

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 626 **Thursday, February 19, 2026**

## Catching up with Brooktrails board 2026 meetings

Barbara O'Reardon  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

A significant portion of the December 9, 2025 meeting was previously reported in the first 2026 edition of the Willits Weekly. The Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board of Directors met three times since the December 9, 2025 meeting.

The total of the Accounts Payable from December 12, 2025 to February 10, 2026 that received unanimous approval by the board was: \$407,040.52.

At the January 13 meeting, there was a call for board reorganization. President Tina Tyler-O'Shea called for nominations for president. Director Ed Horrick nominated Tyler-O'Shea for president to serve for another term, and he also nominated Rick Williams to serve as vice-president again. Director Mary Ziady seconded the nominations, and both positions received unanimous roll call approval by the full board.

General Manager Tamara Alaniz reported

Read the rest of **Brooktrails**  
Over on Page 11

## Willits man posing as Uber driver in Ukiah arrested on sexual assault charges

Posted by UPD

On September 1 of 2025, the Ukiah Police Department's Investigative Unit began an investigation into a sexual assault after a female reported that she had been lured into the vehicle of a male posing as an Uber driver. The 34-year-old female victim, a resident of Ukiah, was walking home after swimming at the Russian River when a vehicle pulled up next to her and offered her a ride. The female believed that the vehicle was an Uber that had been ordered for her by her husband, who had left the river earlier and already returned home. Once inside the vehicle, the male driver identified himself as "Bruce," and claimed to be an Uber driver.

The male began driving in the direction of the female's home, but she noticed that they had driven passed her street. The female asked him to turn around, but the driver ignored her and drove to the Riverside Park

Read the rest of **Posing**  
Over on Page 11



Above, from left: Mendo Mill's Ramon Chavez holds one of the many gift baskets available to win to support the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County. HSMIC swag is available to purchase. HSMIC's Kelsey Radmilovic smiles with the sign announcing the Valentine's Day adoption event. Below Pickles, a 10-month old, mixed-breed male, attended the event and is up for adoption.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

## Paws of Love

Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County holds adoption event and month-long raffle at Mendo Mill

For another wonderful year, Mendo Mill of Willits hosted "Paws of Love," a Valentine's Day adoption event with the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, to try and place animals in homes and out of the shelter.

Maureen Jennison  
Graphics & Photographress  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The kissing booth, made by Mendo Mill, was set up in front of the store on February 14 and passersby were welcome to smile with their pet, meet one of the three dogs on site, and take photos. Swag was available to purchase to support the shelter, and Mendo Mill, Kong and vendors

supplied giveaways including treat bags and plush toys. HSMIC brought up coffee, donuts and chocolates to share.

"We have to give a huge shout to Mendo Mill, and Desire Penovaroff who runs the pet department, especially," said HSMIC's Kelsey Radmilovic. "She's single-handedly created this event and is so amazing to host us here again this year."

Three dogs came up from HSMIC to greet attendees; Pickles, a wonderfully tempered 10-month-old, male, black, mixed-breed pup who was happy to smile at the booth – especially when prompted with a little treat. "He's very food motivated!" they laughed.

Also in attendance was Zane, a 5-month-old male mixed-breed puppy, who also has a brother, Zander, available for adoption. While both are on the shy side, they are also super sweet and love toys.

Third was Josie, a 3-year old female who is currently the second-longest residing dog at HSMIC. She is being fostered by HSMIC volunteer and dog trainer Manina Harris, who has taught her many tricks – including, "say your prayers," "play dead," and "shake" – which she gleefully does for nibbles of string cheese.

