

[illegible]

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 621

Thursday, December 4, 2025



Above: Photos from last weekend's sessions by local photographer Maureen Jennison with The Grinch and Santa Claus included many smiling faces and silly expressions including, from left: Lorenzo, Amelia, The Grinch and Leo. Ryatt, Remi on Santa, and Ryder with elf cousins Gracie and Madison. Siblings Nicholas and Isabella smile with The Grinch and little Russ, who wasn't too sure about the whole thing. The Jones family smiles with Santa and the Elves including Brie, Emma, Grayson and Jake. Below, from left: Willits Charter School representative and photo session volunteer Katie Lacy smiles with The Grinch. Maggie, dressed in her Elsa finest, smiles with Santa and Elf Gracie and Elf Madison. Soroptimist International of Willits members volunteered to help with the Santa photos and smile for a group photo, including back row, from left: Marie, Elf Gracie, Kitty and Elf Madison. Front row, from left: Vicki, Marilyn on Santa's lap, Barbara, holding Foxy, and Heidi.



The Grinch

Photo session raises \$400 for Willits Charter School

The Grinch visited the Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot toy store on Saturday, November 29 and smiled with attendees to help raise \$400 for the Willits Charter School.



See all the photos from this year, and the past 12 years at:
<https://photographress.zenfolio.com/pixwithsanta>



Santa & Elves

Photo session raises \$400 for Soroptimist International of Willits

Santa visited J.D. Redhouse on Sunday, November 30 and smiled with elves and attendees to help raise \$400 for the non-profit club Soroptimist International of Willits.



Above, from left: Oscar and wife, Alondra, sit with son Vicente and smile with The Grinch. Santa smiles with Weston and the elves. Colleen, holding Cinder, smiles with The Grinch and husband, Robert. Natalie sits with Santa and the elves and cousin Kason. Riata, little Fernley, and Anthony smile with Santa and the elves. Friends Ellalee and Colter sit with The Grinch. Daniel, Tate, and Wade Hosford smile with Santa and the elves. This is no first rodeo for Pearl the pup: she's seen both The Grinch, and Santa, for many years in a row.



Above, from left: Hailey Riley, from Willits Frontier Days, grabs a full plate to take out to a table. By noon, all the tables in the dining room are full of hungry and grateful diners. On Thanksgiving, plates are filled with plenty of variety.

Spirit of Thanksgiving

Willits community pulls
together to create a free,
welcoming meal for all

It has been said that love is feeding people. Every year in Willits, at the Senior Center, many facets of the community come together to create a meal to which every member of the community is invited to attend, to sit with family and friends, and quite often friends that they have never met until Thanksgiving Day. The event is under the guidance of the Willits Community Services and Food Bank, and although there was a box for donations, the entire meal was free of charge for anyone who wished to enjoy a tasty and filling meal, and to feel a part of the greater community of Willits.

Read the rest of **Turkey** | *Over on Page 14*



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you for Thanksgiving Dinner

To the Editor:
Dear Willits Community: This year's Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner event was a resounding success! It was a beautiful day, and we served over 500 meals to the people of Willits.

I am grateful for the generous sponsorship of Sherwood Valley Casino and the donations of food from Mendo Food Network, Little Lake Fire District and Willits Police Department, Thanksgiving Coffee, Emandal - a Farm on a River, and Willits Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who made this event possible. Together these donations enabled us to procure enough food to prepare a full course meal to everyone who came on Thanksgiving Day.

I am also grateful for the wonderful volunteers who prepared the food for us this year. In the past we have had one organization prepare everything for us as well as help serve the meal. This year that was not an option, and we had to go back to the drawing board to ensure that we would have all the food ready to go by the morning of the event.

Chamberlain Creek Fire Camp, Willits High School's Christy Wisdom, CAL FIRE, California Conservation Corps, Little Lake Fire District, Melinda Clarke, and Peter & Kris Brown saved the day by each cooking part of the meal.

Thanks to the folks who signed up and came to the Senior Center to set up the dining room, to deliver meals to the homebound, to help seat, wait, serve, and clean up throughout the day of the event in the dining room and in the kitchen. You were a beautiful group of individuals and I want to thank each and every person who volunteered their time to make this happen. And to Kevin Copperfield and Yvonne Wagenet, thank you for orchestrating the volunteers in the dining room and kitchen, you are both awesome. It takes many hands to pull off an event like this, and we could not have done this without you!

The Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner event has been an annual tradition, hosted by Willits Community Services and Food Bank, since before we were even an official organization. The spirit of the event is to not only feed the people of Willits, but to create a space to break bread together in gratitude for the community we live in and all that we have to be thankful for in our lives with new friends, old friends, family, and neighbors. All walks of life are welcome and represented, and the meal is always free. There is no greater gift than to experience the joy of those who came and spread this feeling throughout the day.

Thank you Richard Baker & Dorothy of the Willits Senior Center once again for the use of your space and your support and assistance. Your beautifully remodeled dining room created an even more warm and inviting experience for all who attended.

Thank you Erica Kroeson and Little Lake Grange, for making your kitchen space available to us on the days leading up to Thanksgiving. We really needed that!!

Thanks to the attendees who donated money to our cause, your generosity helps us to continue to keep our doors open, the lights on, and our families fed. And most importantly, thank you to all those that went before me who paved the way for this event. Without your experience, wisdom and guidance, I would not have had the courage to take something of this scale on. Without you, this important tradition would not have been possible. Your spirit is my inspiration and my strength and I am thankful for all of you. With appreciation,

Wendy Copperfield, executive director, Willits Community Services and Food Bank

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

December 2025

By Supervisor John Haschak

With the holidays here, Mendocino County has such a great variety of craft fairs, bazaars, food vendors, and entertainment to keep us all very busy shopping local. This certainly helps keep our dollars circulating within our communities.

Thank you to all the first responders, firefighters, law enforcement, and CHP who are there when needed most. Much appreciation to the teachers and social workers who are educating our youth, ensuring that basic needs are being met, and that there is a safety net for those in need. Their work deserves our gratitude.

I participated in the Food Insecurity workshop at the Willits Grange. People in our communities are really stepping up when others are in crisis. There are many challenges right now as the safety nets that have existed are tested. The range of support and concern for others in our communities is extraordinary. Food banks and hot meals are being provided for those in immediate need while others are providing seeds and plants, community gardens, and sharing of abundance so that gardens (or even a plant or two) can help provide for oneself. The collaboration amongst people to figure out solutions is heartwarming and a pathway to make it through these times.

The county board passed a resolution in support of the work done by the Inland Water and Power Commission regarding the Potter Valley Project. We called for more education of the public, and the IWPC sponsored a well-attended meeting on November 24. This will be the first of more to come. The board also called for efforts to be made to secure water storage along the Russian River from Potter Valley south to the Mendocino County line. This will be critical to a successful transition when the dams are removed and a new diversion project is built. I very much appreciate the efforts of the many people who have worked on securing water for Mendocino County for many years. Janet Pauli, chair of the IWPC, is an unsung hero.

Opposing offshore oil drilling was passed by the board. Though Mendocino County fought this off years ago, we are at it again while the current administration wants to lease the waters off California, Oregon, and Washington to oil companies. The coastal counties of California have formed a coalition to fight these policies.

There will be a Talk with the Supervisor on Thursday, December 11, from 9:30 to 10:30 in Brickhouse Coffee. You can always contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-972-4214.

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

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

Monday, December 8: Fish Tacos, Rice, Beans

Tuesday, December 9: Crunchy Garlic Ranch Chicken, Mac & Cheese

Wednesday, December 10: Ground Beef Stroganoff, Veggies, Roll

Thursday, December 11: Sweet & Sour Pork, White Rice

Friday, December 12: Chicken Casserole, Veggies, Roll

Activities: Bingo on Friday nights, 5 to 7 pm. 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.

