

***This is the last  
edition of 2025!  
We plan to be  
back February 5,  
2026!***

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



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers



**Thank You**  
To the Editor:

I'd like to shout out a BIG "Thank You" to all of you who sent me birthday greetings! I appreciate your thoughtfulness in acknowledging this especially momentous day – reaching the big 8-0! Those who worked to see that I received 80 birthday cards met and exceeded their goal!

According to the number of cards sent, I am 87 years old! Whoopee! All of those cards have been given their place of honor, being displayed, strung together across a wall in my entry hall. Thank you again for making this birthday an especially memorable one.

Charlotte R. Oeding, Willits

### Please donate to Willits Food Bank

To the Editor:

I have been volunteering at the Willits Food Bank for several months now. I am very impressed by this organization – it's well-run, efficient, and staffed by good people. Not every nonprofit is this together, and the work they are doing, the hole they are filling, is huge.

I urge everyone in the Willits community to donate to the Food Bank this winter season. Thanks,

Don Willis, Willits

### Mushroom madness

To the Editor:

The California Department of Public Health's recent advisory urging "no foraging" of wild mushrooms exaggerates the dangers of foraging without giving people any help in how to avoid them – except by staying home and eating whatever the food system has to offer them. After a number of people were severely poisoned in the Bay Area and Monterey County, apparently picking and eating the "Death Cap" mushroom, the department decided that the risks of mushroom foraging were just too great for the general public to handle.

The truth is that Amanita Phalloides no more resembles an edible mushroom than a pig resembles a dog, and that most edible mushrooms are clearly distinguishable from the poisonous genus Amanita. It's true, there is one somewhat edible variety that vaguely resembles the famous Death Cap. But once you know the characteristic features of the generally poisonous Amanita family (a ring around the stem, or if not that fragments of a gossamer thick veil that envelops the baby mushroom, and a cup-like vulva from which the stem emerges). But the Death Cap is so well described in any guide to mushroom hunting, that if the general public can't distinguish a Death Cap from a candy cap, the classic storybook (and poisonous) Amanita Muscaria from a chanterelle, yes, then the

general public shouldn't be foraging. Just as you shouldn't be hunting if you can't distinguish a sheep from a deer or a cow from an elk. It's not clear whether public health officials themselves command such knowledge, but the recent directive suggest they would rather we rest in ignorance than learn to enjoy the bounty of nature.

The better approach would be to urge those who want to forage the delights of the forest to educate themselves on the many differences among mushrooms and start with the unmistakable varieties. The Book Juggler has several accessible titles that can guide the way for the newbie. The most accessible is a slim booklet by North Coast mushroom master, David Arora, with the unlikely title "All That the Rain Promises and More...." And there are lots of people, especially in Willits, who can also inform an aspiring forager.

Caution rather than education seems to be built into the modus operandi of our Public Health officials. And their cautions are not always justified. This is the same agency that came up with the rules for "cottage" (i.e., home kitchen) food production. Those who want to produce at home for sale to the public, so California decided years later than most states, may, for example, produce candy and jams at home (so long as the jams are at least 50% sugar) but not pickles. This is our cottage food law, as concocted in Sacramento. The corresponding law in Oregon is called the "Pickle Law," because, of course, pickles are a prime instance of a product that may safely be prepared in a home or farm kitchen. As one veteran canner said at the time the regulations were promulgated, "I can't imagine how I could poison someone with a pickle." Apparently our "experts" in something called "public health" can, and they're the ones who determined what can and cannot be produced for local consumption.

It would be nice to think we can be governed without such nonsense, but apparently this is not possible in California, where every law is dreamed up without reference to what has been worked out elsewhere and every regulation is guided to life by experts without real-world experience. Where and how this will end is hard to imagine. We may just have to go about our business, ignoring the legislators, the bureaucrats, and the experts and relying on our own abilities, with all the proper cautions that common sense should breed, as we feed ourselves and our neighbors.

Michael Foley, Willits

### Thank you and an appeal from WELL

To the Editor:

WELL (Willits Economic Localization) is a non-profit group working in Willits for over 20 years with a mission of improving the health and sustainability of our economy and community. We've supported programs on issues from local food and farms to energy conservation, from housing to health, from entrepreneurship to emergency preparedness, and more.

We also provide non-profit sponsorships to many other initiatives in the community, including the wellness collective, garden projects, shelter programs, and special events.

At a year-end Soup Party on December 7, 2025, over two dozen new and continuing members renewed our commitment to these efforts. We'd like to thank the volunteers, donors and participants, and we'd also like to encourage others to join and help us expand our programs in 2026.

Delicious soups were donated by Marie Blancas, Laura Toomey, and Miriam Raphael. Special kudos to Marie (Moon Lady), organizer and hostess extraordinaire. Donors of sumptuous breads included Reza's Breadery and Emandal Farm. Desserts were brought by many other volunteers (who also helped set up and clean up). Everyone contributed ideas and energy for moving WELL – and the Willits community – forward into 2026.

To lend your support and find out more about our future plans, please join WELL by sending a membership donation (\$35 or more) to WELL, P.O. Box 42, Willits CA 95490 or go to our website (hopefully being revamped very soon) at well95490.org. Or contact me at mstrong827@outlook.com.

Madge Strong, on behalf of WELL's Coordinating Committee, Willits

### A Message from the Superintendent

By John Baker, Superintendent, WUSD

As we reach the midpoint of the school year, I am struck by the energy and excitement that fill our schools and our community during this special season. The holidays bring opportunities for reflection, celebration, and connection, and I am proud of the many accomplishments taking place across the Willits Unified School District.

One of our district's key priorities this year has been strengthening instruction at the high school level. I am pleased to share that we have recently hired a qualified history teacher for Willits High School, adding valuable expertise to our instructional team. At the same time, we are actively focused on recruiting a strong science teacher for the high school. Ensuring our students have access to high-quality educators remains central to our mission, and we are committed to finding the right candidates to support student learning and success.

This has also been a very busy and exciting season for athletics. Our boys' and girls' basketball teams, along with our wrestling program, have been competing with great effort and school spirit. Athletics continue to be an important part of the educational experience, teaching teamwork, perseverance, and pride in representing our schools and community.

Recently, Willits High School hosted a well-attended "Hot Winter's Night" performance that brought together families and community members from across the district. The auditorium was full, and the performances were truly outstanding. Our students displayed remarkable talent, confidence, and dedication. Events like this remind us how fortunate we are to have such gifted young people and supportive families in our community.

Academically, we are also preparing for important work ahead. With the release of the new state mathematics framework in November, the district is now beginning the process of reviewing updated math curricula. Our goal is to thoughtfully select two or three curriculum options to pilot prior to adoption. This careful approach allows educators, students, and families to provide feedback and helps ensure we choose materials that best support student understanding and achievement.

This is an exciting time of year for our students, staff, and families. As we head into the holiday season, I want to thank our teachers, classified staff, administrators, families, and community partners for their continued support of Willits Unified School District. Your involvement and commitment make a meaningful difference every day.

Happy Holidays!



Above, from left: Willits 4-H sells hot chocolate and goodies by donation. The Horn Family enjoys the picnic atmosphere, and the kids enjoyed playing games before posing together. The Willits High School junior and senior classes are fundraising for the prom and their senior class trip to Disneyland. Below, left: After the parade, people gather in the park to enjoy the fall evening with friends and family. Below, right: The parade entrants are dazzling in their light arrays.



Photos by Mathew Caine



## Holiday Lights

Hot cocoa and Christmas trees in the park and a parade of festive trucks bring Willits together on Saturday

With screeching sirens and mighty roars, the Truckers Light Parade on Saturday rounded the corner of Main and Commercial streets and made its way past the crowds of families cheering with bright smiles and excited motions. The vehicles, festooned with lights and blow-up Santas, elves, reindeer and other trappings of the holiday season, lumbered by the crowd, some with their own music blasting, announcing their presence and delighting the crowd.