"Josie is the sweeeeeeeetest, sweetest sweetheart –

Read the rest of **Pets**  
Over on page 9



At top, from left: A basket of small plush pups were given out to young attendees. Bags filled with loot were donated by vendors to give away during the event. Mendo Mill's Desire Penovaroff, left, and Jamie Lech, stand by the table which displays all the raffle baskets inside the store. Above, from left: Josie is available for adoption. Josie was trained by Manina Harris, right, and poses with longtime HSMIC volunteer, John Wagner, left. Josie graciously receives a gentle chin pat. At left: Mendo Mill and HSMIC folks smile at the "Kissing Booth" set up outside Mendo Mill for the Valentine's Day event, including, from left: Joe Aplet, Terri Boudreaux holding Zane, Desire Penovaroff, Jason Swieso in back, and Kelsey Radmilovic.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

## Mendocino College bond approved for June 2 election

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino College board of trustees voted unanimously at their February 11 meeting to place a bond measure on the ballot for the June 2, 2026 election. The "Mendocino College Career Training/Affordable Education Measure" would authorize \$98,000,000 in bonds, to raise money "to repair classrooms/ labs, leaky roofs, electrical; maintain clean drinking water, remove mold, asbestos, lead paint; to train students for careers in trades, construction, wildland firefighting, healthcare/ nursing/ EMT; [and to] construct, acquire, repair facilities/ sites/ equipment."

The bonds would be paid back by an additional property tax levying \$24 annually per \$100,000 of assessed valuation of the property.

Noel J. O'Neill, president of the Board of Trustees for Mendocino Lake

Read the rest of **Bond**  
Over on Page 11

## Lake County correctional deputy arrested after investigation of sexual assault complaint by jail inmate

Posted by Lake County Sheriff's Office

In September 2025, the Lake County Sheriff's Office received a report of sexual assault committed by a Sheriff's Office correctional deputy. The assault was alleged to have occurred in early 2024 at the Hill Road Correctional Facility. Detectives with the Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit immediately initiated a criminal investigation, and the Lake County Sheriff's Office Professional Standards Bureau immediately initiated an internal affairs investigation.

Detectives identified the Deputy Sheriff Corrections as Daniel Constancio Jr., 35, of Willits. At the time the report was made, Constancio was on approved protected leave and was subsequently placed on paid

Read the rest of **Complaint**  
Over on Page 11

## Buffey Wright Bourassa

County worker launches Third District supervisor campaign centered on listening and results

Submitted by **Buffey Wright Bourassa** for Mendocino County Supervisor

Lifelong Mendocino County resident Buffey Wright Bourassa has officially filed as a candidate for Third District supervisor, bringing nearly 12 years of county government experience and a career rooted in public service.

Bourassa has worked across multiple county departments, including Public Health, Behavioral Health, Human Resources, and most recently with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. In leadership roles such as program manager and program administrator, she has focused on improving systems, strengthening collaboration, and delivering measurable outcomes for the community.

Her campaign emphasizes practical leadership grounded in experience – understanding how county government works, where it can improve, and how to build partnerships that move projects forward.

Rather than beginning with a platform of promises, Bourassa launched her campaign with a Third District community survey to gather direct input from residents.

Read the rest of **Wright** Over on page 12

## Russell Green

Local business owner and community builder files to run for Third District supervisor

Submitted by **Russell Green** for Mendocino County Supervisor

Russell Green, a fifth-generation Mendocino County resident and local business owner, has announced his candidacy for Third District supervisor. Green filed his official declaration of candidacy last week, launching a campaign focused on practical solutions, modernizing county systems, and responsive local government.

"I'm running because I believe our district deserves leadership that listens, shows up, and gets things done," said Green. "I'm not a career politician. I'm a builder. I've spent my career creating jobs and solving complex problems with technology, and I want to bring that same technical precision to the board of supervisors."

The Third District includes Willits, Laytonville, Covelo, and surrounding areas of inland Mendocino County. Green has deep roots in the district as a graduate of Willits High School and a father raising two children in the community.

"The people of the Third District are hardworking, independent, and resilient," Green continued. "They deserve a supervisor who understands their challenges, from road conditions, to permitting delays, to public

Read the rest of **Green** Over on page 12

## School board president warns about lack of budget reserve

By **Jeanne King**, president, WUSD school board

I usually try to keep my comments brief but tonight they will be a bit longer than usual.

