponsored by Willits Wild Bunch.

Tuesday, December 2
Eckankar Meeting at the Library: Join us for the spiritual discussion: 'Sound of Soul-How can an ancient mantra help with everyday challenges?' December 2 from 11 am to noon at the Willits Library. More info call Joy: 707-367-3777. (This program is neither sponsored by nor affiliated with the Mendocino County Library.)

Wednesday, December 3
Trivia Night at Northspur Brewing Co: Put your knowledge to the test on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 6:30 pm at Northspur Brewing Co., 101 North Main Street.

Thursday, December 4
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, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.
Free Food at Mendo Food Network: First Thursday of each month (excluding federal holidays) receive free food from 10 to 11:30 at 1250 Blosser Lane, Willits.

Friday, December 5

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.

'No Snow' Talent Show & Sale at Willits Charter School: Come out for these student performances and do some holiday shopping at the sale featuring ceramics, plants, gifts and more on Friday, December 5 at 6 pm at the Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Tickets

\$5, free for students.

Wolf Tree at Northspur Brewing Co: Acoustic Americana first Friday of the month from 6 to 8 pm at Northspur Brewing Co., 101 North Main Street.

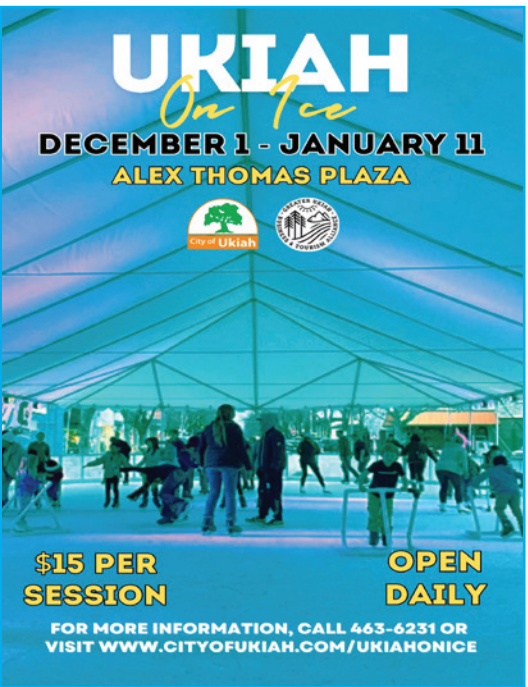
Saturday, December 6
Holiday Express at Roots of Motive Power: This free event features train rides, lighted trees, refreshments and a raffle, as well as Take-and-Make crafts and Book Sale at the museum. Plus meet Santa and receive a small gift! Saturday, December 6 from 11 am to 4 pm at Roots of Motive Power, 420 East Commercial Street, Willits.

Holiday Small Works Show opens at WCA: Purchase handmade gifts by local artisans and enjoy local art plus seasonal food and libations in a festive space. Opening reception is Saturday, December 6 from 6 to 8 pm at Willits Center for the Arts.



Vendors needed for Friends of Round Valley Library Holiday Market, December 12

This community market will feature holiday gifts, crafts, lunch and dinner vendors and a Farmers Market and be held from 11 am to 4 pm on Friday, December 12 in Covelo. If you have art, crafts or treats to sell and would like to be a vendor, email Patricia at commonsmanager@gmail. \$15 per booth.



NOVO Theater Willits, CA.
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
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Mid week promotions: Wednesday - Matinee prices to all shows all day.

ZOOTOPIA 2
(PG) 1hr 48m
Wed/Thur: 4:00, 7:00
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Wed/Thur: 4:00, 7:00
Showtimes: November 28 to December 4

WICKED: FOR GOOD
(PG) 2hr 17m
Fri: 3:15, 6:30
Sat/Sun: 2:30, 6:30
Wed/Thur: 3:15, 6:30
Closed Monday/Tuesday

TRAIN DREAMS
(PG) 1hr 42m
Fri: 4:15
Sat/Sun: 1:30, 4:15
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Thrifty Thursday: \$8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.