"It was a great turn out this year," said event organizer Jennifer Drew, owner of 101 Trailer and RV Supply. "There were 39 vehicles in the parade this year. It's the most we've had. We rolled out from the Evergreen shopping center at 6 [pm]. This is a lot of work to put together. Once the parade starts rolling and everyone's on the street, it's a lot of fun.

"The whole town turned out," said Drew. "A lot of the restaurants on the south end of town were packed. There were crowds from the Evergreen shopping center, all the way down the route. Every parking lot at the south end of town was completely packed. I'm not sure how many more trucks we'll be able to get into the parade next year. I'll do my best to put in more trucks if I can. This is the longest parade, the most trucks we've gotten into a parade. I hope to make it better every year. We have a lot of things in the works for next year."

Prizes were awarded to Ojeda Transport for the Best Small Truck and to Wylatti for the Best Big Rig. Awards were sponsored by Buzzards Roost and Willits Power.

It was truly an event for the whole city. Prior to the parade, the annual Light Up the Park was taking place in Bud Snyder City Park. Organized by the Willits FFA, 13 medium-sized trees lined the walkway, decorated by the organizations that placed them. Each decorated in a manner befitting their makers, some whimsical, some

with the names of all their creators and members of the organizations.

The Willits Lions Club had many small furry lion dolls. The Imagination Station and Toy Depot tree was topped by a rather muscular flexing Santa. Willits Community Development had pictures of the members dressed as elves. The Future Farmers of America tree was decorated with wooden rounds with the names of the members. The brightest tree came from the Little Lake Fire Department with an LED display of constantly changing colors and patterns, and controlled by Harry So's remote. Other participants included Willits 4-H with shamrocks on its boughs, Leef Manufacturing, Mendo Mill, Willits Rotary Club, Willits Kids Corner with doll ornaments, Association of Behavioral Consultants, Sparetime Supply, Willits Kids Club, and Willits Mini Storage.

Each of the trees had QR codes that, when scanned, would enable the public to vote for their favorite trees. The trees and the codes will be up throughout the week to allow people to view and vote.

In the park, several youth organizations erected booths to raise funds for their various activities, including the 17 different 4-H project groups such as horses, dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, goats, Nigerian goats, pygmy goats.

"We have a lot of nature groups. We have arts and crafts, sewing, baking, canning, and our floral group," explained Mary Colvig. The Willits 4-H was supplying hot chocolate (a welcome treat on a cool end-of-fall evening). They also had cookies available by donation.

The Baechtel Grove Parent Teachers Organization had some rather interesting goodies. Alana Hastings explained, "We are raising money for the children's grade-level field trips. At the end of the year, we

Read the rest of Lights | Over on page 15



At top, left: Santa and his crew greet the parade spectators. At top, right: The Ojeda Transport float won the Best Small Truck Award. Above, left: The Imagination Station and Toy Depot tree features a rather muscular Santa. Above, right: Dusty Duley, center, of the city planning office finds a way to stay warm with friends. At right: Kelley Case-Brackett and Lily Arreguin of Willits FFA were instrumental in organizing the lighted trees and the various booths in the park. Below, left: After the parade, people file back to the booths to have fun in the park. Below, right: The Little Lake Fire Department LED tree is a standout with its ever-changing light patterns.



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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Online & Print

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Intermediate



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!

RESOLUTIONS WORD SEARCH

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

ACCOUNTABILITY	DISCIPLINE	MILESTONE	PROGRESS
ACHIEVEMENT	FOCUS	MINDSET	PROMISE
ASPIRATION	GOAL	MOTIVATION	RENEWAL
CHANGE	HABIT	OBJECTIVE	ROUTINE
COMMITMENT	IMPROVEMENT	PERSISTENCE	TRANSFORMATION
DETERMINATION	INTENTION	PLAN	VISION

		1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
				10				11			12	
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47	48	49								50		51
54										55		52
56										57	58	59
										61		62
										63		65

CLUES ACROSS

- American automotive titan
- Tire term
- Two-year-old sheep
- Indigenous people of Thailand
- Anti-Soviet Cold War group
- Actress de Armas
- Not moving
- Cool!
- Plants of the arum family
- Connected with touch
- Pen stain
- Monetary units
- School kids' art project
- Early Bell Canada executive
- Sword
- Hates
- Fixed in one place
- Pie \_\_\_ mode
- Moved swiftly on foot
- Carrier on vehicle
- A path to get through
- 'Rule, Britannia' composer
- Spiritual leader

- Flowing
  - Respectful compliments
  - Cure
  - Soft, lightweight fabric
  - Building material
  - Japanese delicacy
  - A way to cause to be swollen
  - One and only
  - You might get one in summer
  - Wreath
  - Thus far
  - They \_\_\_
  - Employee reference number
- CLUES DOWN
- Policemen (French)
  - Toy dog
  - Intestinal condition
  - Muscular weaknesses
  - Helps little firms
  - Alphabetical lists
  - Takes down
  - Facilitates
  - Ethnic people of Ethiopia
  - Engine additive
  - Explorers group

- Written account
- Consumed
- Opposite of first
- No (slang)
- Government lawyers
- NY Giants great
- Small amount
- A way to save for your future
- Fall behind
- Midway between northeast and east
- Head pain
- Wildly popular sport
- 'Princess Diaries' actress Hathaway
- Boat race
- About fish
- Nursemaid
- Able to be marketed
- Not as large
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Paddle
- Oneness
- Bitter chemical
- Not around
- Very fast airplane
- Main tributary of the Rhine

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE LOG

December 1 to December 7

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **66 incidents** in this 7-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

December 1

3:13 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 2

12:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Williams Street and Casteel Lane and issued a warning.

5:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

5:13 pm: WILEY, Christopher Troy (33) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on felony charges of burglary, grand theft, vandalism, and felon in possession of a firearm, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

8:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 3

2:43 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:23 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:26 pm: MUNOS, Steven Charles (42) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of violation of a court order.

5:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 600 block of South Main Street.

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

7:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 4

11:31 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1700 block of Elm Lane and issued a citation.

9:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

December 5

12:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:26 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

December 6

6:30 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

December 7

11:56 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

Senior Center menu for the rest of 2025

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 18:** Chile con Carne, Cornbread

**Friday, December 19:** Pepperoni Sausage Pizza, Green Salad

**Monday, December 22:** Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread

**Tuesday, December 23:** Chili Relleno Casserole, Rice, Beans

**Wednesday, December 24:** Beef Barley Stew

**Thursday, December 25:** Center Closed

**Friday, December 26:** Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

**Monday, December 29:** French Dip Sandwich, Loaded Mashed Potatoes

**Tuesday, December 30:** Shepards Pie, Veggies, Roll

**Wednesday, December 31:** Chicken a la King, 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.

Mendocino National Forest recruiting for on-call wildland firefighter training program

December 9 – The Mendocino National Forest is hosting signup days in January for its wildland fire training program. Forest staff will be registering individuals for 2026 on-call crews, including on-call crews based in Willits, at the following in-person sign up events:

- Jan. 8, 10 am to 3 pm at Mendocino National Forest Supervisors Office, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue in Willows
- Jan. 16 and 17, 10 am to 3 pm at Tribal Community Building, 9460 Main Street, Upper Lake
- Jan. 23 and 24, 10 am to 3 pm at Butte County Search & Rescue Building, 3965 Morrow Ln. Chico
- Jan. 29 and 30, 10 am to 3 pm at Mendocino National Forest Supervisors Office, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue. Willows

Each year the Mendocino National

Forest sponsors approximately nine on-call wildland firefighter type-2 hand crews. These crews assist wildland fire suppression efforts locally and nationally for the season, typically May-November. On-call crews are based in Willits and Chico.

Each crew is configured of 18 to 20 crewmembers, a crew boss, and three squad bosses. Crewmembers receive 10 days of paid training and fill roles on the crew as sawyers, saw swampers, or firefighter type-1, type-1 trainees, and type-2.