When I came onto the school board in 2018, Willits Unified School District had a 13% prudent reserve for economic uncertainties. A 13% prudent reserve gives districts about two months of operating expenses and allows districts to manage cash flow, mitigate funding volatility, address unexpected costs, save for large purchases, and reduce borrowing costs. The California School Board Association recommends a prudent reserve of at least that percentage amount, though I have heard that at least a 20% prudent reserve is recommended for rural school districts. The state of California, however, only **requires** school districts to maintain a 3% prudent reserve which shortens the districts' abilities to respond to economic uncertainty. Again, the 3% is **required** by the state, it is not optional.

One of the primary jobs of a school board is maintaining the financial wellbeing of the school district. About three years ago, during negotiations, the Willits teachers union put great pressure on the district to provide them with a significant raise. The district was bleeding state south to Ukiah as Ukiah paid more, so the district needed to improve the salaries of state. Negotiations went back and forth. The district looked at what it could afford without losing its responsibility to maintain a decent prudent reserve. The district said it could not go over a 15% raise.

The board majority at that time ignored the district's communication and in a 3-2 vote, agreed to a significantly higher percentage of a raise than the percentage the district said it could afford without jeopardizing the district's financial wellbeing. This raise significantly reduced the district's ability to respond to economic uncertainties. The immediate financial effect of the large raise was somewhat dulled by the amount of COVID monies coming in from the federal government, monies which had to be spent by a certain date, only on certain things.

Today, three years past that significant raise and 1.5 years after the spending deadline for COVID monies, Willits Unified is in significant financial difficulties. The school district has slipped below the 3% prudent reserve required by the state. The prudent reserve as of the 1st interim is 2.77%. Since we have fallen below that 3% minimum requirement, we now have what is called a "qualified" rating. A qualified certification is assigned by the state to an LEA (Local Education Agency) when it is determined that based upon current projections, the LEA may not meet its financial obligations for this school year plus the 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 school years.

So that is where Willits Unified is at this current time. If a school district does not take responsibility for righting itself financially, it is then given a "negative" qualification, by which it is determined that the school district **will not be able** to meet its financial obligations in the near future.

This is where the current school board finds itself. If the board does not make decisions to improve the school district's finances, the state basically comes in and makes the necessary decisions. The state will decide who to lay off, which programs to downsize, what materials should not be purchased. The state will be making those decisions, not a local board made up of local community members. The school district loses local control.

The current school board needs to make the **hard decisions** necessary to improve the financial wellbeing of the district. Some of those hard decisions may require laying off staff, cutting back on curriculum purchases, and so on. But the hard decisions must be made. The board is abdicating its responsibility regarding the financial wellbeing of the district if it does not make those hard necessary decisions.

Again, maintaining the financial wellbeing of the district is one of the primary responsibilities of a school board.

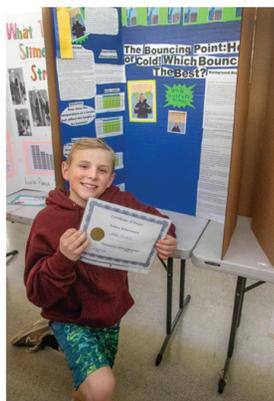
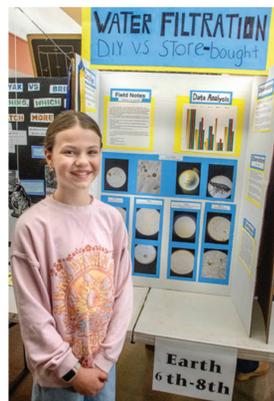
Our current superintendent, John Baker, who has been here less than a year, has really stepped up to the plate and is trying very hard to improve the district, not just financially but in many ways. Since John was hired as superintendent, as board president, I have met with John every week for at least one meeting if not two or three, so I can attest to John being a highly skilled superintendent and can attest to his work ethic, his vision for Willits Unified, and his belief in the staff and students here.