PREDATOR: BADLANDS
(PG13) 1hr 46m
Fri: 7:15
Sat/Sun: 7:15
Wed/Thur: 7:15



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
Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

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.



Willits Sober Grad

Willits Sober Grad Fall Raffle Basket

Pendleton Throw Blanket, Candles, Dish Towels, Stanley Cup, UgG Throw Blanket, Cutting Board, Kitchen Utensils, Chili Bowl Set, Coffee & Hot Chocolate, Gift Certificates from JD Redhouse, Whistle Stop, April May's, Loose Caboose, 101 Drive In, Kemmy's Pies, Fall Wreath from Flowers by Annette, Load of Rock from Northern Aggregates & more!

Tickets
\$5 each or \$20 for 5



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EVERYTHING in the Garden Center's Nursery and Gift Items as marked in the Garden Center

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HOLIDAY HOURS
Mon - Sat
Sunday
9 am - 6 pm
10 am - 4 pm



Harwood Memorial Park Presents the Annual Laytonville Holiday Craft Bazaar

HO HO HO!

FREE ENTRY

Pictures with Santa Claus!

See's Candies

Over 50 Local Unique Arts & Crafts Vendors!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH
10AM - 4PM

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WINTER COAT DRIVE

Donate a gently used or new coat to a Community member in need!

Nov. 21
Through
December 2025

Four Girls
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Drop your donations in the bin inside Pour Girls



THE MUNCHERY POP UP

BLACK OUT WEDNESDAY

With Black Friday bar deals

OPEN 8PM-1AM

DJ SMOKIN' JOE

SMOKIN' Beats

THE MUNCHERY

LIMITED BAR BITE MENU

ALL AGES WELCOME




WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

MEMBERS SMALL WORKS SHOW

Opening Saturday December 6
6-8pm

Submitted by WCA

The Willits Center for the Arts invites the community to celebrate the holiday season with the 9th annual Members Small Works Show, opening on Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 6 to 8 pm. This festive exhibit features a diverse collection of small, handcrafted pieces by area artists for the holiday enjoyment of the greater Willits community.

Seasonal Foods & Libations
Local Art
Handmade Gifts
Community Spirit
Festive Decor

Open Fridays-Saturdays-Sundays ~ 11-5pm
Expanded Hours 12/13 & 14 and Xmas Eve
Willits Center for the Arts
71 E. Commercial St. in Willits
www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Artists from across Mendocino County are warmly encouraged to participate, with memberships available starting at \$30. The Small Works Show offers members an opportunity to share their work in a welcoming space while supporting the vibrant arts community in Willits.

The Small Works exhibit will offer extended hours (11 am to 7 pm) on Saturday, December 14, to coincide with the Willits Holiday Craft Show, along with special Christmas Eve hours on December 24. Shoppers and art lovers alike are invited to explore and take home unique handmade gifts perfect for the holiday season. Join us in supporting our local artists and making this holiday season one to remember!



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Presents

38th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, December 13th, (10am - 7pm)

Sunday, December 14th, (10am - 4pm)

Willits Community Center, 111 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA
Willits Center For the Arts-Upstairs Gallery-71 E. Commercial St., Willits

Food Catered by Scoops, live entertainment both days, raffle to win artwork by vendors, Benefit for: Willits Center for the Arts

40 booths of fine Arts and Crafts
info at: willitscenterforthearts.org



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Above, from left: Work party photo op at Baldo Locomotive Works where behind-the-scenes repairs and creations are done. The Roots crew out in the Mendocino National Forest cutting Christmas trees for a previous Holiday Express celebration. At right: Chris Baldo, left, and Roots colleagues pose in the Engine House. Visitors to Roots of Motive Power's Holiday Express wait to see Santa.