Applicants must be 18 years or older and must bring two forms of ID: driver's license (photo ID), Social Security card, birth certificate, or a valid U.S. passport. Applicants will also need to complete

Read the rest of Training Over on page 15



Far left: My very first photo, and at left, very last photo of my sweet Roxie Doodles. At right: Roxie and Maggie, pre- and post-birth, far right. Below, from left: Roxie was in our wedding; she was my best girl; posing in the flowers; and one of my favorite photos which served as the pattern for a stained-glass version, far right.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



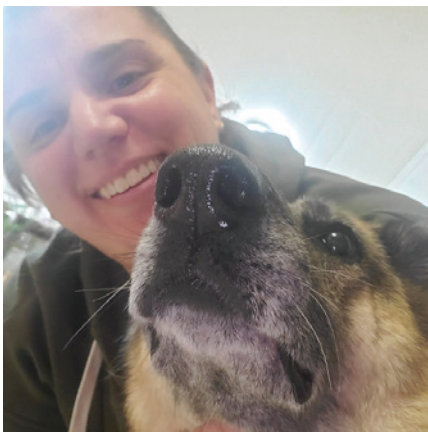
Photo by Carrie Mayfield



Photo by Hollie Nass



Photo by Carrie Mayfield



Happiness and Heartbreak | Health and life update from Maureen Jennison

Juxtaposition of emotion has never been more pronounced in my life than it was the first week of December when, on Friday, December 5, I completed my last scheduled chemotherapy infusion, 14 out of 14, in this second round of treatments. The excitement and relief of hopefully never (EVER!) having to go through that experience again was profoundly contrasted against the absolute soul-shattering experience of having to make the call to put my almost-14-year-old German shepherd, Roxie, to sleep just a few days later, on Monday, December 8. We buried her under our apple tree where she loved to be, and in the spring, bulbs will burst up beautiful flowers in her honor.

My absolute baby before Maggie (whose legal middle name "Roxiann" is in obvious homage to her big sister), Roxie went everywhere with me. She was my shoulder to cry into; my protector against squirrels and UPS drivers, and the eater of dropped raw eggs in front of the refrigerator. She mothered over so many baby chickens and kitties; she lived with me when I lived alone; was the source of so much happiness and comfort; and the model for so many pre-Maggie photo ops, gracing the cover and pages of Willits Weekly with comic regularity. I miss her so much and am so thankful that she was such an amazing part of my life for so many years. My heart breaks without her here, but I am grateful that she's no longer in pain, and that's more important than asking her to hang on for my own selfish feelings. I once heard that while we only get dogs for part of our life, they get us for all of theirs. We're this eternal being to them, living before and after their times with us, and that we must seem magical in their eyes. Well, Roxie was magical in my eyes, and will always hold a very special place in my heart. I love you, Roofus. Thank you for everything.

Well, now that I'm crying, AGAIN, I'll try to refocus on the other half of this update, and try to be happy and grateful that my ordeal with cancer can hopefully finally come to a close, and, without the responsibility of a dog, or the life disruption of disease, we might finally be able to do a little bit of traveling, which we were excited to do before the dumpster fire started.

(Fast recap: Diagnosed with rather serious, yet out-of-the-blue breast cancer in July 2024, endured six nasty chemo treatments last fall, then proceeded with a double mastectomy in January 2025. Tissue that came back from surgery showed still some present cancer cells – the six rounds didn't kill everything – and so an additional 14 rounds of, thankfully, far more tolerable chemotherapy infusions have been administered from late February 2025 through final one on December 5.)

After completing the last treatment, I finally allowed myself to enjoy my first adult beverage – a vodka, ginger beer, and strawberry mule – during a recent trip to St. Helena, and have been slowly reintroducing sugar back into my life after a hard hiatus during treatments. The amount of happiness a rum ball or piece of tiramisu can bring is something I really underestimated, and that has made life much more enjoyable lately. I also am hopefully not that far away from

this current length could pass as an intentional decision, which I assure everyone, it is NOT. I continue to appreciate lying flat on my stomach for massages – without boobs in the shadows. Then, a meeting with the plastic surgeon is set for the end of January, where we can hopefully finalize plans for the carrot-at-the-end-of-the-string goal of this whole wretched experience: the reconstruction of some cute, smaller, eighth-grade boobs once again. Maggie continues to remind me that I do need to look for "round boobas at the booba store," and I assured her that Dr. Lee the plastic surgeon should indeed have those in stock.

Two, well three, tattoos will then also be on the agenda – a portrait of my beloved Roxie dog, and of course, nipples. Can they tie up the reconstruction surgery with some "outtie" knots? We'll just have to wait and see.

Here's to 2026: Hug your furry and non-furry loved ones, go make a freakin' doctor's appointment, and be good to each other.

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Info? 707-459-1905  
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Acts 2:37  
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(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**  
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10 a.m.  
For appointments call:  
(707) 459-3106

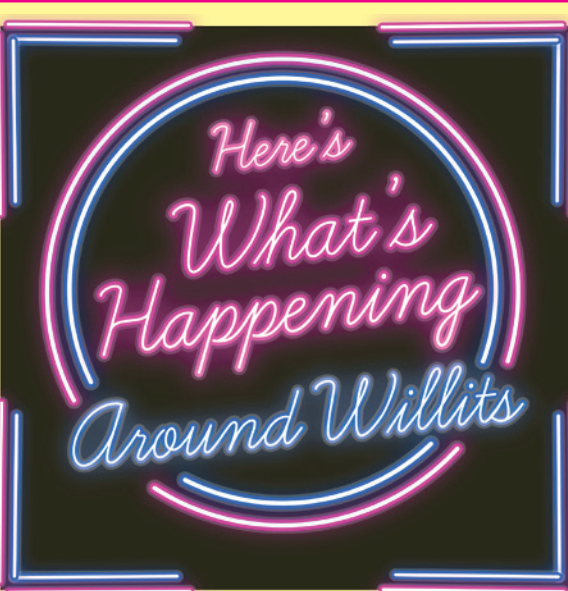
**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**  
61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandman  
Mass times:  
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. - English  
10:30 a.m. - Spanish  
Confessions on Saturday  
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.  
Or by appointment at  
707-459-2252  
https://santhonywillits.org/  
santhonywillits@gmail.com  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
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707-272-0177  
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In-person and on Zoom  
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**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
The Rev. Betsy Brunau

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Sunday Service  
10:00 a.m.  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
Facebook.com/stjohnswillits  
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**Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
707-459-5714  
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Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
Zoom Transmission Available.  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
399 W. Mendocino Ave.  
**All are welcome!**

**Willits United Methodist Church**  
Labyrinth and Peace Garden  
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where all are welcome  
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild  
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am  
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If you want to be included in  
this column please call:  
**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
april@willitsweekly.com



**Holiday Market at Adri's Salon:** With vendors selling beaded pens, suncatchers, healing products, jewelry, resin art and more, you're sure to find a unique holiday gift on Friday, December 19 from 2 to 6 pm at 1615 A South Main Street, Willits.

**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. All are welcome.

**Burlesque Variety Show at WCT:** Friday, December 19 at 7:30 pm. More info see Dec 18 listing.

Thursday, December 18

**Willits Farmers Market at the Grange:** Enjoy the final market of the year, Thursday 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. Market will resume January 8.

**Last Day to Bring Donations for Willits Christmas Program:** Give Christmas to a local child by supplying the items on a tag or donating a toy at JD Redhouse on Thursday, December 18.

**Creative Writers Workshop at the Library:** Share your fictional works in a supportive environment, receive constructive feedback and discuss publishing. This free event is open to ages 13 and up. Thursday, December 18 from 4:30 to 6 pm.

**Burlesque Variety Show at WCT:** Madam King Presents: Season of Tease for 21 and older on Thursday, December 18 at 7:30 pm at Willits Community Theatre. It's a night for esthetics so dress up and bring lots of dollar bills to give out to these talented performers!