John recently wrote the board: "It is important to remember that we are responsible for running a public institution that must remain financially stable, ethically grounded, and fully compliant with board policy and government code. Our decisions must reflect what is best for the long-term health of the district, even when those decisions are difficult." John has my full support as he goes about trying hard to put this district on the right track going forward.

To take a further look at our school district finances, I would like to suggest that you read the letter from Mendocino County Office of Education dated February 6th and found as an attachment in the current board meeting agenda.

*Jeanne King is currently serving her second year as Willits Unified School District board president.*

*Editor's Note: WUSD school board agendas can be found here: <https://willitsunifiedca.sites.thrillshare.com/page/school-board-resources>*



## Science Fair

Approximately 300 Willits students participate with clever experiments and displays

The Willits Science Fair is all about the scientific method, a step-by-step way to find the truth, to test theories, to follow time-tested procedures in identifying a problem, to state a problem in a way that allows one to follow these procedures and observations to arrive at a clear conclusion.

The scientific method involves first stating what the observer thinks may be the outcome in a hypothesis. From there, experiments are created that will test the theories in a manner that can be recreated by others following the same steps.

Many of the approximately 300 students and teams utilized steps which included observation, background research, and conclusions. The projects, presented as cardboard triptychs, which were all the same size, as to level the playing field when it came to the judging, utilized color, photos, graphs, models, and other visual aids to best explain their process and conclusions.

The point of the exercise, open to all students, kindergarten through 11th grade, was to learn the scientific method and to learn how to communicate their methods and findings in a manner that can be easily followed.

"Some schools, but not all, require their students to participate," explained Erin Vaccaro, Willits Unified Science Fair coordinator. "It's a school-based decision. There are all different categories of projects. We have students from almost all schools in Willits represented, some home-school students as well."

"There are different kinds of projects," Vaccaro said. "There are experimental projects, where they have a question, then they make a hypothesis, design an experiment to try to answer and explore the hypothesis. There are engineering projects, where there is a problem to be solved and they build different prototypes, then test to see which prototype works best. There are also display projects, where students want to teach us about a topic. There is a wide range of topics that are covered."

"We have a pool of about 20 judges," explained Vaccaro, "and our judges are

many retired and current teachers, people who work in the sciences or have science experience. They are basically volunteer community members. We also have businesses that sponsor different prizes and they have their own set of requirements for what they want to see. The judges follow a rubric with all the requirements and what to look for. There is a different rubric for each kind of project, like experiments, engineering or display."

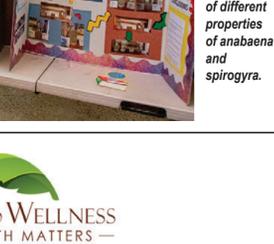
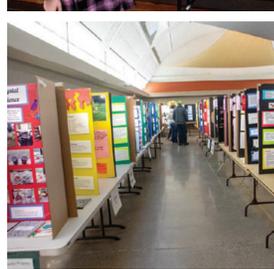
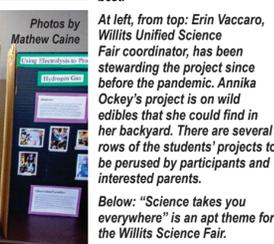
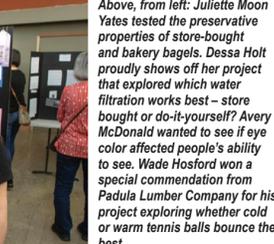
On February 11, the students' science projects were open for the public to peruse and enjoy. There was a vast array of subjects that the students chose to explore, subjects that intrigued and sparked their imaginations, explorations of engineering, science, or just whimsical subjects, as in the displays dedicated to the best popcorn or the most stretchy goo.

Juliette Moon Yates, whose project involved exploring which bagels were "the most clean to eat" and which became moldy the fastest. "Fort Bragg Bakery had the least amount of ingredients and it molded first. It had preservatives in it, but normal stuff you would have in your cupboard. You wouldn't pull something like calcium propionate or ascorbate acid out of a cupboard. It just goes to show you how much bad stuff they put in our food," explained Yates.