Roots gets ready for Holiday Express, December 6

Posted by Chris Baldo, Roots of Motive Power

Holiday Greetings: The turkeys are almost in the oven, and the long month of holiday celebrations is beginning. However, Roots never gets a chance to rest. This is a busy tim e. Here's the latest:

The main Holiday Express event is Saturday, December 6 from 11 am to 4 pm, at the Roots Yard on East Commercial Street.

For Roots members, Holiday Express begins on Friday, November 28, when we cut the Xmas Trees on the Mendocino National Forest. We spray the trees with fire retardant on Saturday. Then Sunday, November 30, we begin at the Engine House at 10 am to decorate the trees, set up the display for Santa, and get the rest of the Engine House ready for the event, etc.

We will need the railroad crew to show up on Friday, December 5, to fire up the Port of Olympia #2, get the consist ready for passengers, inspect the track, grease the track, inspect journal boxes, and etc.

Saturday's December 6 event is planned

from 11 am to 4 pm. This includes the railroad crew, people at the loading platform, people in the Engine House to help with the model train display, the long line for Santa, the Roots table with cookies, and etc. It takes a lot of folks for the whole event to operate smoothly. The locomotive crew will be on station at sunrise (about 7:15 am) to get the POOH 2 ready. We need to bring Santa up to the Engine House with one of the speeders or the Whitcomb at 11 am.

Roots has also been busy in the past few months on the Daniel Best #185. Starting Monday, November 24, we will add another Daniel Best work night at Baldo Locomotive Works every Monday until the Best project is completed. We will continue the Wednesday evening work nights every week, except the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

The Roots Newsletter should finally be in the mail the week before Thanksgiving.

Hope everyone has an enjoyable and healthy Holiday!

Support food pantries for Mendocino College students

Submitted by Mendocino College Foundation

November 21 – This giving season, we know that people in our community are struggling with hunger and food insecurity. Mendocino College students are no exception. In a recent survey, 74.7% of responding students reported that they had "worried that food would run out" in the past 30 days.

Nineteen percent of Mendocino County residents currently receive SNAP benefits, yet 37.3% of the students attending Mendocino College who responded to the survey reported receiving SNAP.

This indicates a huge need that the Mendocino College Food Pantry is striving to fill, and by doing so, reducing the need for students to go to our local food banks and soup kitchens for extra groceries and meals. This helps alleviate the pressure on local, hunger-based nonprofits. There are food pantries at the main campus in Ukiah, as well as at all three Centers in Lakeport, Willits and Fort Bragg.

In addition to providing basic food assistance, donating to the food pantry also shows students that we care, that their community supports them and wants them to succeed.

"The Food Pantry and Produce Wednesday at Mendocino College have been a big help for me. Having access to the pantry allows me to balance my studies, clinicals, and personal expenses. It's a great support system for students like me," says nursing student Laricel. "People think it's just a small thing, but doing this for students makes a huge impact especially for those of us juggling long class hours, clinical rotations, and limited time to work. Knowing that there's a place on campus where I can get food and essentials makes me feel supported and cared for. It reminds me that this community college truly wants us to succeed, not



MENDOCINO COLLEGE FOOD PANTRY

GIVING TUESDAY

Students and staff at Mendocino College's Lake Center in Lakeport distributing fresh produce and pantry staples at the Food Pantry.

just academically but in our overall well-being."

How can you help? The Mendocino College Foundation is running a Giving Tuesday campaign in support of our campus food pantries. Click the QR code to make a donation. You can also visit Donate | Mendocino College Foundation or mail a check to 1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah, CA 95482, and put "food pantry" in the memo.

This holiday season, please join us in supporting today's hungry students, who may be tomorrow's Registered Nurses helping to care for you or a loved one. Thank you for your support



Come hop oh the Holiday Express for a free fun train ride.



Willits Chamber of Commerce

Fresh Starts at Our GRAND OPENING!

Join us in celebrating Willits **NEW** Hispanic Grocer, Jalos Market!

1569 South Main St., Willits, CA
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December 07, 2025
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WILLITS SENIOR CENTER INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS Store OPENING DAY

DECEMBER 6TH

Store Continues December 8th-11th

Open 9:00am - 4:00pm
Gifts / Decorations/ Trees/ & All things Christmas!