Friday, December 19

**Book Lovers Discussion Group at the Library:** Come talk about books, authors, and genres on Friday, December 19 from noon to 1 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

**Those Guys at Shanachie:** Friday, December 19 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Saturday, December 20

**Solstice Soup for Everyone in Laytonville:** Free soup will be served Saturday, December 20 from 2 to 4 pm at the Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road and from 3 to 7 pm during the pop-up Christmas Craft Fair at Lion's Hall, 44920 Willis Avenue, Laytonville.

**Costume Party and Open Mic at the Munchery:** All ages invited for this holiday celebration on Saturday, December 20 beginning at 5 pm at the Munchery, 1797 South Main Street.

**Holiday Lights Event at Commonwealth Garden:** Enjoy light displays in the orchard along with cocoa, raffles and more on Saturday, December 20 from 5:30 to 9 pm at 90 Haebl Creek Drive, Willits.

**Celebration and Spiral Dance at the Grange:** songs, candle lighting, drumming, and a midwinter children's story followed by a community Spiral Dance on Saturday, December 20 at the Little Lake Grange. Suggested donation \$5 to \$10, children free. Doors open at 6 pm for tea and garland making and close promptly at 6:30 for the ceremony.

**Ugly Christmas Sweater Party at John's Bar:** Don your most atrocious Christmas sweater and come enjoy a potluck and gift exchange (minimum value \$25, men buy for men, women buy for women) starting at 6 pm on Saturday, December 20 at 383 Main Street, Willits.

**Burlesque Variety Show at WCT:** Saturday, December 20 at 7:30 pm. More info see Dec 18 listing.

**Carlos Hernandez Duo at Shanachie:** Saturday, December 20 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Sunday, December 21

**Holiday Potluck and Luis Banuelos at Shanachie:** Enjoy a free potluck from 2 to 4 pm followed by a performance by guitarist Luis Banuelos from 4:30 to 6 pm to benefit the Willits Food Bank. Cost for the show is \$15, but bring nonperishable food items and receive \$1 off per item! There will also be a silent auction for gift baskets. Sunday, December 21 at Shanachie Pub.

**Holiday Lights Event at Commonwealth Garden:** Sunday, December 21 from 5:30 to 9 pm. More info see Dec 20 listing.

Wednesday, December 24

**Christmas Service at St Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church:** Everyone is invited to this family service including readings, prayers, carols, and holy communion. Children wanting to participate in our telling of the story of Jesus's birth should come 15 minutes early. Church is wheelchair accessible. Wednesday, December 24 at 4 pm at 66 East Commercial Street.

**Candlelight Service at St John's Lutheran Church:** All are welcome to come experience the quiet wonder of the Christmas story with candlelight and fellowship on December 24 at 6 pm at 24 Mill Creek Drive, Willits.

**Candlelight Service at Calvary Chapel:** Bring your family and friends for an evening of carols, candlelight and the Christmas story on Wednesday, December 24 at 7 pm at 775 Central Avenue, Willits.

Thursday, December 25

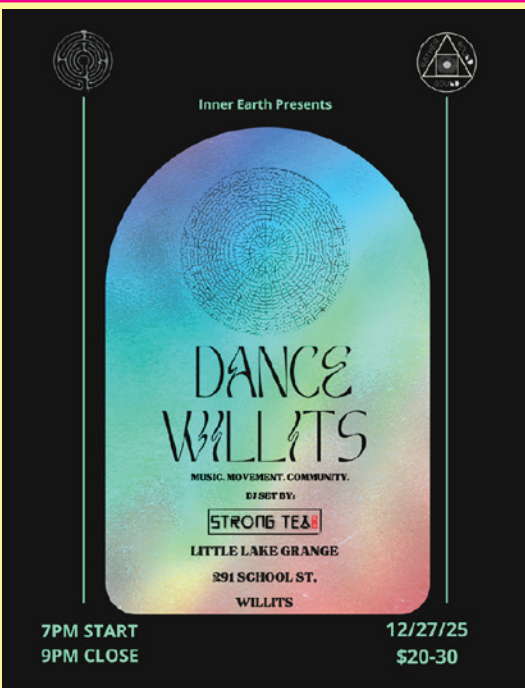
**Merry Christmas!**

Friday, December 26

**Frankie and the Lost Souls at Shanachie:** Haunting indie-folk rock band performing folk and country-inspired originals with a hint of '90s nostalgia. Friday, December 26 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Saturday, December 27

**Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie:** Saturday, December 27 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.



**Ecstatic Dance at the Grange:** Inner Earth presents Music, Movement and Community featuring a DJ set by Strong Tea. Saturday, December 27 from 7 to 9 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Sliding scale \$20 to \$30.

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve!

**Back Porch Trio at Shanachie:** Wednesday, December 31 at 10 pm following Open Mic at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

**New Year's Eve at the Noyo Theater:** featuring music from Cosmic Family Band, Hillshaker and Those Guys, plus a food drive for Willits Food Bank, on Wednesday, December 31 from 8 pm to 1 am. Cost is \$20. Must be 21 or older.



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TEXT (707) 371-8263 FOR YOUR DAILY VOTE VOTING ENDS 12/22  
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#5 350 NORTH ST  
#6 287 PINE ST  
#7 284 PINE ST  
#8 234 PINE ST  
#9 166 LAUREL ST  
#10 508 COAST ST  
#11 425 E. SAN FRANCISCO AVE  
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After you fill out interest form above, Everyone's Harvest will contact you to set up your product box pick-up & nutrition support at the farmers' market of your choice.

Free laptops for Willits Senior Center members, January 8

Free laptops will be given out to Senior Center members on January 8 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Senior Center, along with information on resources, educational opportunities and affordable internet providers, plus snacks and engaging activities! To receive a laptop you must become a member of the Senior Center by January 5, 2026, visit www.willitsseniorcenter.com/support-us/#membership for more information.

'The Nutcracker' ballet at Mendocino College Theater, December 19, 20, 21

Mendocino Ballet hosts its annual performance on Friday, December 19 at 7 pm, Saturday, December 20 at 2 pm and 7 pm, and on Sunday, December 21 at 2 pm. Admission \$30 for adults, \$18 for those under 12 or over 65. Tickets and more info mendocinoballet.org. 205 South State Street, Ukiah.

'New Year's Eve at the Noyo Theater'

A special night of live music to bring in 2026 at 'New Year's Eve at the Noyo Theater, featuring headliners the Cosmic Family Band, "We're the Cosmic Family Band and So Are You!"; plus Hillshaker, "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart"; and Those Guys, "a dynamic musical duo that weaves together rich sounds." From 8 pm on December 31, 2025 to 1 am, January 1, 2026. Age 21+. This event is also a Food Drive for the Willits Food Bank.



New Year's Eve at Shanachie Pub

Come celebrate the New Year in Willits at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Starting things off will be the Pub's usual Thursday fun with Open Mic at 8 pm. Headliner at 10 pm is local indie folk favorites The Back Porch Trio to bring in 2026! "The Back Porch Trio has moved onto the indie folk scene in Northern California, with a fun-loving sound created from a combination of musical influences around folk, blues, classic rock, jam band, Americana, and bluegrass." The Back Porch Trio is Rosie Wetzel (ukulele and vocals), Steve Hahm (acoustic guitar and vocals), and Jeff Taylor (bass). 50 South Main Street.

**COMEDY FOR A CAUSE!**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
HEADLINER: DJ SANDHU  
FEATURING: SYDNEY STIGERTS  
HOST: JAKE BERNIE  
THE BERN MAN  
ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT WILL GO TO MENDOCINO COUNTY SHERIFFS SEARCH AND RESCUE  
21+  
Ukiah Valley Conference Center • 200 S School St, Ukiah

'Comedy for a Cause,' December 31 in Ukiah

This benefit for Mendocino County Search and Rescue will be hosted by Jake 'The Bern Man' Bernie and begins with drinks at 5:30 pm and dinner from Cultivo at 6 pm, followed by raffle drawings and an auction with the comedy show starting at 8 pm. DJ Sandhu will headline with Sidney Stigerts featured. General admission is \$30 and dinner is \$40 (RSVP by December 27). 21+. Tickets at Eventbrite.com. Ukiah Valley Conference Center, 200 South School Street, Ukiah. More info: 707-367-2370.