Dessa Holt wanted to see which water-filtration system worked best and used microscopic views to observe the micro elements in the water. "My project was specifically on microfiltration. This is my control," said Holt as she pointed to different pictures on her display board. "Filter three did really good. These are things that are in our local reservoir. This is an egg and this is a worm and this is a crustacean. This is just bacteria and protozoa. My conclusion is that natural filters work better. The microfiltration does work."

Phoenix Hetherington and Archer Payne explored two different types of pumps to see which was most efficient. Their project was chosen to go to the county competition in March on the Mendocino College campus.

Annika Ockey chose a project that she particularly enjoyed, dealing with edible plants found in one's backyard. She said, "I chose this project because I personally



## 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, February 19:** Buffalo Chicken Sandwich

**Friday, February 20:** Carnitas Burrito w/Green Sauce

**Monday, February 23:** Chicken Parm Sandwich

**Tuesday, February 24:** Ground Beef Stroganoff

**Wednesday, February 25:** BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Corn Bread

**Thursday, February 26:** Mini Sausage Pepperoni Pizza

**Friday, February 27:** Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, 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 Juliana at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

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

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

## What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

### 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.

### Collection for food bank is ongoing

To the Editor:

Just a reminder: Willits Indivisible's food bank collection effort is ongoing.

Many thanks to the Willits Senior Center, the Willits Branch Library, Mendo Mill and Brickhouse for providing convenient drop off locations. Thank you also to all of you who have donated so generously. Thank you.

Norma Avery and Susie Walker, Willits Indivisible

**Willits Weekly**  
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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

Volume 13, Number 626  
3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays  
P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633 / 707-972-7047  
willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633  
Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographer / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-972-7047  
Jackie Cobbs, features copy editor  
Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer  
Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter  
BB Kamoroff, news reporter  
Addison Alvarado, school board reporter  
Danya Davis, Police Log  
Sheri Dockins, sports reporter  
Ava Dockins, sports photographer  
Damian and Andria, "What's Happening" Calendar: dandriawcalendar@gmail.com  
April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / willitsweekly@gmail.com

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com

**Willits Weekly**  
EST. 2013  
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

In the mail:  1 year - \$120  Additional donation included \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Home delivery:  1 year - \$75 (Home Delivery only available in Willits, Brooktrails & local areas) (call for details)

Make checks payable to Willits Weekly | No invoice sent - please just send in payment | P.O. Box 1698 in Willits, CA 95490

Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print

QUESTIONS: 707-459-2633 | 707-972-7047

Web: www.willitsweekly.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/willitsweekly Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

**KEEP YOUR BUCKETS FOR MOPPING**

Residential and Commercial Roofing in Mendocino, Lake & Sonoma Counties

Office: 707-462-4514  
Mobile: 707-367-3786  
www.basroofinginc.com  
basroofing@live.com

**B.A.S. ROOFING**  
W.C. & G.L. Insured

**AVENUES TO WELLNESS**  
— YOUR HEALTH MATTERS —  
A PROGRAM OF THE FRANK R. HOWARD FOUNDATION

**Bereavement Support Group**

This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the signs of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward.

Beginning: Wednesday, March 18  
Time: 3:30-5:30pm  
Please Call to Register:  
Suzanne Picetti-Johnson (707) 456-9676

FREE OF CHARGE | SPACE IS LIMITED

**Suzana Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson**  
Group Facilitators

# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Beginner



## HOW TO SUDOKU

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

### ADOPT A DOG WORD SEARCH

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

ADOPTION APPLICATION BEHAVIOR BOND COMMITMENT	COMPANION DONATION FOREVER HOME FOSTER KENNEL LOVING	MICROCHIP NEUTER PUPPY RESCUE SCREENING SENIOR	SHELTER SPAY TRAINING TRANSPORT VOLUNTEER
---	--	--	---

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15							16	
17			18								19	
20					21						22	
23				24			25			26		
27					28	29	30					
31	32	33		34				35			36	37
38				39				40			41	
42			43		44					45		
46				47						48		
49	50							51		52	53	54
55				56		57	58	59		60		
61				62				63				
64				65						66		
67				68						69		