1501 BAECHTEL RD. WILLITS, CA 95490



Above, from left: Little; Powder Puff, left, and Lady Grey; Tuxedo

Kitties for Christmas

Looking for a kitten or two?

A litter of four beautiful kittens, turning 3 months old on December 7, is looking for new homes. Two boys – Powder Puff (yes, he’s a boy, he is the biggest, but his coat is so soft and fluffy!) and Little, the smallest and most elegant. Two girls – Lady Grey, a bit reserved but curious, with pretty markings in her coat, and Tuxedo, with the most beautiful white whiskers and adventurous spirit. Help can be arranged with vet costs. They live right in town now. If interested, call 707-459-2633 for more information.



ROOTS OF MOTIVE POWER PRESENTS:

HOLIDAY EXPRESS

December 6th
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
FREE FAMILY EVENT!

- FREE Train Rides
- Meet Santa & Receive a FREE Small Gift
- Wagon Full of Toys Raffle at 3:30 p.m.
- FREE Admission and Crafts at the Mendocino County Museum
- Trees, Refreshments, Decorations and More!

420 E. COMMERCIAL ST., WILLITS, CA
www.rootsofmotivepower.com



SANTA & GRINCH PHOTOS

BY MAUREEN JENNISON!



SEE SANTA

Sun 11/30:
12 to 4 pm
at JD REDHOUSE

SEE the GRINCH

Sat 11/29:
10 am to 1 pm
at TOY DEPOT

\$5 DONATION PER GROUP – DIGITAL IMAGES ONLY



The annual light show at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens features glittering pathways, festive displays, and photo ops galore – from November 28 to December 21 this year.

15th annual Festival of Lights at Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg

Submitted by Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens

Celebrate the season at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens' 15th annual Festival of Lights, a cherished holiday fundraiser supporting horticulture, conservation, education, and community programs. Each year, our dedicated staff and volunteers elevate the wonder of the season, creating an immersive experience that captivates our community and draws visitors from near and far.

The event runs rain or shine, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, November 28 to December 21. Doors open at 5 pm, with last entry at 7 pm. Purchase tickets early to guarantee your spot and save.

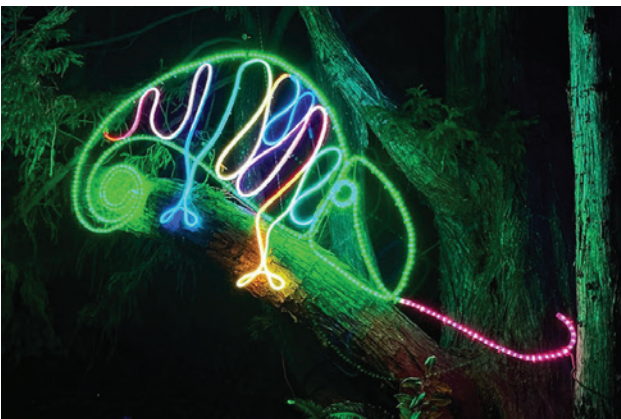
This one-of-a-kind light show features glittering pathways, festive displays, and photo ops galore. Shop for gifts at The Garden Store, sip warm drinks, and enjoy sweet treats at the Friends of the Gardens' Holiday Café. All proceeds support the Gardens. Santa Claus will visit each Sunday, with extra festivities on December 7 and 14, including face painting, a lively dance zone, and fry bread tacos from Turtle Island Tacos.

Thanks to generous community sponsors, the Gardens can host this beloved event inclusively, offering low ticket prices, free admission for children, and tickets donated to local nonprofits. Special thanks to this year's presenting sponsor, Sonoma Clean Power, whose commitment

to cleaner, renewable energy helps power our community.