Cold Weather Clothing Donation Drop-Off Continues

Donate clean, gently used coats, sweaters, scarves, hats, gloves and warm socks at the Willits Library and at Evergreen Laundreland to be distributed to those in need. Please do NOT drop off items at the Food Bank.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'

**The Story:** Based on the Doctor Seuss classic rhyme/tale of hurt feelings and the destructive Grinch-type human compulsion to hurt back. The famously resentful Grinch (Jim Carrey who is quite green) decides that if he can't enjoy Christmas singing and dancing, nor feel basic Christmas Cheer, then, by golly, no one else will!

So what is wretched, resentful Grinch



Dan Essman  
Columnist

going to do? (Spoiler as you probably already know.) He decides to steal and hide all the Christmas presents in the town of Whoville. Then he meets the kind and adorable little girl Cindy Lou (Taylor Momsen), and she will change his life!

**My Thoughts:** I admire great acting and this flick features two extraordinary performances: one is Jim Carrey's predictably, yet appropriately over-the-top embodiment of the poor grouchy socially abused Grinch, and Taylor Momsen's effortlessly kind Cindy Lou Who. Their impeccable portrayals endow this Christmas fantasy story with (can I even say this?) believable characters. Their genuine purity gives weight to the dilemmas which make this fantasy comedy a morally relevant Christmas fable.

**Parents:** Bring the kids. Talk with them about the story. About kindness. About forgiveness. About the spirit of generosity.

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





At top, left: Rickey Ramirez gets the hand raise after an intense match against his opponent. At top, right: Arion Martin makes her way down the court. Above, left: Eddie Perez makes a three-point shot against the ref who had challenged him to do so before game. Above, right: Ava Holmen makes a layup against a group of Credo players. At left: Cali Norbury is strategically in a collar tie, looking to take her opponent down. Below, left: Vladimir Bertolini works for the pin. Below, right: Brodey Lamprich hand-fights her opponent while looking for a set up. At bottom, left: Brian Bowles looks for a set up while going against his opponent. At bottom, right: Donald Glenn looks for the pin.



## COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

### WHS wrestling team takes on the Bay; girls and boys basketball start the season with positive drive

#### Wolverines wrestling

Willits Wolverines girls wrestling traveled to the Bay Area yet again this last Friday to compete at the Webber Lawson tournament at Fremont High School. This was another day of intense matches with a lot of improvement and many opportunities to learn.

The girls showed up and there was a unanimous number of wins in the first round. Matches only got tougher when many of the girls faced off with opponents who were a higher seed and / or state placers. The Wolverines did not back down, and gave it their all going round for round, battling through the day.

It is always so amazing to see how much these ladies work when competing against a whole other level of toughness. In the end, the Wolverines brought home a couple of medals and a mountain of skills to put into practice.

Emelia Owsiany placed fifth and Brody Lamprich placed sixth in their prospective weight class. Freshman Sophia Punihao-Figueroa once again went an impressive 2-2, making it into the blood rounds as an incoming freshman. Freshman Allaya Glass, sophomore Cheye Thurman, seniors Dannyka Smith and Stormie Nowlin also walked away with wins. Way to work, ladies!

Wolverines boys varsity wrestling took five of their wrestlers to compete in the Bay Area 60 Tournament at Castro Valley High School this last Saturday. Our small-town rugged Willits wrestlers rose to the challenge, matching the energy and bringing the heat. Match after match these boys left it all on the mat, showing they have what it takes to become bigger and better. They all learned some lessons while turning the corner into the greatness of mastering improvement.

Zain Marshall and Brian Bowles fought through some rowdy rounds and showed impressive skill. Vladimir Bertolino displayed his riveting talent in a set of robust matches, earning himself a sixth-place medal. Senior Rickey Ramirez wrestled intense matches throughout the day, and then found himself in a battle for first place. While he fell a little short, Ramirez did not disappoint with his performance and skill, walking away with an impressive second-place medal. Senior Donald Glenn was another standout, tussling through every strenuous match to find himself in a battle for third, falling short by only one point. Glenn showed grit and guts at his day in Castro Valley.

Wrestling is by far one of the most forceful and powerful sports out there. It really is inspiring to watch these kids put

in consuming amounts of work during the season. The time put in to excel in this Sport, and in school, is truly amazing. The wrestling coaches and family pull no stops to make sure these kids are getting the tools they need to set them up for success in their inner world, as well as life. The community is proud of their WHS wrestlers and can't wait to see what they do next!

#### Girls varsity basketball

The girls varsity basketball team has been rallying with excitement to learn the ropes behind their new Head Coach Brandon Norbury. The girls feel a great amount of positivity for the rest of the season. The team has a ton of potential. They are all very athletic, with a great core group of seniors. They are working on being fundamentally sound and always working their opponents.

"I'm extremely proud of these girls," said Norbury. "They have great toughness and a never-give-up attitude. They are all learning a new system, but have come a long way fast! Jazzie Henson has been a standout player early in the season. Her energy and work ethic has helped this team find their identity. Jazzie recently earned the attorney award at the Sequoia Classic Tournament in Anderson Valley. We had a great core group of girls that were committed all summer. Their desire to get better has been a joy to coach."

#### Boys varsity basketball

The Wolverines boys varsity basketball team delivered a memorable performance on December 13 with a 63-59 victory over Kelseyville, ending a drought that dated back to the 2014-2015 season. The win snapped a nine-year stretch and 17 consecutive losses to Kelseyville, marking a significant milestone for the program.

Willits set the tone early by scoring 24 points in the first quarter. Senior guard Kayden Oliver led the charge, accounting for all but two of those points and immediately putting pressure on the defense. His offensive outburst carried throughout the night, as Oliver finished just three points shy, breaking the all-time single-game scoring record at the Redwood Empire Invitational Tournament, a record that has stood since 1979.