### CLUES ACROSS

- Cut quickly
- A way to state clearly
- River in NE Scotland
- Expansive
- Lacking social polish
- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Toadstools
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Experimented with
- One-sided
- Acquisitive
- Potted plants
- Everyone has one
- Kalahari Desert lake
- Unidentified flying object
- People 65 and over
- Small amount
- Daughter of Acrisius
- Ornamental box
- Government agents
- Uncertain
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- Treeless plains

### CLUES DOWN

- Brushed
- Small water spirit (Germ.)
- Heroes
- Monetary units
- Some don't want to share theirs
- Free-swimming invertebrate
- Litigates
- Outer
- Parallelograms
- Uneasy feelings
- Cross
- A way to remove

### CLUES ACROSS

- Pages can be dog-\_\_
- Ukrainian city
- A citizen of Denmark
- Month
- Hindu queens
- Group of chemicals
- Rider of Rohan
- Wet dirt
- Southwestern Russia city
- Observed
- Unhappy
- Angry
- Drivers' licenses
- Musical composition
- Auction
- They \_\_\_
- Women
- Filled with love for
- Thick-soled sock
- Appears
- Old World lizard
- The leading performer
- Protein
- 'Gunga Din' script writer
- Outer
- Art \_\_\_ around 1920
- Parallelograms
- Uneasy feelings
- Cross
- Abnormal breathing
- A place to rest

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

January 19 to February 1

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **160 incidents** in this 14-day period.

### Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

**January 19**  
7:10 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.  
7:28 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Penn Street.  
10:19 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.  
5:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and West Mendocino Avenue and issued a citation.

8:00 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.  
9:37 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

**January 20**  
10:58 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism near the intersection of School Street and West Commercial Street.  
6:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

**January 21**  
4:46 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

10:17 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and East Commercial Street and issued a warning.  
10:21 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of Penn Street.

11:18 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of South Main Street.

7:30 pm: AGUILARHERNANDEZ, Jose Antonio (47) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street following a theft investigation. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (intoxicated with drugs and alcohol) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

11:38 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

**January 22**  
12:36 am: FUNDERBERG, William Cody (38) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of Central Street. They were arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

8:36 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

**January 23**  
8:51 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.  
12:14 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of Penn Street.

4:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of North Main Street.

5:35 pm: DODD JR., James Monroe (32) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of North Main Street and East Commercial Street. He was arrested on multiple felony charges.

**January 24**  
No incidents to report.

**January 25**  
8:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Penn Street.

**January 26**  
2:42 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of South Lenore Avenue.

9:42 am: Officers conducted a stop in the

100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

10:07 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

10:53 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:36 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:46 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

12:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:53 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

2:41 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

5:09 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and West Valley Street and issued a warning.

7:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

**January 27**  
9:45 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

10:10 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

11:22 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and Railroad Avenue.

7:41 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1600 block of Buckeye Road.

**January 28**  
5:39 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

7:36 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 700 block of South Main Street.

2:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

**January 29**  
5:33 am: Officers responded to a report of unwanted subjects in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:43 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

1:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

2:28 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Coast Street and West Highway 20 and issued a warning.

4:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and California Street and issued a warning.

4:58 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:58 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

**January 30**  
3:37 pm: PATTY, Franklin Arthur (60) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on multiple felony and misdemeanor charges.

9:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of North Street.

10:11 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

**January 31**  
8:47 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1200 block of Magnolia Avenue.

**February 1**  
2:00 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Bonnie Lane.  
9:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Alder Lane and issued a warning.

# No Quilty Pleasures show in 2026



Raffle tickets for this beautiful quilt are available at The Fat Quail Quilt Shop in Laytonville. Proceeds go for Laytonville and Willits graduating high school students' scholarships.

Submitted by Long Valley Quilters

Unfortunately, the Long Valley Quilters will not be able to hold our annual Quilty Pleasures Quilt Show this year.