Children 16 and under attend free. Tickets are available online at www.gardenbythesea.org/fol or in person at The Garden Store, open daily, 9 am to 4 pm; they will not be sold at the door once capacity is reached. A free parking shuttle runs nightly from Mendocino College, 1211 Del Mar Drive in Fort Bragg. Please use the shuttle if lots are full, and never park on Highway 1. Dogs are not permitted.

We are thrilled to welcome members and visitors back to the Gardens to celebrate the wonder, creativity, and togetherness that make the Festival shine. Every ticket grants entry to an unforgettable holiday experience and directly supports the care, programs, and beauty of the Gardens throughout the year. Bundle up, bring your loved ones, and help us keep the Mendocino Coast aglow this season.





Thru December 18!
1 lb. boxes of Christmas Wrapped See's Candy.
Get it while it lasts!
Available for purchase at our Thrift Store or in the Senior Center lobby.



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707-459-6826

The rest of District | From page 1

understand what's happening at each school site.

Also expressing appreciation for the school sites, Board Trustee Jennifer Sookne highlights Blosser Lane for handling school pickup in the rain, noting: "They had so many staff members out there with [the] kids with their umbrellas to keep them safe, and it was awe-inspiring." Unanimously, the entire board is appreciative of and informed by the principals' monthly reports, and happy with what they are reading and seeing at the school sites.

Continuing the positivity, the WUSD board heard a presentation recognizing the women's Varsity Golf Team. This is the first year WUSD has had an official girls' golf program, and both coaches thank the board, Brian Bowles, Matt Moratti, and the Willits community for their support in launching the program.

Within the area, many schools have had difficulty getting a girls' program started, and the coaches recognized that "the girls worked really hard," despite the lack of programs in the surrounding areas, ultimately finishing their season with a 4-0 win. Five members of the team were recognized for their golf season, including the team's only freshman. Along with showcasing the girls' varsity golf team, the board student representative updated the board on Willits High events and other sports team accomplishments.

Following the acknowledgement of WHS, board trustees commented on their involvement at the school sites. Trustee Sookne has been significantly involved with WHS music, stating, "The kids are amazing," and sharing that the students will be performing soon. Board Trustee April Lamprich attended the vaping presentation at Blosser Lane, sharing that she "loved it. The kids were engaged," and the presenter shared, "the effects on their brain, [and was] helping them come up with different ways to deal with stress instead of you know obviously going to vaping."

Lamprich noted that it was especially moving to watch the fifth-graders share their career aspirations, and thinks many adults could take lessons from these students. Lamprich hopes the district can implement the presentation at other school sites.

Closing comments from the trustees, President King reminded the public: "The board members that sit up here get paid no salary. We receive no dividend benefits. We make no stipend off the school district. We do this month after month, year after year, because we care deeply about kids, just as you care deeply about kids." King informed the meeting that the board cares about kids, and also staff, families, and students in the Willits community, expressing, "We are all here on the same page."

The California School Employees Association communications officer followed board comments, informing them of maintenance during the winter breaks, additional hires, and the aid they are providing to their respective departments.

She also told the board of a significant change, stating, "Come January, you are going to have a completely new E-Board for CSEA," for which elections will be held in December. In closing, the CSEA communications officer thanked the board and district leadership for their ongoing partnership and support, wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Willits Teachers Association President Brian Bowles also welcomed Brandon Ludwig, a current staff member, to the position of vice principal at WHS. Bowles also noted scheduling issues at the high school, calling for a tightening up of the master schedule, as kids are being placed in classes they haven't requested and shouldn't be in. This causes students to fall behind, Bowles said, and they are not starting positively.

Continuing, recognizing the women's golf team, Bowles emphasizes: "It's not easy starting a program, and they've all made history. Whether you realize it or not, it's historical." Bowles also advocates for special education programs and advises the district to explore other positive changes and impacts the district can make. He also notes that at understaffed sites, behavioral issues are more prevalent, and he wanted to make the board aware of this to begin facilitating an ongoing conversation about the problem.