'Bright lights, safe nights' Be safe this holiday season

Submitted by CAL FIRE

Here are some important holiday safety tips from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, taken from a special holiday edition of the CAL FIRE Community Newsletter, which is packed with important holiday safety information. From proper candle use and attentive cooking practices to often-overlooked issues, we aim to help everyone celebrate with confidence.

By taking a few simple precautions, families can enjoy the season's warmth and joy while reducing the risk of preventable incidents. Stay safe, informed, and festive all season long.

Surge in battery fires sparks alarm as holidays approach

Lithium-ion batteries can overheat, catch fire, or even explode when damaged, overcharged, or improperly stored. During the holidays, battery-related fires rise as people receive new devices, use unsafe or incompatible chargers, or unknowingly purchase counterfeit products. Following proper charging guidelines and avoiding damaged or uncertified batteries can help prevent dangerous and costly incidents.

Read the rest of Safe | Over on page 4

Ukiah's new gigabit fiber project breaks ground, December 9

Submitted by the City of Ukiah

The City of Ukiah and Vero Fiber are breaking ground on our high-speed, community-owned, fiber-powered network! You're invited to join us for a brief ceremony in front of the Ukiah Senior Center, 499 Leslie Street, on Tuesday, December 9 at 11 am.

Connectivity is the future, and this network will bring faster, reliable connections to our residents and businesses. This incredible project is made possible by a grant of nearly \$5.6 million from the California Public Utilities Commission, and will serve an

Read the rest of Gigabit | Over on page 4



Above, from left: Mr. Skunk, with the help of an elf, stamps copies of his special Christmas book that are handed out on the Skunk Train's Magical Christmas Train. The tallest Christmas tree is also home to Mr. Skunk and is available to view from the open – or from the cozy inside – train cars. There's wonderful things to see and imagine looking out the windows of the moving train. Below, from left: Festive antler-clad Maggie and Swayze take a quick moment to grin for the camera. This Elf hands out candy canes to riders on the train. Swayze has a handful of cotton snowballs, and a plan, for the on-board snowball fight.



Catch a ride on the Magical Christmas Train

Skunk Train's annual holiday-themed train offers rides through December departing from Willits depot

"All aboard, my festive friends! It's Mr. Skunk here inviting you to join me on a holly-jolly ride through the redwoods to my workshop in the world's largest living Christmas tree!" welcomes Mr. Skunk, the mascot of the Skunk Train. "We'll sip warm cocoa, snack on cookies, play merry games, and groove to cheerful tunes as the train winds its way through my forest home. The scent of fresh redwoods fills the air, laughter echoes through the cars, and holiday spirit shines brighter than ever. So grab your mittens and hop aboard in Willits – the Christmas magic is waiting, and I can't wait to share it with you!"



– Maureen Jennison

Rides are available most days, and all weekends in December starting on Friday, December 5 and running through December 31. There is a small pause, with no trains running December 8 through 11, and then no trains on December 24 or 25, but multiple runs happen daily on all other December dates. General seats, VIP seats (which includes advanced boarding, priority concessions, and a commemorative gift), and dog tickets are all available to purchase online at www.SkunkTrain.com. Remember to ask about the locals' discount!



At top: Mr. Skunk poses for photos on the open car. Above: Malakai Schindel sings Christmas carols and plays the guitar on the train cars. Below: Lots to peruse and purchase in the gift gallery area outside the ticket booth at the train depot. From far left: Another elf shows Mr. Skunk's signed paw print. The line ended up reaching the back gate with eager attendees. Swayze smiles with Mr. Skunk on the Magical Christmas Train. At left, below, far left: Inside the ticket booth depot is also festive with holiday items. At left, below: Riders can also read Mr. Skunk's book while riding the train.



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 Weekly

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FRONT PAGE NEWS RETURNS NEXT WEEK

Well, it was a slow news week, and a very busy week for legal notices that required publishing this week....

We'll return with our regular front page news stories in next week's December 11, 2025 edition.

– Jennifer Poole, editor

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Season's GREETINGS from Wylatti Resource Management

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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

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!

DECK THE HALLS WORD SEARCH

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

ANGEL BELLS BOUGH	FIREPLACE GARLAND HOLLY	MISTLETOE NUTCRACKER ORNAMENTS	SNOWMAN STAND STOCKINGS
CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATE DISPLAY	INFLATABLE MANTEL MENORAH	POINSETTIA SANTA SLEIGH	STRINGED LIGHTS WINDOW WREATH

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10								
					12							13						
14									15				16	17				
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49				50	51				52		53	54	55					
	56						57		58								59	
					60				61									
					62						63							

CLUES ACROSS

- Dough made from corn flour
- Rise
- Gratitude
- A low wall
- Kidnap
- A cup golfers want to win
- Outgoing
- 'Partner' to flow
- Former Michigan coach Brady
- Proverb
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Helps a body recover
- Baseball Cy Young winner
- Very fast airplane
- Offensive baseball stat
- Body of water
- Record of one's heartbeat
- Signs a contract
- Atomic #24
- Bind securely
- French Jesuit theologian
- Fragrant brown balsam

- Post office box
- Sells tickets at inflated prices
- Places to hang coats
- Jewish salutation
- Yellow fruits
- Poorly educated
- Microorganism
- Talk show host Barrymore

CLUES DOWN

- A way to plan
- Three-banded armadillo
- Mobile
- Romanian city
- Making sour
- Take a seat
- 'The Golden State'
- When you hope to arrive
- Pointed ends of pens
- Extinct flightless bird
- Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- Nape of neck
- Problems (Spanish slang)
- Narrow carpet
- To avoid the risk of

- Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
- Equally
- Traditional cars still need it
- Eligible voters
- Greek alphabet letter
- Body part
- Referee-declared outcome
- Means to moving money
- Popular footwear brand
- Cockatoo
- NFL's big game
- Botswana currencies
- News-reporting organization
- Batman villain
- Urgent request
- Not all
- Hallmark's specialty
- Knot in a tree
- Satisfy
- Notable space station
- Baby's dining accessory
- Stitch clothing
- ___ and behold

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

November 17 to November 23

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 17

- 1:52 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of Margie Drive and issued a warning.
- 9:07 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.
- 11:20 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of Mill Street.
- 12:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.
- 2:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of North Marin Street.

3:26 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue and issued a warning.

November 18

- 2:38 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Highway 20 and Coast Street and issued a warning.
- 9:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

November 19

- 12:21 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.
- 3:50 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.
- 5:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.
- 7:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

The rest of
Safe From page 2

Cooking Is #1 cause of residential fires

Cooking fires are the leading cause of residential fires during the holidays and the #1 cause of home fires in California. Heating equipment is the second leading cause, making it essential to stay vigilant in the kitchen, keep flammable items away from heat sources, and follow simple safety steps to protect your home and family this season.

1,200 Californians suffer scald injuries during the holidays

Burn-related injuries are a serious holiday risk, with 1,200 Californians hospitalized each year. About 60% of holiday burn injuries involve hot liquids or cooking, making kitchens a major danger zone. Prevent scalds by keeping children away from stoves, turning pot handles inward, using oven mitts, and being mindful when carrying hot foods or liquids. Simple precautions can prevent painful, life-altering injuries.

Candle misuse fuels hundreds of injuries

Candle-related home fires remain a

November 20

- 9:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

November 21

- 6:18 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.
- 12:56 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 600 block of South Main Street.
- 7:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.

November 22

- 4:08 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
- 9:57 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of North Main Street.
- 12:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

November 23

- 1:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of Railroad Avenue.
- 2:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
- 4:24 pm: SCHNABEL, Christopher Farrell (40) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of failure to appear and on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.
- 7:21 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
- 9:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1300 block of Poppy Drive.

serious hazard, with U.S. fire departments responding to about 5,830 such fires each year, causing 66 deaths, 572 injuries, and \$270 million in damage. Over half start when flammable décor is too close to a lit candle, and 21% involve unattended or misused candles. Bedrooms account for over one-third of these fires, making safe candle use essential.