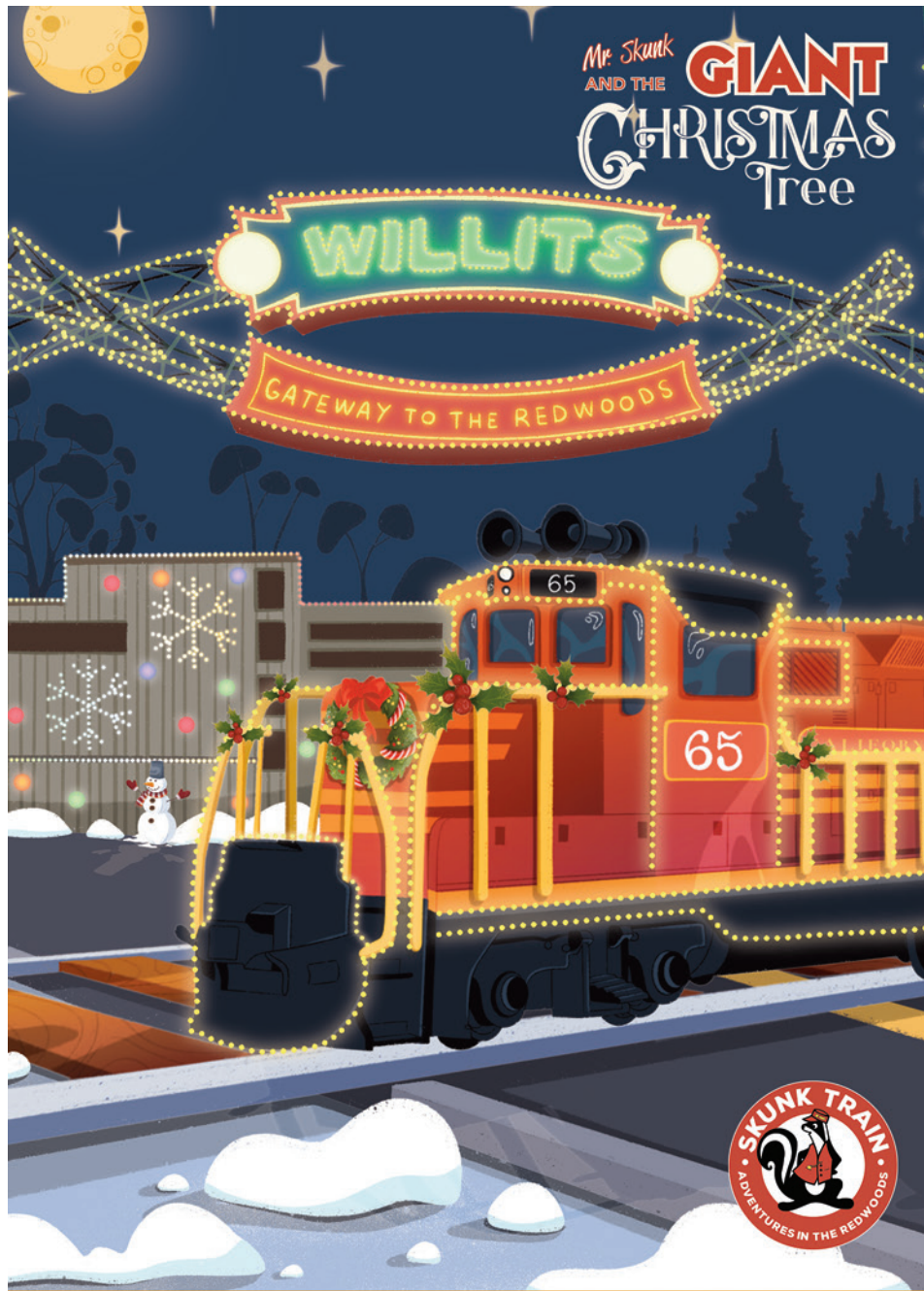
"Beyond the scoring, the Wolverines showed poise, toughness and belief on both ends of the floor, responding to every Kelseyville run and closing the game with confidence," said Head Coach Trey Henson. "The victory reflected the growth of the team and the commitment of the players to the work they have put in this season. For Willits, the win was more than the final score, it was a statement of progress and a reminder of what this group is capable of as they continue to build momentum."

### Congrats Happy Birthday, Alaska!

Ten years have flown quickly by, Like a shooting star across the sky. Alaska, your name means strong and grand, Yet you can tame and feed animals right from your hand. You are a star child, happy and bright, May your 10th year be an absolute delight! We love you so so much, Love Mom, Dad, River and all the animals



Above: WCS board member Natalie Sadler, WCS volunteer Bob Cronin, WCS Executive Director Wendy Copperfield, Adventist Health Patient Care Executive Amy Buckingham, WCS Warehouse Supervisor Nils Rule-Gustafson, WCS volunteer Larry Desmond, WCS Warehouse Manager Debi Menesini, WCS volunteer Louis Rothlick, Adventist Health Patient Experience Manager Becky Hope, and Adventist Health employee and food drive coordinator, Jodie Dalton.



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## FOR THE FOOD BANK

### Adventist Health Howard Memorial collects donations for Willits Community Services and Food Bank

Three crates of miscellaneous toiletries, 35 pounds of pet food, four large bags of winter coats and clothing, and 384 pounds of non-perishable food items were donated to the Willits Community Services and Food Bank on Tuesday from the generous staff and employees at Adventist Health Howard Memorial.

"Willits Community Services and Food Bank is grateful for the continued support of Adventist Health for their annual drive," said WCS Executive Director Wendy Copperfield. "These items are much appreciated and will go to needy families during this winter season. The clients of the food bank are very thankful for the range of items that were donated through this drive."

"Our team loves this tradition of giving back to our community," explained Adventist Health Howard Memorial Patient Care Executive Amy Buckingham. "We've been doing this for at least five years, and it's all employee driven, specifically Jodie who coordinates everything. We're so proud of our team and their commitment to supporting our community, inside our hospital walls and beyond."

— Maureen Jennison

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WHO? CHILDREN AGES 0-5

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\*A PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST BE PRESENT WITH THEIR CHILD THROUGH THE DURATION OF THE GROUP

— Maureen Jennison

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Youth in Willits need adults like YOU.

**Be A Mentor**  
 Questions?  
 Stacey Durborow  
 707-593-6366



## Christmas Coloring

Thank you to 7-year-old Connor Brown who cut out and colored in Willits Weekly's little coloring page from last week's edition. You did a lovely job, Connor! We hope you can clip out this little note and save it in a memory box for years to come! Happy Holidays!



Above: Third and fourth grade Waldorf students celebrate raising \$1,002.05 for Our Daily Bread by collecting spare coins. Some students hold muffins baked by the class to donate to the Our Daily Bread meal this week.

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## Waldorf School raises over \$1,000 for Our Daily Bread

Submitted by *Karrin Palmer, for WSMC*

The third and fourth grade class at the Waldorf School of Mendocino County recently held a school-wide coin drive to benefit Our Daily Bread in Willits. Students encouraged the entire school community to collect spare change and join them in serving others. Before delivering the donation, the class baked muffins to share with guests at this week's meal service. With just one day left in the drive, the students were still shy of their \$1,000 goal – yet they returned the next morning with even more coins in hand, determined to meet it. Their final donation totaled \$1,002.05, supporting Our Daily Bread as it continues to provide warm, nourishing meals to the community.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

WW583

**CITY OF WILLITS**  
 SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE  
 ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 12th, 2025 the City Council introduced proposed Ordinance No. 2025-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLITS, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 17.66 ENTITLED "SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS" AND ADDING CHAPTER 17.87 ENTITLED "MOBILE VENDORS" TO TITLE 17 (ZONING) OF THE WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE.

The purpose of Ordinance No. 2025-06 is to amend the existing zoning regulations within Title 17 of the Willits Municipal Code by updating Chapter 17.66 – Supplemental Provisions and adding Chapter 17.87 – Mobile Vendors to establish clear and consistent standards for mobile vending units and sidewalk vendors operating within the City. The ordinance creates permitting procedures, allowable vending locations, operational standards, design guidelines, and other applicable regulations intended to ensure compatibility with existing brick-and-mortar businesses, support economic opportunity, preserve the architectural and historic character of downtown, and protect public health, safety, and welfare.

The ordinance is consistent with the City's General Plan and complies with applicable State laws, including Senate Bill 946 (SB 946) governing sidewalk vending. The ordinance was reviewed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the 'Common Sense Exemption,' because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of this ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment.

The above and forgoing Ordinance was introduced by Councilmember Gonzalez and seconded by Vice Mayor Alaniz, and passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Willits, on this 10th day of December 2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Allman, Gonzalez, Alaniz, Stranske.  
 NOES:  
 ABSENT:  
 RECUSED: Burton.

WHEREUPON, the Mayor Allman declared the Ordinance passed and adopted and SO ORDERED.

s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk

**Publication Date: December 18, 2025**

WW584

**CITY OF WILLITS**  
 SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE  
 ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 12th, 2025 the City Council introduced proposed Ordinance No. 2025-08

AMENDING THE CITY'S WATER SERVICE ORDINANCE AT TITLE 14 OF THE WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 14.08, REVISING THE DEFINITION OF AN "APPLICANT" FOR WATER SERVICE AND THE DEFINITION OF AN "OWNER" OF THE PREMISES.

The purpose of Ordinance No. 2025-08 is to amend the existing to revise the City's Water Service Ordinance at Title 14 of the Willits Municipal Code, Chapter 14.08 by revising the definition of an "Applicant" for water service and the definition an "Owner" of the premises to be served.

The amendments to the City's Water Service Ordinance definitions are proposed to clarify that an Applicant for water service must be the record Owner of the title to the premises where city water service is proposed to be furnished, or the person(s) in possession of the premises as executor, administrator, guardian or trustee of the owner(s), or person lawfully acting with the knowledge and consent of the owner.