At the end of Bowles' comments, Trustee Paula Nunez said: "Excuse me, Brian. I just wanted to publicly make it real clear that I super appreciate how thorough your comments are and how 100% you give, and I know that you're probably the last-thanked on the thank you list, you know, but in my mind, you are beyond outstanding."

To listen to the WTA president's additional concerns, the November 13 WUSD board meeting is posted on YouTube by WUSD, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAlrAZdJ4U.

After Bowles' comments, Superintendent Baker says: "I want to thank all the teachers for their hard work and dedication when I see them at school every day, rain or shine." He acknowledges and appreciates how much work teachers put into their students and their success. Baker also expresses great gratitude to classified, transportation, and custodial staff for their work and their role in keeping students safe and thriving.

Baker will be appearing at all school sites serving lunch to WUSD students. This month, a new California math framework was released, and the district is taking the necessary steps to ensure the curriculum is implemented smoothly and successfully.

The board also heard from multiple community members discussing district art programs, and student academic gaps, specifically in mathematics and literacy. After public comment, the board moved to the consent agenda, where all items were approved. The board also discussed the district's mission statement, and future changes are expected to be pending.

In closing his comments, Superintendent Baker shared: "As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to thank all of our families, staff, and community members for the continued partnership and support together. Remember that we're building a district where students feel seen, supported, and inspired to succeed."

From celebrating new programs like girls' golf to addressing academic gaps and strengthening partnerships, WUSD's fall season demonstrates a shared commitment among board members, staff, and the community to create a district where every student feels supported and inspired to succeed.

Woman arrested for DUI after hitting side of Ukiah school

Posted by Ukiah Police Department

On Saturday morning, November 22, 2025, at approximately 8:20 am, Ukiah Police Department officers were dispatched to the 700 block of South Dora Street to what was reported as an injury traffic collision with a vehicle having been driven into a school gymnasium.

On arrival, officers observed a white Mini Cooper vehicle that was resting against the corner of the school cafeteria building, adjacent to the street. Standing next to the open door of the vehicle was the suspect in this case, identified as Alexa Harz, 47, of Ukiah.

Through the open door of the vehicle, officers observed numerous cans of beer on the passenger floorboard. Harz appeared intoxicated; however, she was uninjured during the collision. Due to it being a Saturday morning, no children were present at the school at the time, and no one else was injured.

Based on obtained statements and school security camera footage, it was determined Harz had been driving westbound on Gobbi Street at an estimated 40 mph, failed to stop at a stop sign at the intersection with South Dora Street, and continued directly into the side of the school building.

The school sustained significant damage to an exterior wall. Ukiah Unified School District representatives were called to the scene to assess damages and begin arrangements for the upcoming weeks.

Additionally, the suspect vehicle had struck a guy wire supporting a City of Ukiah electric utility pole, dislodging the wire from the ground. This necessitated the response of the City of Ukiah Electric Department and Ukiah Valley Fire Authority to ensure the safety of those in the area.

Officers conducted a DUI investigation of Harz, and she was placed under arrest for the listed charges. Harz was later transported to the Mendocino County jail where she was booked on charges of: 23152 (a) CVC – Driving under the influence of alcohol and 23152 (b) CVC – Driving under the influence of alcohol over .08% BAC.

As always, our mission at UPD is to make Ukiah as safe a place as possible. If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone, and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button on our website, www.ukiahpolice.com.

The rest of Just Don't | From page 1

people died in crashes across California. Within CHP jurisdiction, 14 vehicle occupants were killed, and six of them were not wearing a seat belt. CHP officers also made more than 1,100 arrests for driving under the influence during the same 102-hour holiday enforcement effort.

Over the past five years, CHP officers have issued an average of more than 26,000 citations annually for seat belt violations. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, when worn correctly, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury for front-seat passengers by 45%.

Whether you're driving across town or across the state, the CHP urges all motorists and passengers to buckle up, drive sober, and obey the speed limit. The holidays are meant for celebration and connection – not loss. Protect yourself and your loved ones by making seat belt use a non-negotiable part of every trip.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

The rest of Donation | From page 1

Mendocino County Animal Care Services. "This gift honors Margery Pfund's legacy of compassion and commitment to animals, and it will have a lasting impact on our community for years to come."