Prevent Christmas tree fires

Christmas tree fires are rare but extremely dangerous, with one in every 32 reported resulting in death. The U.S. sees hundreds of home fires each year started by Christmas trees, and more than half of holiday decoration fires are caused by electrical distribution or lighting equipment. Key causes include electrical failures, heat sources placed too close to the tree, and trees drying out. Keep your holidays merry, bright, and most importantly – safe! This CAL FIRE video at the link offers safety tips for Christmas trees: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q63xrk65HXk

To subscribe to CAL FIRE's newsletter, sign up here: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/subscribe-to-newsletter>

The rest of
Gigabit From page 2

estimated 1,700 sites in Ukiah, including residences, schools, medical facilities, and 375 locations that currently lack internet service.

Learn more at this informal event and at the link: www.verofiber.com/fiberhoods/ukiah

Attendees: Please park on the street (save the parking lot for seniors).



Above, from left: Willits Community Services and Food Bank Executive Director Wendy Copperfield is grateful for the donations of fresh produce from the Commonwealth Garden, and seasonal donations from backyard gardeners, too. Some of the vegetables grow best in tunnels of white plastic. Commonwealth Garden Manager Mellisa Bouley shows how well the cauliflower plants are growing at the Commonwealth Garden. At right: The Willits Food Bank is able to provide fresh fruits and vegetables thanks to generous donations of produce.

Commonwealth Garden delivers fresh produce to Food Bank shelves

By Karen Gridley

A grant awarded to Willits Food Bank proved a win-win for two local organizations: Commonwealth Garden and the Willits Community Services and Food Bank.

The micro-grant awarded by GROW (an organization that empowers communities through gardening) was used to purchase organic seeds for Commonwealth Garden to plant for the food bank. The seeds, and the addition of new garden beds at their 5-acre site, have enabled the garden staff to grow more fresh produce specifically for the Food Bank.

Mellisa Bouley, Commonwealth Garden manager, explained that organic seeds are more expensive than non-organic. The small grant enabled her to purchase more seeds for shelf-stable vegetables such as carrots, radishes, beets, broccoli, and hardy greens, in addition to the produce they had already been donating to the Food Bank in the past 10 years. She was also able to purchase seed garlic from Sparetime Supply.

Wendy Copperfield, the new executive director of the Food Bank, says this arrangement between the two organizations has had a major impact on the variety and volume of donations. Since January 2025, Commonwealth has donated 2,207 pounds of fresh food to WCS shelves. Produce is delivered the same day or the next day. Recently, the Food Bank has provided produce bags to Commonwealth Garden volunteers, which makes it easier for Food Bank customers to take home what they need.

Harvesting and delivery happen throughout the year, although production decreases in the winter months. Crops grown in the 30 foot by 90 foot greenhouse supplement those grown outside.

WCS Director Copperfield extols the merits of obtaining garden-fresh produce. She says much of the surplus commodity food received from the Emergency Assistance Program is transported from warehouse to warehouse before it comes to them and doesn't always hold well, and therefore can sometimes require labor-intensive sorting. Although she is quick to report that even foods that are not able to be used by the Food Bank can often go out to local farmers for animal feed, so there is very little overall waste at their center on Railroad Avenue.

Copperfield appreciates the support of the Frank R. Howard Foundation, which has donated funds to purchase a new freezer for the center and has earmarked funds for new equipment essential to operations in the warehouse.

This support is a testimony to the achievement of the Howard Foundation's mission: to educate and extend awareness into the community of the role food plays in health and well-being.

The 5-acre garden that Bouley manages has 52 garden beds (12 added this past year), and 50 orchard trees. She employs one tractor operator, Jay Bonnet, four additional gardeners, and two volunteers. The gardeners include Shana Byrne, Ryan Hartman, Emily Holley, and Tasha White. The two volunteers during the winter months are Nola Marshall and Dianne Carter.

Bouley says that approximately 70 to 75 percent of the production from the garden goes to Howard Hospital's Roots Restaurant and to the Food Service Team who feed patients, staff, patient coaches, and visitors. The remaining 25 percent is apportioned among the

Read the rest of
Veggies Over on page 13

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE
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Above, from left: Richard "Pops" Venturi leads the Toy Run up Reynolds Highway. Richard "Pops" Venturi auctions off a one-of-a-kind Harley replica, crafted out of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer cans. Jolene Carrillo takes charge of the desserts as Gloria "Jinxy" Westby collects donations. Below: Kim and Richard Venturi address the attendees and ask for a toast to those who have recently been lost to the community.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, from left: Local contractor Aaron Luedemann and his wife, Heather, always attend the Toy Run. Fire crews from Brooktrails, Little Lake, and Caltrans prepare to lead the procession through town. Over 100 prizes are available in the lottery. Below, from left: Zorro loves to ride with his new owner. The Grinch shows up for the ride, to the delight of the kids. Dan and Rocky, from the Gunnicks Crew, display their Christmas hats. At bottom, left: Members of the Willits Frontier Days Juniors, Willits FFA, and Willits 4-H Club take a break from preparing and serving the Italian-themed lunch. At bottom, right: Young Payton wears her raffle tickets around her neck, waiting for her numbers to appear on the board.



Toy Run

A motorcycle ride through scenic Little Lake Valley and a festive party among friends, all for the price of a toy

Once again, for the 16th year in a row, over 100 bikers exhibited their softer sides and brought Christmas to a lot of kids who might not have a holiday otherwise. Even though the motorcycle enthusiasts might not get to see the faces of the children for whom they are collecting toys and money, they know that their efforts will be appreciated as the kids open their presents and feel the joy of the holiday.

By 11 am, the loud, throaty roar of the motorcycles filled Evergreen Village shopping center as the bikers gathered for the inevitable run through town and Little Lake Valley, their glossy, high-powered machines festooned with gifts and tons of fuzzy animals. The large red trucks of the Little Lake, CAL FIRE, and Brooktrails fire departments entered the parking lot and prepared to lead the procession to the end of town, lights ablaze and sirens screaming.

The bikers gathered from all corners of Mendocino County and beyond to participate in this very popular ride, which according to Richard "Pops" Venturi, brings in Winos from Fort Bragg, Ghost Riders from Lake and Yuba counties, a large group from Gunnick's Harley-Davidson in Ukiah, the Mendocino County Hog Owners Group, and the American Legion in Healdsburg.

"This is one of the better Toy Runs, the one that everybody looks forward to," said Venturi. "Mainly because we actually do a ride. Other toy runs are just short rides. We're the only ones who don't charge for lunch. Everybody gets to eat for free."

The Willits Toy Run brings delight and needed items to the kids whose parents might not have the means, in these troubled economic times, to buy the toys and other gifts for them.

"We're doing it again," said Venturi, one of the organizers of the event. "This is our 16th year and the 33rd year for the Toy Run, so we've been doing it for just about half of the Toy Run's existence. The last nine years or so, we've had beautiful weather. We have beautiful weather again today.

"We're an hour away from the start and we already have over 100 bikes in the parking lot," said Venturi. "I think it's going to be a good turnout. People bring toys, which is their admission fee to the after-pack-ride-party this afternoon at the Little Lake Grange. For bringing in a toy, they will be treated to a free Italian-themed lunch, provided by Willits Frontier Days Juniors, the Willits 4-H Club, and the Willits FFA. Desserts will be provided by Jolene Carrillo and the Willits Rotary. We're also going to have some pizzas provided by Flying Dog Pizza. It's going to be quite the spread for lunch."

Many of the participants noticed the growing number of three-wheeled cycles present on the ride. According to Bruce Burton, the older motorcyclists might not trust their balance as they age, but they still want and need to be there, and they still need to ride. They are nothing if not resilient in their desire to ride in the open air.