The above and forgoing Ordinance was introduced by Councilmember Burton and seconded by Councilmember Gonzalez, and passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Willits, on this 10th day of December 2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Burton, Gonzalez, Alaniz, Stranske, Allman.  
 NOES: None.  
 ABSENT: None.

WHEREUPON, the Mayor Allman declared the Ordinance passed and adopted and SO ORDERED.

s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk

**Publication Date: December 18, 2025**

WW582

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**Mendocino County Library Willits Branch**  
**390 E. Commercial St.**  
**Willits, CA 95490**

**January 14, 2026, 1:00-2:00 p.m.**

Notice is hereby given of a public meeting to solicit public comment regarding the intent of Mendocino County Library to apply for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of Community Facilities Grant for a New Bookmobile.

The total cost of the Project is about \$600,000 with the Mendocino County Library matching \$550,000. The public discussion will be held January 14, 2026, at 390 E. Commercial St., Willits, California during the Library Advisory Board meeting. For additional information, please see the agenda at https://www.mendolibrary.org/about/library-advisory-board.

The public is encouraged to attend and offer comments regarding the Project and USDA funding application.

**Publication Date: December 18, 2025**

**Rotary Club of Willits**  
 People of Action  
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**www.willitsrotary.org**  
**WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com**

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW580

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

Case No. 25PR00403

1. 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**

2. **A Petition for Probate** has been filed by: **BARBARA DEBARRUEL** in the Superior Court of California County of: Mendocino

3. The Petition for Probate requests that **BARBARA DEBARRUEL** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. **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

7. **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.

8. **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.**

9. **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.

10. 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**

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW582

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**Mendocino County Library Willits Branch**  
**390 E. Commercial St.**  
**Willits, CA 95490**

**January 14, 2026, 1:00-2:00 p.m.**

Notice is hereby given of a public meeting to solicit public comment regarding the intent of Mendocino County Library to apply for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of Community Facilities Grant for a New Bookmobile.

The total cost of the Project is about \$600,000 with the Mendocino County Library matching \$550,000. The public discussion will be held January 14, 2026, at 390 E. Commercial St., Willits, California during the Library Advisory Board meeting. For additional information, please see the agenda at https://www.mendolibrary.org/about/library-advisory-board.

The public is encouraged to attend and offer comments regarding the Project and USDA funding application.

**Publication Date: December 18, 2025**

**Rotary Club of Willits**  
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**www.willitsrotary.org**  
**WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com**

## CLASSIFIEDS

**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!

**Help Wanted**  
 Part Time Seasonal Receptionist needed for Willits HR Block Tax Office. Please call 707-459-2677 to set up interview.

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

**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

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

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 Vacant residential parcel at 23801 Ridge Rd. Clean title. Looking to donate to a local resident. You just cover the transfer. Email Saled: saled@gmail.com or text 408-592-2392.

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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**

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Pg. 12 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | December 18, 2025

Willits Weekly | December 18, 2025 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 13





Above, left: Bugler Ashley Cooper's sad tones in the fog are part of the American Legion Post 174's Wreaths Across America ceremony. Ashley's husband, Kennedy Cooper, is Post 174 Commander. Above, center: Rows of Willits veterans' graves marked with wreaths during Wreaths Across America day. Above, right, top: Members of the American Legion Post 174 and Willits 4-H stand ready to pay tribute to veterans buried at the Willits cemeteries by laying wreaths honoring their service. Above, right: Local members of Future Farmers of America and 4-H lay wreaths by veterans' graves on December 13.

Photos by Vicar Cory Paine

## Willits honors veterans at local cemeteries with Wreaths Across America

Submitted by Vicar Cory Paine of St. John Lutheran

This week, a profound sense of local reverence and national unity descended upon the Willits Cemetery and Little Lake Cemetery as community members joined local veterans to participate in the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony.

The Wreaths Across America event commenced with a somber and powerful opening ceremony, which paid tribute not only to the fallen veterans at rest but also to every branch of the United States Armed Forces.

In a moving ritual, a ceremonial wreath was laid to honor those currently serving and those who made the ultimate sacrifice across the six branches of the military:

- United States Army
- United States Marine Corps
- United States Navy
- United States Air Force
- United States Coast Guard
- United States Space Force

A final, separate wreath was solemnly placed to honor the more than 81,000 Americans whose last known status was Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA) from all conflicts, ensuring their sacrifice and the families they left behind

are never forgotten.

Following the opening address, volunteers laid Christmas wreaths at the headstone of every service person, transforming the local resting places into a visible, sacred symbol of remembrance during the holiday season.

The local effort is part of a massive national movement, Wreaths Across America, which coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and at thousands of locations across all 50 states. The organization's mission – to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom – resonated deeply with local participants.

"It was a truly sacred time to walk alongside our veterans community," said one local volunteer. We were instructed "To pause, say the name of each service person as we placed the wreath, and reflect on their profound service and sacrifice – it is an honor we will never forget.

In Willits, the coordination effort, often spearheaded by groups like the American Legion Post 174 and local youth organizations such as FFA and 4-H, ensures that no veteran's grave is left un-honored. This collaborative spirit embodies

the core tenets of the national program, which was founded in 2007 to expand a decades-long tradition started by Morrill Worcester in Maine.

Nationally, the event is marked by the annual "Escort to Arlington," a week-long veterans' parade carrying wreaths from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery. The local ceremonies in Willits reinforce that the commitment to service and remembrance is not confined to the nation's capital but is woven into the fabric of small communities everywhere.

Organizers of the local Wreaths Across America effort expressed deep gratitude to all the sponsors and volunteers who helped reach the goal of honoring every veteran's grave in the Cemetery District of the Redwoods.

The Wreaths Across America ceremony is more than a one-day event; it is an annual renewal of a sacred promise we make to those who defended our freedom. As the Christmas wreaths stand as silent sentinels over Willits and Little Lake Cemeteries this holiday season, "They serve as a profound and visible reminder that freedom is not free," as Roger Ham, American Legion Post 174, said in his address to the volunteers.

The organizers and veterans groups

are not only looking back in gratitude but are planning forward. The success of this year's endeavor – a success driven entirely by local volunteers and donors – underscores the power of our community when we unite for a common, noble cause.

Do not let your interest end here. Whether through sponsorship, volunteer hours, or simply encouraging the next generation to understand the meaning behind these wreaths, your participation is vital.

Mark your calendar for next December. Let us ensure that next year's Wreaths Across America is even stronger, cementing Willits' reputation as a community that truly remembers, truly honors, and truly teaches. That our freedom comes at a cost. God bless America and those who serve.

2026 wreath sponsorships and more information about volunteering and donating are available now at the Willits CA page at Wreaths Across America website at wreathsassamerica.org. Please specify a wreath to be donated to the Cemetery District of the Redwoods by searching for the location in the order form with Willits, CA or zip code 95490.

Or email willits4hclub@gmail.com for more information or a mailed 2026 sponsorship form.

The rest of  
**WSAG** From page 1

emergency shelter through the adoption of the Motel Resource Program (contact Ruthanne at 707-354-3960), and health and dignity services through the Redwood Gospel Mission Shower Program (call or text Carolyn at 707-529-0341). Recipients and volunteers are wanted and welcome.

According to Partnership Health (the MediCal provider for Mendocino County) the number of people who are unhoused, living in their vehicles or shelters, or who live in housing that is inadequate (no power, running water, heat, means to store or prepare food, etc.) numbers 4,860, and at least 850 of them live in the WSAG service area, likely more, due to the disproportionate number of Native American citizens who are unhoused nationally and in Mendocino County.

Today, there are fewer than 300 shelter beds in Mendocino County.

After completing an analysis of local needs, which will be published online in 2026, WSAG discovered that along with available housing and shelter space being an issue, people who are being housed are relapsing into homelessness (meaning leaving permanent housing) at a rate of 22 to 44%, the higher percentage being veterans (according to National Institutes of Health).