The donation comes at a critical time, as the county continues to address pet overpopulation and promote responsible pet ownership. With these new resources, Animal Care Services will be able to reach underserved areas, assist more families, and ensure that every animal has a healthier, safer future.

For more information about upcoming spay and neuter services, please call the Animal Care Services clinic line at 707-463-4782.

The rest of Mixer | From page 5

"By all means, let's all work together and have a rising tide that raises all ships. I want to thank the businesses of all types," he addressed attendees over the train's public address.

GM Pappas reminded the attendees that Malakai Schindel is carrying on the tradition that his late father, Greg Schindel, started as the Train Singer. Malakai is now known as the Singing Conductor. Between singing almost every train song ever written, Schindel told of the upcoming Christmas Trains.

"We take you out to the world's tallest living Christmas tree, the home of Mr. Skunk, and there will be hot chocolate and a snowball fight and carols. We will have lots of elves on board and Mr. Skunk Santa."

In addition to the drinks and good cheer, the Willits Chamber raffled off some generously donated items and a 50/50 raffle where the winner takes half of the money. The Kettle Corn man, Mike Fraser, brought bags of popcorn for all the attendees, and there was a sample charcuterie box for everyone.

Tamar Kaye of Mendocino Spirits poured samples. The train was attended, in addition to the business people, by John Baker, the Superintendent of Willits Unified, Jeanne King, President of the WUSD school board; Brian Fey, the new Chief of Police; Bob Richardson, who will be taking over the reins of interim City Manager, and many more Willits influencers.

The rest of Brooktrails | From page 1

remote teleconferencing access.

Mahoney explained that the aim is to improve transparency and engagement in public meetings.

General Manager Alaniz reported that things are moving along smoothly for the administrative office staff to move out of its present location to the new address across the street; 24895 Birch Street. An Open House will be announced soon.

The first Consent Calendar item: "Review and Approval of Accounts Payable for Authorization to Issue Checks on or about November 19, 2025," was then focused on, and the amount: \$240,371.38 received unanimous board approval.

Finally, "Consideration of Resolution 2025-10 Accepting and Filing the 2025 Senate Bill 1205 Inspection Report with the Office of the State Fire Marshal."

For background: Senate Bill 1205 became effective in 2018 and requires annual inspections and reporting on schools, hotels, motels, lodging houses, and apartments/multi-family residential units. The law requires annual reporting on those fire inspections to the governing body, where the information must be accepted by adoption of a resolution.

Fire Chief Donaldson provided a memo on the results of the multi-family unit inspections, and it was attached to the staff report. Twenty-four property owners were contacted to complete the required inspections, and 19 responded to the request and received inspection.

Mahoney asked if any owners who declined the inspections would receive a negative response from the fire department, and Fire Chief Donaldson said, "No, there was no penalty involved."

The board then agreed unanimously to adopt the resolution.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW 578

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: SUSHANTA ASHMI LOKESH PARIKH, aka SUSHANTA PARIKH

CASE NO. 25PR00399

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: SUSHANTA ASHMI LOKESH PARIKH, aka SUSHANTA PARIKH.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by AMIT LOKESH PARIKH in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that AMIT LOKESH PARIKH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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: January 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 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.

Attorney for Petitioner: Alexander C. Rich, CARTER RICH PC, 305 N. Main St., Ukiah, CA 95482 Telephone: 707-462-6694

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



Black (and white!) Friday at the Skunk Train

Black Friday came early this year ... introducing the Skunk Train's biggest Annual Pass deal yet!

Get your ticket to a year of adventure with the Skunk Train Annual Pass – now just \$189 for a limited time (regularly \$399!) taxes and fees apply.