"Today, the ride is going to go through town, as always, escorted by the Little Lake Fire Department and the Brooktrails Fire Department," continued Venturi. "We will continue on north of town to Reynolds Highway, take a loop through the beautiful Little Lake Valley. We will end up at the Little Lake Grange for our party. We will have DJ music by DJ Mikey T. and a live auction, and a silent auction, a raffle with about 100 raffle prizes given out.

"Our big raffle this year is \$250 worth of lottery scratchers that some lucky recipient will win. The other prizes we have for the big raffle are two tickets for the Skunk Train Presidential Class car and four tickets for the Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg. It's going to be quite the raffle this year. We've had some extra folks this year to help sponsor. We're always growing," Venturi said.

As the bikers entered Little Lake Grange, they either handed over their unwrapped toy (which is the price of admission to

Read the rest of Toy Run | Over on page 13



SHOP LOCAL, SHOP CREATIVE, BE CREATIVE

Art Center's Holiday Craft Fair coming up, December 13-14

The Willits Center for the Arts Holiday Craft Fair 2025 is set for Saturday, December 13, from 10 am to 7 pm, and Sunday, December 14, 10 am to 4 pm

This will be the 38th annual WCA fair, and it is one of the few Fine Art and Craft shows in inland Mendocino County. The fair features over 30 fine artists and artisans offering unique gifts and work, including soaps, ceramics, jewelry, cutting boards, knives, herbal gifts, and so much more.

The Craft Fair coincides with the opening of the Members Small Works show in the main gallery of the Willits Center for the Arts which will run December 6 to December 24, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, featuring 25 additional artists with artwork in all media including gift cards. The Crafts Fair provides free live entertainment throughout the show, and food is available for purchase. Admission is free.

The annual WCA Members Small Works Show reaches out to the community to display art and gift-giving diversity. There are too many talented people in our town to mention all the members participating in the show. Come by the Art Center to see the show, and find one-of-a-kind gifts for friends and loved ones.

The Small Works show opens on Saturday, December 6, from 11 am until 5 pm. A chance to meet the artists is set for December 6 from 6 to 8 pm. There will be special extended hours to coincide with the 37th Annual Craft Fair on the weekend of December 13 and 14.

Regular WCA gallery hours are Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 11 am to 5 pm.

WCA is located at 71 East Commercial Street right next door to the Noyo Theater. Holiday Craft Fair vendors will also be at 111 East Commercial at City Hall across the street.

For more information: willitscenterforthearts.org or call 707-459-1726.



Hand-Woven Potholders

Soren, 10, and his sister, Ivy, 8, have a booth at the Craft Fair this year, thanks to being selected after showing at last year's Small Works show. The kids have been weaving potholders since they were 5 years old, and their craft has only gotten more detailed.

They use 100% cotton loops and hand-weave the potholders individually on a metal loom. Come see them and pick up a holiday gift that reminds many of us of our own childhood crafts!

Earth and Fire Pottery

Gregg Lindsley

Earth and Fire Pottery, operated by Master Potter Gregg Lindsley, will bring his style of functional pottery to the public at this year's Holiday Craft Fair. This will be Earth and Fire's eighth year at the show, and Lindsley is just about to celebrate 50 years of making pottery.

"As most of my business these days is to restaurants and stores, I do three shows a year, and this is my favorite. I love Willits," Lindsley said, "and I look forward to seeing and sharing with the community."

In addition to the usual mugs, small bowls, and butter dishes, Gregg will be offering sauerkraut crocks, kitchen composters, and a big selection of large bowls this year.



Above, left: Tumble Up's engraved Christmas decorations. Above, right: Wall Art pieces by Tumble Up Customs. Below: Tumble Up Customs makes decorative boxes.



Tumble Up Customs

Cindy Leneave

Tumble Up Customs offers crafts with intention, blending the warmth of wood and the strength of metal to create pieces that are as functional as they are beautiful. Each item Cindy Leneave designs – from heirloom games and cutting boards to wall art and engraved drinkware – carries the mark of meticulous craftsmanship and personal meaning.

"My laser work allows me to etch stories into surfaces," Leneave says, "adding intricate detail and custom touches that transform everyday objects into lasting treasures. Whether it's a decorative box or a piece of functional art, I strive to honor the natural materials and the people who will hold them, use them, and pass them on."

At left: Tumble Up Customs' heirloom games make great holiday gifts.

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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-GREENERY

-FILLER

-BOW

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Willits Community Services and Food Bank

Thanks you for your support this year!

Whether you have donated money, produce, your time, services, goods or food, you have helped. You are appreciated and valued. By working together to sustain Willits Community Services and Food Bank you are feeding our community. Your support means so much to so many families and people in need.

We would like to acknowledge the following businesses and organizations for your continued support:

Frank R Howard Foundation, Mariposa Market, Willits Safeway, T.R. Eriksen Foundation, Community Foundation of Mendocino County, Flourish & Flow, Noyo Theater, Willits Grocery Outlet, Mendo Food Network, Sherwood Valley Casino, Sonoma Clean Power, Savings Bank of Mendocino, Spacetime Supply, Adventist Health, HMM Medical Staff, Willits Rotary, Willits Lions Club, Willits Indivisible, Little Lake Grange, Willits Senior Center and Thrift Store, Family Tree Service, St Francis in the Redwoods, Willits United Methodist Church, Grateful Gleaners, Commonwealth Garden and Wesley Wake Refrigeration Services.

Additionally we would like to thank businesses that placed collection bins at their locations:

Mendo Mill, Coldwell Banker Realty, Brickhouse Coffee, Willits Branch Library, METALfx, Willits High School, Willits Charter Schools, H&R Block Tax Service, J.D Redhouse, Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza and Vinyl, Shanachie Pub.

Together we are making a difference in the lives of those in need in our community!

*Please note, you have not been forgotten! We are no longer listing individual names publicly out of respect for personal privacy.

Harwood Memorial Park Presents the Annual

Laytonville Holiday Craft Bazaar

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Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

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

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

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

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www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church
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25 Hazel Street, Willits
Worship Service
10 a.m.
For appointments call:
(707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
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
Confessions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at
707-459-2252
https://stanthonywillits.org/
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
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St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

St. John Lutheran Church
Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
Facebook.com/stjohnswillits
ALL ARE WELCOME

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

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Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
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www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook willits umc
If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com



Book Sale at the museum on Saturday, December 6 from 11 am to 4 pm at 420 East Commercial Street, Willits.

Christmas Store Opens at Senior Center: A great selection of gifts, decorations, trees and more available beginning Saturday, December 6, then Monday, December 8 through Thursday, December 11 from 9 am to 4 pm at 1501 Baechtlet Road.

Holiday Craft Faire at the Grange: Locally made baked goods and crafts vendors, plus food, apple cider and music by 'Musical Christmas Fairy' Deanne 'Bunny' California on Saturday, December 6 from 11 am to 4 pm at Little Lake Grange.

Winter Wonderland Painting event at the Library: painting party for the whole family on Saturday, December 6 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. 390 East Commercial Street. Children 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

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



Thursday, December 4

Willits Farmers Market at the Grange: Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm 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) free food from 10 to 11:30 at 1250 Blosser Lane, Willits.

Friday, December 5

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



'No Snow' Talent Show & Sale at Willits Charter School: student performances and holiday shopping on Friday, December 5 at 6 pm. Tickets \$5, free for students. 1431 South Main Street.

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

Big Sticky Mess at Shanachie: Friday, December 5 starting at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Saturday, December 6

Holiday Express at Roots of Motive Power: Free event featuring train rides, lighted trees, refreshments, a raffle, and Santa! Plus Take-and-Make crafts and

own small hand pruners! Proceeds benefit multiple 4H groups in our area. Space is limited so RSVP by texting 707-367-9471.