It is WSAG's mission to include post-homelessness programming to keep people housed by:

- Employing culturally competent Community Health Workers
- Unifying existing services through collaborative news, mixers, volunteering, research, and shared projects
- Providing a space where people can get out of the elements and heal

Readers, please give to Willits Shelter Action Group in 2025.

Giving in 2025 comes with specific tax advantages that will no longer be available in January 2026 due to federal legislative changes, such as:

1. Combining several years' worth of donations into a single, larger 2025 gift, a strategy known as "bunching." For example, instead of giving \$2,000 each year for the next five years, contribute \$10,000 this year while the more favorable deduction rules still apply.
2. Placing the gift in a donor-advised fund which would still benefit from the 2025 charitable tax rules years later. Deduct the donor-advised fund contribution on your taxes now and distribute the funds to charities later. This can be accomplished through any financial management institution.
3. Cash isn't the only way to give. Donating items, securities or business interests can be more tax-efficient than writing a check!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Send donations to: WSAG P.O. Box 71, Willits, CA 95490 / 501(c)(3) EIN: 33-3859579

– Mike A'Dair, Carolyn Ponikvar, and Jaynie Smith from the Willits Shelter Action Group

The rest of  
**Training** From page 1

two online FEMA courses, I-100 and IS-700, and bring certificates of completion to the signup day.

Applicants can register for the on-call program in advance at <https://forms.gle/6ArTQUxZWSpTYKzK9>, and applicants must attend one of the in-person sign up dates.

Training dates are scheduled. Willits crews will have training February 21-28, and Chico crews will have training March 14-21.

For more information about this program, please contact Forest Training Officer Natalie Maynard at [natalie.maynard@usda.gov](mailto:natalie.maynard@usda.gov).

### About the Forest Service

*The USDA Forest Service has for more than 100 years brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology – and rooted in communities – the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality.*

*The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.*

The rest of  
**Vendor** From page 1

ferment both pro and con, was food trucks: where and when they can operate in the city. The final ordinance prohibits mobile trucks from operating on city streets and alleys, or in residential areas. Trucks (and trailers) can only operate on private property in commercial or industrial zone areas.

One exception, added at the final hearing, allows trucks to set up at city owned "public facilities," including city hall, the sports fields on East Commercial Street, and other public areas, but only with specific permission from the city.

Another last-minute change extends the hours of operation, originally 8 am to 9 pm. At the request of the owner of Jalos Market at the south end of town, which plans to have a food truck open late on weekends, the hours were extended until midnight on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The rest of  
**Garbage** From page 1

the last two board meetings, October 28 and November 18, 2025 were approved, public hearing items were introduced.

Michelle Goodman of Redwood Waste Solutions went to the podium and addressed the board regarding Resolution 2025-11: "A Resolution of the Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board of Directors Increasing Solid Waste Rates for Calendar Year 2026 by 1.27%." Goodman stated that the new cost for a 32 gallon can will now be \$46.52/month.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak went to the podium. He announced that the Mendocino Haz-mobile will be in Willits on April 3 and 4. This will be a chance for those individuals who have been accumulating items to now be safely rid of them. A listing of hazardous items can be found at the Haz-mobile website, <https://mendorecycle.org/>. Additionally, Haschak was pleased to report that the jail wing that's been under construction will be finished in January. That's been a \$45 million dollar project for the county. Finally, he reported that the state audit is being completed and will be released in a couple of weeks before the holidays.

The board's attention was then focused on Consideration of Golf Course Operations Agreement with Brooktrails Golf, Inc.

On September 9, 2025, the Brooktrails board awarded Redwood Fairway Group, which is incorporated as Brooktrails Golf, Inc., the proposal to operate Brooktrails Golf Course.

On December 3, 2025, the previous operators entered into an agreement with the new

## This December 18, 2025 edition is Willits Weekly's last of the year

Willits Weekly is on Winter Break for Christmas week, New Year's week, and the month of January. We'll resume publishing on Thursday, February 5, 2026. Have a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a wonderful New Year!

### Reminder about unique grant opportunity

Notice to all Willits and Laytonville organizations and individuals!

We are pleased to announce a unique opportunity to receive a no-strings-attached financial grant to support your charitable, artistic, cultural, scientific, or other philanthropic work in our community.

These one-time gifts will be funded through the estate of a longtime Laytonville resident who died recently, leaving the bulk of his estate for charitable purposes.

Please submit a proposal of no more than 1,000 words, describing your project or endeavor, or your organization's mission, and how additional funding would be used.

Submit proposals to:

The Law Office of Elina N. Agnoli  
ATTN: GRANT SUBMISSION  
140 Branscomb Road  
Laytonville, CA 95454  
or email to: [eagnoli@gmail.com](mailto:eagnoli@gmail.com)

Guidelines: Submissions must be received on or before January 31, 2026 and must be 1,000 words or less. Grantees will be notified in March. Please include the full name of your organization, your tax ID number, and your mailing address in your proposal.

Gift range: \$1,000 – \$15,000.

The rest of  
**Haschak** From page 1

with service providers and healthcare professionals when the federal government is cutting away the safety net for too many of our neighbors, it has truly been my privilege to be a public servant.

I have decided not to run for reelection. While this was not an easy decision because I love doing the work and working with and for many wonderful people, I cannot commit to another four-year term. When Henry Thoreau was asked why he left the woods, he replied, "Perhaps it seemed to me that I had several more lives to live...."

I plan on completing this term and advocating for Mendocino County and its residents during the next year.

The rest of  
**Lights** From page 3

split the money and it goes to each grade's field trips. The kiddos are going to come and work on selling stuff, but the kids are already here, running around playing tag." They sold zebra peppermint popcorn and other tasty treats including hot soup.

Willits High School juniors and seniors were selling baked goods and hot chocolate to fund their prom and senior trip (hopefully) to Disneyland. They had build-it-yourself snowmen and a s'mores bar with seven different chocolates.

Lisa Block had a booth with cotton candy and kettle corn to promote her hopefully soon-to-open Mendo Merchant and Blue Barn Thrift Store. "It's been a while since the church had it open," explained Block. "It's been unoccupied for a while. We're going to have this cotton candy at the store. I'm friends with the kettle corn guy and I will stock his kettle corn. We'll have used and new items, snacks for the high schoolers. It's not going to be your typical thrift store."

All in all, it was a rather grand evening with a good portion of the town out on the streets and in the parks, enjoying the lights, the food, and each other.



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EXPERIENCE SUCCESS



WEEKENDS TO SUCCESS

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SPRING 2026 CLASSES

FRIDAYS

STAT-C1000 #0222 INTRO TO STATISTICS  
Friday 5:30-8:20PM and online - Late start 1/30/26-5/22/26  
Hybrid class with mandatory in-person meetings on  
Fridays 01/30, 2/20, 3/6, 3/20, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, and 5/22  
from 5:30-8:20PM.

Take a full-time class load  
in Willits on weekends only!

Hybrid classes are mostly online  
with mandatory in-person meetings.

[www.mendocino.edu/schedule](http://www.mendocino.edu/schedule)



Spring Classes Start  
January 20, 2026  
REGISTER NOW!

[WWW.MENDOCINO.EDU/SCHEDULE](http://WWW.MENDOCINO.EDU/SCHEDULE)

Mendocino College - North County Center  
372 E. Commercial St, Willits  
(707) 459-6224  
[willits@mendocino.edu](http://willits@mendocino.edu)  
Mon-Thurs 8:30-6:00pm & Fri 8:30 - 2:00pm

H	A	B	I	T	J	L	A	B	E	P	B	O	T	L	P	A	R	J
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# Feed Hope. Fight Hunger. Support Local Food Banks.

This holiday season, food banks across Sonoma and Mendocino counties are seeing record need. Your generosity can make a real difference for local families.

Join Sonoma Clean Power in supporting our region’s food banks. Every donation helps fill plates, lift spirits, and strengthen our community.

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