The Annual Pass gives you:

- Unlimited rides on the Pudding Creek Express and Wolf Tree Turn through December 31, 2026
- 15% off all other train and railbike experiences
- A physical pass mailed to you 3-5 business days following purchase

Glide through Mendocino County's stunning redwoods, make unforgettable memories, and give (or get!) the gift of open-air fun.

This Annual Pass offer is only available for purchase through December 8, 2025. Terms and conditions apply – don't miss out! For more information: www.SkunkTrain.com or call 707-964-6371.

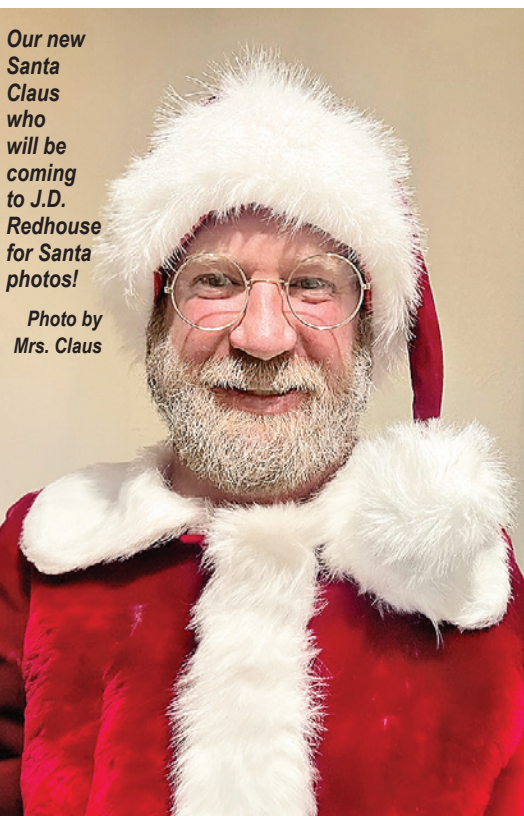


Santa & The Grinch

Come get your photo taken with your favorite holiday icon - or both! – this weekend at two local shops

Grab your onions, and come get grumpy with The Grinch during the 4th annual Grinch photo event at the Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot. Photographer Maureen Jennison will be taking professional photos for \$5 per group arrangement on Saturday, November 29 from 10 am to 1 pm, and then the public is welcome to take their own selfies after. This event is located at 262 East Commercial Street in Willits, and is a 50/50 fundraiser for the Willits Charter School. After an elf-focused year in 2024, this year, a new Santa (who can also be found "hopping" around the warehouse around Easter) will join photographer Maureen Jennison at J.D. Redhouse for the 14th annual event. The elves will also be in attendance, and will help spread cheer and share smiles with attendees. If you'd like to bring your family, friends or well-behaved pets to see the main in red, stop by 212 South Main Street in Willits on Sunday, November 30 from 12 to 4 pm. As always, digital images are \$5 each and will be available to download digitally. Santa pix are also a 50/50 fundraiser for the Soroptimist International of Willits organization. See previous years' photos: <https://photographress.zenfolio.com/pixwithsanta>

– Maureen Jennison



Our new Santa Claus who will be coming to J.D. Redhouse for Santa photos!

Photo by Mrs. Claus





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Tel 707.923.2179
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NC Financial Group 2025 awarded Gold in categories Accounting Firm, Financial Advisor (won prior in 2024), and Tax Prep. The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Incoastal Media is a vote-based contest for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are finalized and make up the official Best of Lake and Mendocino voting ballot. The audience can then vote on one choice in each category. Voters are allowed to nominate without limits and once the voting period has begun, one vote per category per 24-hour period is allowed. Listing in this publication (under award) is not a guarantee of future investment success. This recognition should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor by any client. No compensation was provided directly or indirectly by the recipient for participation or in connection with obtaining or using the third-party rating or award.

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WILLITS CENTER FOR THE



ARTS

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SMALL WORKS SHOW

Opening Saturday December 6
6-8pm



Seasonal Foods & Libations
Local Art
Handmade Gifts
Community Spirit
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www.willitscenterforthearts.org

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