Holiday Craft Bazaar in Laytonville: 50 vendors of art, crafts, food and more, plus photos with Santa on Sunday, December 7 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Tin Gym, 200 Branscomb Road, Laytonville.

Jalos Hispanic Market Grand Opening: All are invited to this Willits Chamber of Commerce Mixer Event on Sunday, December 7 from 1 to 5 pm to welcome Jalos Market, 1569 South Main Street, Willits.

Holiday Market at Ridgewood Ranch: local, artisanal gifts and foods produced by Ridgewood Ranch businesses plus Mendo Grain Project Cookie Exchange (make cookies to exchange with other bakers) and photos with Santa in a stagecoach on Sunday, December 7 from 1 to 4 pm at Ridgewood Ranch, 11725 Orchard Lane, Willits.

Soup-er Year End Party at W.E.L.L. Hub: free event hosted by Willits Economic Localization with Vegan and Organic soups and bread along with a discussion on moving toward a more sustainable future on Sunday, December 7 at 6:30 pm, 630 South Main Street.

Sunday, December 7

Holiday Craft Faire at the Grange: Locally made baked goods and crafts vendors, plus food and apple cider on Sunday, December 7 from 11 am to 4 pm.

Wreath-Making Workshop at Country Quilts: Sunday, December 7 from 10 am to 1 pm at Country Quilts and Crafts. Cost is \$30 and you need only bring your

own small hand pruners! Proceeds benefit multiple 4H groups in our area. Space is limited so RSVP by texting 707-367-9471.

History Makers Paper Crafts at the Museum: Make a giant paper bag snowflake at this family-friendly

craft event on Wednesday, December 10 from 2 to 4:30 pm at 400 East Commercial Street.

Genealogy Roundtable at the Library: Learn how to track down your ancestors and build your family tree every second Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

Thursday, December 11

Willits Farmers Market: Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange. See Dec 4 listing for more details.

Lego Serious Play Workshop at WCA: adult introductory workshop on the facilitated methodology for exploring abstract concepts by building representations using Legos on Thursday, December 11 from 5 to 6 pm at Willits Center for the Arts. Cost is \$5. Space is limited. Register at willitscenterforthearts.org.

Trivia Night at The Munchery: 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 6 pm at 1797 South Main Street, Willits.

Friday, December 12

Friends of Round Valley Library Holiday Market in Covelo: holiday gifts, jewelry, skincare products, ornament and greeting card making booth, food vendors and Farmers Market plus a Craft Supply Exchange (exchange crafting tools you don't use for something you would!) Friday, December 12 from noon to 6 pm in the Library Commons, 23925 Howard Street, Covelo.

1212 String Show at the Grange: Twelve 12-String Guitars played by 12 guitarists on Friday, December 12 at 6 pm at the Little Lake Grange. Tickets are

\$12 and available at JD Redhouse and Flying Dog Pizza.

Art Talk with Gary Martin at WCA: presenting the rich history and aesthetics of Japanese Art, and exploring its evolution on Friday, December 12 at 6:30 pm at Willits Center for the Arts.



Mendocino Camerata at WCT: to raise funds for music programs in the Willits Unified School District and Willits Charter School, this a capella choral ensemble performs on Friday, December 12 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. Admission is by donation.

Saturday, December 13

Willits Holiday Craft Fair at Willits Community Center and WCA: 40 booths featuring specialty foods and handmade works by local artisans and crafters, plus music on Saturday, December 13 from 10 am to 7 pm at 111 East Commercial Street and at 71 East Commercial Street, Willits.

Willits Photography Club at WCA: open to all skill levels and meets on Saturday, December 13 from 10 am to noon in the classroom at Willits Center for the Arts. (Enter through back door).

Willits Truckers Light Parade & Tree-Lighting: Parade will begin at 6:30 pm on Saturday, December 13 at the Evergreen Shopping Center and end at Willits City Park with a tree-lighting ceremony at 7 pm along with live music and vendors.

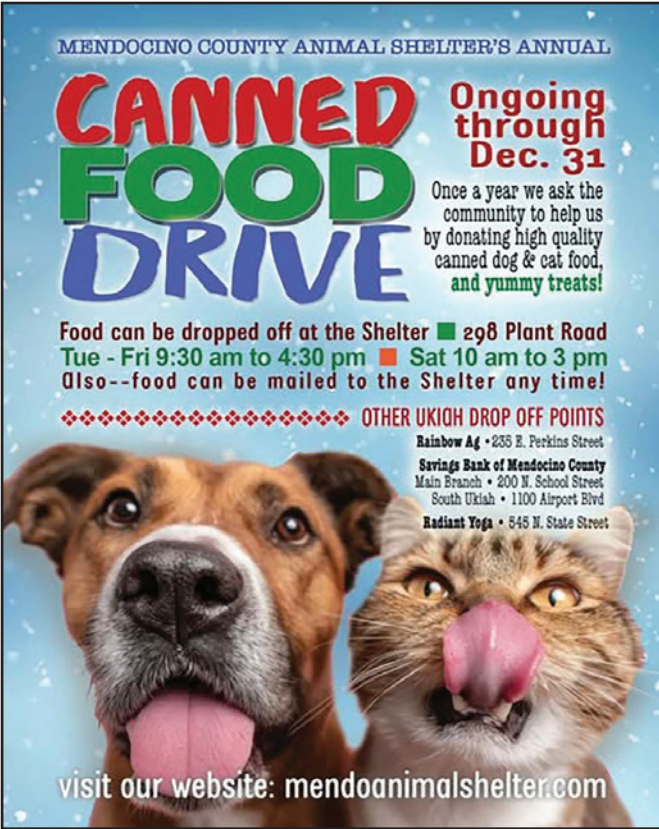


Sunday, December 14

Guitarist Luis Banuelos at WCT: Acoustic Flamenco Fusion on Sunday, December 14 at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre. Cost \$20. Tickets and more info: wctperformingartscenter.org.

Craft Faire at Willits Community Center and WCA: with special performance by 'Musical Christmas Fairy' Deanne 'Bunny' California from 2 to 4 pm at the Community Center. mMore info see December 13 listing.

Christmas Chorale at LDS Church: showcasing community talent and lots of cookies on Sunday, December 14 at 6 pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 265 Margie Drive, Willits.



COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES 'Zootopia 2'

The Story: Full-length, animated slapstick comedy. Zootopia is a country run by all sorts of animals. Zootopia Police Department cops Judy Hopps a

passionate Bunny and her partner Nick Wilde a street smart Fox are in trouble with their boss, Police Chief Bogo.

Bunny and Fox tend to be overly aggressive when they suspect criminals are going to strike. Their excessive enthusiasm in pursuit of bad guys is reckless and destructive to City property and the police department reputation. They are suspended from their jobs and ordered into group therapy where they can learn how to restrain their wilder impulses.

Meanwhile: Gary the Snake is trying to steal a book about how Zootopia came to be, and who invented the machine which maintains the different types of weather in the various environments of Zootopia which are best suited for the animals.

Gary the Snake seems to be up to no good, but maybe his motives are pure and good. (It would be a big spoiler if I told you what his actual motives are.) At any rate, there are other animals involved in the book heist who have genuinely bad motives (and I won't tell you what those motives are because that wouldn't be just a "big" spoiler, it would be a gargantuan spoiler and ruin all your fun. If you want to know you'll just have to see the movie.)

My Thoughts: This movie is non-stop funny. I know, I know, not everyone laughs at the same things, but I'm sure that if you see this flick you will be entertained, and you will certainly laugh. The laughter of children is an invitation to Angels.

Parents: Sure, bring the kids. There are some adult jokes and some sophisticated movie references, but nothing offensive. And the moral of the flick is all about being a loving person regardless of species.

Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

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: Literacy/Willits@gmail.com or 707-456-7929.

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.

ESTD. 1993

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Willits Chamber celebrates Small Business Saturday

The Willits Chamber of Commerce helped kick off the holiday shopping season this weekend by celebrating Small Business Saturday in festive fashion. Chamber volunteers were out and about early, handing out free coffee, muffins, and wrapping paper to shoppers throughout town.

This event aims to spotlight local shops and encourage residents to support small businesses during the busiest retail season of the year. With warm drinks, treats, and plenty of holiday cheer, the Chamber helped create a welcoming start to a bustling day of shopping in Willits.

— Willits Chamber of Commerce



Easy Day.



Banks.



Stella.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Friendly Easy Day

Easy Day is an 18-year-old retired racehorse with a heart as soft as her name suggests. She left the track at age 5 and has spent her post-racing years enjoying a quieter life. While we don't have details about her past training, she's affectionate, loves attention, and especially enjoys being groomed — she'll happily stand for a good brushing session.

She has mild ringbone in her left hind leg, but our vet believes she's still suitable for light riding. Easy Day would thrive in a calm, patient environment with someone who understands horses and can offer her consistency and care.

Note: She can be difficult to load into a trailer, so she'll do best with an experienced handler who can work with her gently and confidently.

If you're looking for a sweet companion with a lot of love to give, Easy Day might be your perfect match.

Interested? Call Amy at 707-671-4128 to learn more or schedule a visit. You can also go to www.mendoanimalshelter.com to submit an adoption application.

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.mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for more information.

Loyal Banks

Banks is a special boy who is looking for a reasonably quiet home in a rural area where he can get lots of love, and some playtime in a yard, or walks. He will thrive in a single-dog home, although he does have his dog friends with proper introduction. He is a beautiful dog with a silky white coat and handsome build.

Banks can initially be unsettled by strangers, but once introduced, he does fine, but he needs an intro and could be protective. Once he knows you, he will jump and play with you, but he is a bit particular about his people and can take time to open up, more so with men.

Banks would be an easy keeper in a rural environment, he'd provide protection and warnings about

intruders, but will also be a loyal and loving companion!

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

Sassy Stella

Stella is a special lady. She likes it her way or the highway. Stella is up for play, all day, then crashes in her hammock for a quick nap and then she's back to her antics.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumane.org, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com. Call 707-485-0123 for more information.

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WCT presents a beautiful offering of diverse choral music by Mendocino Camerata to support music in Willits schools, December 12

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

In a benefit concert for music programs in the Willits Unified School District and Willits Charter School, the choral ensemble Mendocino Camerata performs at the Willits Community Theatre on Friday, December 12 at 7 pm. Known for their soaring and sublime harmonies, the acclaimed 15-member a cappella group brings a beautiful offering of diverse choral music, blending classical, traditional, and contemporary selections.

First Alto Valerie McCourtney says the group's performances highlight the joy of singing together and the sense of connection that comes from a shared artistry. "Our audience members can expect a warm, reflective program, with singing that offers hope in uncertain times and a moment of rest during the holiday season."

Mendocino Camerata grew out of the Mendocino College



Choir Class two years ago. McCourtney says, "We fell in love with making music together and we've been on fire ever since." By supporting school music programs locally, McCourtney says the ensemble is helping to ensure that the next generation has the same opportunities that shaped the group's beginnings.

Join Mendocino Camerata for an evening of rich harmonies in support of our school music programs. Admission is by donation; all funds will go to our Willits area schools. WCT is also seeking a matching donor to double the proceeds to their decided maximum dollar amount.

Submitted photo

MENDOCINO CAMERATA
a cappella voices weaving breath into
belonging & harmony into healing

WINTER SOLSTICE SPIRAL DANCE 2025

Celebrating
the Return of
the Light with
Drums
Songs
Stories
Candles
&
Spiral Dance
**Saturday
December 20th**
Doors open 6 pm for tea & garland making
Doors close 6:30 Ritual begins!
at the **Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Willits**
Benefit for the Grange
Suggested donation: \$5-10, children free

Winter Solstice Spiral Dance at the Grange, December 20

Submitted by Little Lake Grange

Come Join Community in the Circle to Celebrate the Return of the Light! There is a ceremony with songs, candle lighting and drums. A midwinter's children's story, which is followed by the community Spiral Dance. All are welcome to attend.

The Little Lake Grange's 2025 Winter Solstice Celebration and Spiral Dance is set for Saturday, December 20.

Doors open at 6 pm for tea and garland-making. Ceremony begins at 6:30 pm. We will close the doors once we start ... don't be late! Suggested donation to benefit The Grange: \$5 to \$10, children are free. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, in Willits.

VOLUNTEER MENTORS NEEDED

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HELP WANTED

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO)
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

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Above: Family and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Kimberly Silva will see patients of all ages at Little Lake Center in Willits.

MCHC welcomes Family and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Kimberly Silva to Little Lake Health Center

Submitted by MCHC

MCHC Health Centers is pleased to welcome board certified Family and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Kimberly Silva. She will see patients of all ages at Little Lake Health Center in Willits.

Silva brings more than 40 years of professional experience in psychiatric and mental health care. She began her career with Humboldt County's Behavioral Health Department before completing psychiatric technician training at Napa Valley College. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Dominican University of California and worked across multiple Bay Area psychiatric settings, including 17 years with San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center.

During that time, Silva received a master's degree in nursing from Samuel Merritt University and obtained her board certification as a family nurse practitioner. She later pursued additional specialization in psychiatric mental health at Johns Hopkins University, becoming a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner.


MCHC Chief Medical Officer Justin Ebert says: "I am excited to have Kim Silva as part of our Little Lake Health Center team. As a Willits native, her love of community is reflected in the compassion and empathy she brings to every interaction with our patients. I especially appreciate her passion for evaluation and treatment of mental health disorders in the setting of whole-person care."

While in training during her family practice specialization, Silva precepted with Ebert, which influenced her interest in providing community-based, integrated care at a Federally Qualified Health Center. "It's a way to help the underserved and people who are not getting the care and attention they need," she says.

Silva's board certification in both family medicine and psychiatric mental health means she can provide

Read the rest of **Silva**
Over on page 14

LEGAL NOTICES



WW581
**CITY OF WILLITS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Willits City Council, at its regular meeting on **December 10th, 2025**, at 6:30 p.m., will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

PROJECT: Ordinance of the City of Willits adopting the 2025 Edition of the California Fire Code Part 9 with Amendments, as well as the 2025 Edition of the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, Part 7.

REQUEST: Adopt an Ordinance updating the City of Willits Municipal Code adopting the 2025 edition of the California Fire Code as introduced at the November 12th, 2025 City Council meeting.

LOCATION: Citywide – Ordinance applies to all areas within the City limits of Willits.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the "common sense" exemption, as it can be seen with certainty that the adoption of the ordinance will not have a significant effect on the environment.

MEETING LOCATION: Council Chambers at City Hall located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Prior to the meeting, electronic copies of the staff report, and agenda will be available on the City's website at <http://ca-willits.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/City-Council-1>.

- Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Delores Pedersen at dpedersen@cityofwillits.org, or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. All public comments received will be provided to the Council in advance of the meeting.
- Oral comments may be presented to the Willits City Council during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the public meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 459-4601. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

s/ Delores Pedersen
City Clerk for the City of Willits
Publication Date: December 4, 2025

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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

CLASSIFIEDS

2011 Mini for Sale - \$9,500
For Sale: 2011 Mini Cooper SS; 66K miles; excellent condition; luggage rack, metallic gray; great commuter car. \$9,500. Near downtown Willits. 510-395-2667 Mike

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

Free Food for All Pop-Up
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@mendofood.org or 707-615-6654

Brown Bag Lunch Program
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!

Do you need food?
Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 11 am to 4:30 pm. New Client Choice model where you select your own items. Bring shopping bags. Bring an I.D. Info: (707) 459-3333

Indoor Yard Sale
Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley (across from the Broller). **Saturday, December 6, 8 am to 4 pm.**

Homemades & Alterations by Teresa
Alterations & seamstress work available locally. Reasonable prices and prompt service. Contact: (707) 472-8787.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
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.oaknvine.net/tp>

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for two weeks.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW580
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
Bruce Douglas Carmichael, aka Douglas Carmichael, Decedent**

Case No. 25PR00403

- To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: BRUCE DOUGLAS CARMICHAEL, aka DOUGLAS CARMICHAEL
- A Petition for Probate** has been filed by: BARBARA DEBARRUEL in the Superior Court of California County of: Mendocino
- The Petition for Probate requests that BARBARA DEBARRUEL 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 9, 2026 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept: E**

Address of Court: 100 North 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.
- Attorney for petitioner: Christopher J. Neary (#69220)/Jennifer M. O'Brien (#278821), Neary and O'Brien, 110 So. Main St., Ste C, Willits CA 95490

Telephone: 707-459-5551
Publication Dates: December 5, 11, 18, 2025

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

Summer Farm Stand (once-a-week sales to the public from July through September), the Food Bank, and periodic donations to the Willits Senior Center, the Willits Charter School, and the Caring Kitchen, as surplus allows.

Bouley pays tribute to the Howard Foundation's Ananda Johnson and the late Margie Handley and the amazing community effort behind the creation of the Commonwealth Garden. With the support of Foundation CEO Annie Mello, Bouley maintains the template and mission of the garden established at its inception.

The Commonwealth Garden may be the only example in the United States of a garden supplying food to a hospital which is also an integral part of the hospital's medical campus, a fine example of the innovation that takes place

The rest of **Toy Run** | From page 6

the party) or made a monetary donation. They then immediately joined the line for the spaghetti lunch, served and prepared by the Willits Pioneer Days Juniors and members of the Willits FFA and Willits 4-H Club, under the watchful eye of Marcy Barry. The Willits Rotary provided desserts and Flying Dog Pizza brought 25 pizzas.

During the meal, music was provided by Mike "DJ Mikey T" Tobin. After lunch, Venturi toasted those who were loved but could no longer be present at the party. At the end, Venturi ran a live auction with some interesting and valuable items. There was a raffle with over 100 items, with a whole lot of winners. The silent auction was well-stocked with great items, including a Harley Davidson model made of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer cans.

Once again, the Willits Toy Run was a well-run and ultimately enjoyable morning and afternoon full of fun and friends, good food and generosity.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW577
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLITS AMENDING TITLE 17 OF THE WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD CHAPTER 17.87 ENTITLED "MOBILE VENDORS" AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 17.66 RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF MOBILE VENDING UNITS (MVUs) AND SIDEWALK VENDORS

The City Council of the City of Willits shall convene at a duly noticed council meeting on December 10th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Willits City Hall Council Chambers, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, to consider the adoption of a new City ordinance amending Title 17 (Zoning) to add Chapter 17.87, "Mobile Vendors," and to amend Chapter 17.66, "Supplemental Provisions," relating to the regulation, permitting, and operation of Mobile Vending Units (MVUs) and Sidewalk Vendors within the City.

The following summary of the proposed ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code section 36933, which permits publication of a summary of a proposed ordinance at least five days before the Council meeting at which it is to be adopted. The full text of the proposed ordinance will be posted in the Office of the City Clerk for at least five (5) days prior to the City Council meeting of December 10th, 2025.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NEW ORDINANCE:

The proposed ordinance contains findings and declarations including the following:

- Mobile vending and sidewalk vending are growing economic activities in the City that provide opportunities for small businesses, activate public spaces, and contribute to local commerce.
- The City seeks to establish clear regulations to ensure vending activities are compatible with brick-and-mortar businesses, preserve the historic and architectural character of downtown, and protect public health and safety.
- The ordinance establishes a permitting system requiring Mobile Vendors and Sidewalk Vendors to obtain a Zoning Permit and Business License and to comply with operational, location, and design standards.
- Regulations include allowable zoning districts, hours of operation, parking and circulation requirements, setback and buffer standards, generator noise limits, signage rules, trash and waste management, ADA accessibility, and buffer requirements from schools, residential areas, and special events.
- Sidewalk vending regulations include limitations on cart size, placement restrictions, movement requirements in residential areas, and prohibitions near crosswalks, bus zones, hydrants, and schools.
- The ordinance provides exemptions for nonprofit solicitors and for MVUs catering private events on private property.
- All existing vendors must comply with the ordinance and register within 30 days of its effective date.

Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Swetha Hiranya Venuturupalli at svenuturupalli@cityofwillits.org, or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490.

Publication Date: December 4, 2025

in this small town.

The garden will be sponsoring their annual Holiday Lights Celebration this December, and donations to support the Howard Foundation's ongoing projects can be made at this time.

Monetary donations to the Food Bank are especially important now and through the holidays to help purchase food items in short supply. All donations to the Food Bank stay in Willits to help local food insecure families. Donations can be made on the "Support My Community" button on their website at www.willitsfoodbank.com or on the "Donate" button on Willits Community Services and Food Bank's Facebook page, or mailed to 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490





Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, from left: Volunteer Supervisor Kevin Copperfield gives last-minute instructions to Marcy Barry and her Willits Frontier Days crew. Salads are lined up and ready to go out to the tables. Local elementary schools decorated the placemats to add a little color and creativity to the tables. Frankie J adds musical ambiance as families sit down to enjoy dinner.

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

Many volunteers, including local politicians, social leaders, Willits Frontier Days Juniors, and several others, helped cook, serve and clean, making the event run smoothly and efficiently. The volunteer coordinator, Kevin Copperfield, has honed his craft over many years. He kept the volunteers on point and everyone seemed to know what they had to do.

"The Thanksgiving dinner is not designed to be a money-maker or a fundraiser," explained the new food bank executive director, Wendy Copperfield. "It was actually something that was started before even Willits Community Services and Food Bank was in existence. This event dates back to the '80s. It's been an annual tradition ever since. This is the 36th consecutive year. It's all about community, coming together, all walks of life, meeting people. For people who don't have family in town or aren't able to cook for themselves. It's an opportunity for them to be in a family setting, sitting down at a table with others, sharing in a community.

"I am honored to be able to see this through and carry the tradition forward," said Wendy. "It's one of the reasons I stepped into the position, because I felt that one of the things that's important to me is to see these things stay a part of the tradition of Willits, of what makes Willits special.

"The inmates of Parlin Forks used to cook everything. They did the whole thing and delivered it to us in the morning, and they served it," Wendy explained. "Now, they're out of commission. Now, the food preparation has been parsed out. I think that's what makes this more of a community effort, because the community comes together to create the food and then come together to enjoy the fruits of their labor with others."

The meal, consisting of turkey, smoked turkey (from Gane Jackson of Smokin G's BBQ), ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, yams, cranberry sauce, green beans, salad, Emmental rolls, and pumpkin, apple or pecan pie with whipped cream was prepared by various people and organizations.

"Thank you, Sherwood Valley Casino, for raising \$10,000 for the Thanksgiving dinner," said Wendy. "What we don't



The rest of **Silva** | From page 12



primary care and routine check-ups, as well as assess, diagnose, and treat medical and mental health conditions and prescribe medication when appropriate.

Her dual scope of practice enables her to care for patients with coexisting physical and mental health needs during the same visit.

"I think it's good to treat the whole person and not leave out the mental health component," she says. Patients' life circumstances influence all aspects of their well-being, whether they're coping with wildfires or COVID, living with physical ailments or mental health diagnoses, or managing everyday stressors like job loss, relationship problems, or food insecurity.

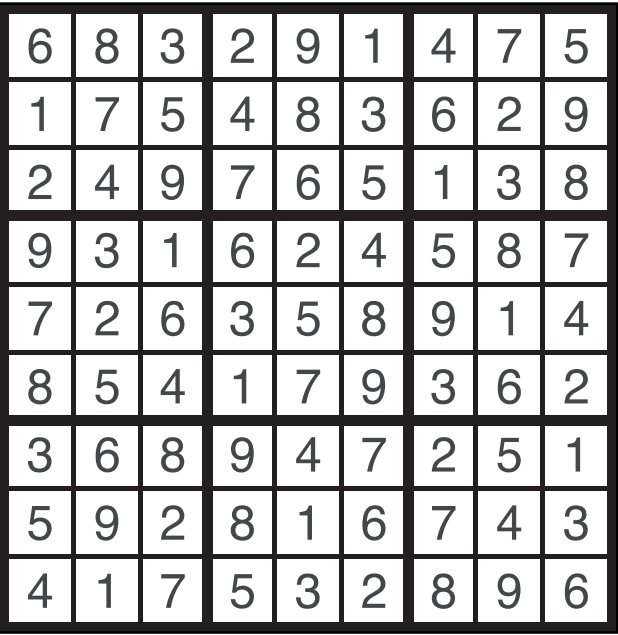
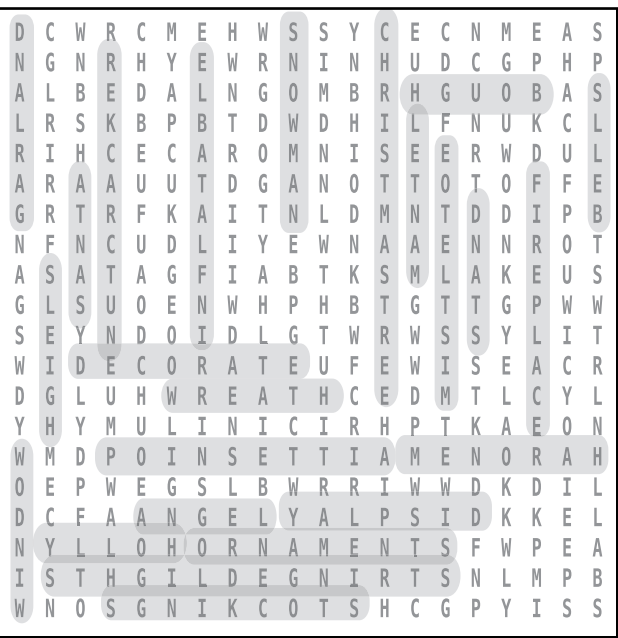
As she works with patients, Silva focuses on meeting them where they are and learning about their lives. She sees a two-way relationship as essential to providing effective care. Her goal, she says, is to focus on helping patients work toward sustainable well-being, whatever that looks like for them.

With most patients, Silva encourages daily movement and exercise, which she considers fundamental to both mental and physical health and can often benefit people when used in tandem with medical interventions. For some patients, she recommends daily walks. For someone who uses a wheelchair, she considers upper body exercises. The exact exercise does not matter as much as making movement a regular part of the routine. "Another day exercising is another day forward," she says.

She treasures the times when past patients have reached out to say that her care made a difference in their lives. "It means a lot to know that I was able to help somebody when they needed it," she says.

Silva lives locally and appreciates being able to care for the people within her community. She is a firm believer that serving underserved and disadvantaged populations strengthens the whole community. "It makes everyone better," she says.

Silva appreciates living in a home she describes as "out in the woods," while still being close to the clinic. She exercises daily, often hiking and walking. Formerly a member of a band, she still plays the drums every day. She also enjoys spending peaceful time at home, often with her two cats.



LEGAL NOTICES

WW576

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ARTHUR DEE SAULTER, aka ARTHUR D. SAULTER, aka ARTHUR SAULTER

CASE NO. 25PR00402

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: ARTHUR DEE SAULTER, aka ARTHUR D. SAULTER, aka ARTHUR SAULTER

A Petition for Probate has been filed by KANDI SMITH in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that KANDI SMITH 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: 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, 716 S. Main St., Suite A, Willits, CA 95490 Telephone: 707-456-9210

Publication Dates: December 4, December 11, and December 18,, 2025

LEGAL NOTICES

WW573

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0465

The following person or persons are doing business as Northern Roads 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 11/4/2025.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on 11/4/2025.

/s/ Shaun Payne

Publication Dates: November 13, 20, 26, December 4, 2025

**Willits Weekly
can run legal
notices including
fictitious
business name
statements,
foreclosure
notices, storage
unit auctions,
and more.
Contact us for
more information
at willitsweekly@
gmail.com**



LEGAL NOTICES

WW579

CITY OF WILLITS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Willits City Council at its regular meeting on **December 10, 2025**, at 6:30 p.m., will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

PROJECT: Right-Of-Way Abandonment #RA 23-01

APPLICANT: William Harris

REQUEST: Applicant is requesting that the City of Willits vacate an undeveloped alley approximately 14 feet wide and 180 feet long, oriented east-west. The alley was originally established as part of the Oak Park Addition subdivision in 1902. The request also includes conveyance of the vacated alley from its centerline to each of the twenty-one adjoining parcel owners.

LOCATION: Alley is located between residential homes that front West Oak Street and State Highway 20 including the following described parcels: 006-131-01, -02, -03, -09, -10, -11, 15, -16, -17, -18, -19, -20, -23, -24, -25, -26, -27, -33, -34, -39, and -40.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Categorically Exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Section 15305 (Class 5 – Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations) of the CEQA Guidelines.

MEETING LOCATION: Council Chambers at City Hall located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Prior to the meeting, electronic copies of the staff report and agenda will be available on the City's website at <http://ca-willits.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/City-Council-1>.

- Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Dusty Duley at dduley@cityofwillits.org, or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, December 9th 2025. All public comments received will be provided to the Council in advance of the meeting.
- Oral comments may be presented to the Willits City Council during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the public meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 459-4601. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

Publication Date: 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

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

Photos With Santa

Saturday, December 6th @ 3-5pm
Thursday, December 11th @ 4-6pm
Saturday, December 13th @ 11-1pm
Thursday, December 18th @ 4-6pm
Saturday, December 20th @ 11-1pm

No Appointment Needed!
Packages start at \$7.00

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Twinkling up the Town

City of Willits' Public Works elves decorate the lampposts with festive lights for holiday season

Members of the Willits Public Works Maintenance crew got up in the chilly early morning hours of December 2, to install the Holiday Decorations on the downtown light poles – beautifying the Main Street Corridor skyline and keeping tradition alive.

"These are just a few of the hard-working, dedicated people who help keep the City running under all conditions and who persevere to overcome the challenges associated with providing services to a community with aging infrastructure and economic constraints," said Kenan O'Shea, Maintenance Superintendent.

– City of Willits Public Works Department

At left and right: Up in the bucket is Frank Lavine, carefully putting up the ornamental lights on the light poles under the direction of Corey Unangst, who expertly positions the bucket truck at each location.



Photos by Corey Unangst

The Howard Foundation and The Common Wealth Garden Present:

Holiday Lights Event

Come join us for a walk in the orchard with light displays, cocoa, raffles and more!

Saturday December 20th
Sunday December 21st
5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Common Wealth Garden
90 Haehl Creek Drive
Willits, CA 95490



Photos by Rolina Fuentes

Lights in the Garden

Come see the magic lights, enjoy cocoa, raffles, and stroll among the garden at the Holiday Lights Event at the Commonwealth Garden. Located on the hillside just across from Howard Hospital at 90 Haehl Creek Drive, the garden will be illuminated and welcoming public visitors on Saturday, December 20 and Sunday, December 21 from 5:30 to 9 pm both days.



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AdventistHealth.org/MendoRobotics