Our membership has been shrinking, largely due to health issues and age. We are hopeful more people may want to join us in the future so that we may be able to hold our Quilt Show in 2027.

However, we do have a colorful quilt to raffle now to raise money for Laytonville and Willits graduating high school students' scholarships.

The quilt is displayed at The Fat Quail Quilt Shop in Laytonville, and tickets may be purchased there. Look for us selling tickets in town. We are hoping to raise at least \$2,000 and will hold the raffle once we reach that goal.

Our sincere appreciation goes to all in the community who have supported this.

**Noyo Theater BENEFIT**  
**Fillmore-era Concert Film**  
LIVE DEBUT **Hal A Looya**  
with Hal Wagenet & Mitchell Holman from IABD  
Starring **Santana**, **Grateful Dead**, **Jefferson Airplane**, **It's A Beautiful Day**, **Quicksilver**, **Cold Blood**, **Hot Tuna**, **Elvin Bishop**, **New Riders**  
Feb 27, 2026 Movie 7 pm  
Benefit Donation \$20

Pre-sale tickets at **MAZAHAR**  
38 S. Main St. Willits  
\$20 each until 2-26-2026 at 5 pm

# 'Hal A Looya'

benefit for the Noyo Theater, February 27

Hal A Looya, the studio band now recording Hal Wagenet's compositions, presents a benefit for the historic Noyo Theater at the theater on Friday, February 27 at 7 pm. Doors open at 6 pm.

The show includes a movie of live performances of famous San Francisco bands from the equally historic Fillmore West.

One of these groups was It's A Beautiful Day, with Wagenet playing lead guitar.

Following the film, Hal A Looya will play a 90-minute set, with a special guest appearance by Mitchell Holman, the original bass player for It's A Beautiful Day.

The Mendocino musicians in Hal A Looya feature Nicole Aguilair's intimate and soaring vocals, harmonica and percussion by Dennis Nonneman, with Robert Ford providing keyboard ornamentation. Coastal resident Michael Gross is the exceptional and imaginative drummer, and longtime New Orleans bassist John Abramson rounds out the band.

This mini orchestra plays whimsical and thoughtful music of all styles, with each number sure to entertain with its own mood and personality.

The show is sure to be sold out, and pre-sale tickets are available at Mazahar in downtown Willits.

Please feel free to copy this invitation to any music lovers you may know. We'll see you at the Noyo on February 27!!

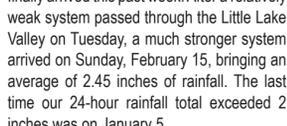
## Register for ATW's Bereavement Support Group, starting March 18

Submitted by ATW

This facilitated 8-week Bereavement Support Group provides an opportunity to learn the signs of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward. This group starts Wednesday, March 18, 3:30 to 5:30 pm

ATW's Bereavement Support Group is free of charge. Space is limited. Please call Suzanne to register at: 707-456-9676.

Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation.



Suzanne Wilson and Suzanne Ploetti-Johnson Group Facilitators

## Willits Rain Box

Along-awaited shift in the weather patterns finally arrived this past week. After a relatively weak system passed through the Little Lake Valley on Tuesday, a much stronger system arrived on Sunday, February 15, bringing an average of 2.45 inches of rainfall. The last time our 24-hour rainfall total exceeded 2 inches was on January 5.

Total rainfall since October 1, 2025 now stands at 35.78 inches, which is 10 to 15 inches less than observed at the end of the last two Februaries. The forecast for the remainder of February looks promising, containing predictions for several days with rain and possibly snow.

- Tim Hanna, Willits Rain Box



Rain drops on appreciative blossoms was a lovely sight Monday morning.

location	Mon Feb 09	Tue Feb 10	Wed Feb 11	Thur Feb 12	Fri Feb 13	Sat Feb 14	Sun Feb 15	weekly total	rainfall since 01Oct25
Northbrook Way	0.01	0.13	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02	2.53	2.72	38.87
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.01	0.13	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	2.95	3.13	39.54
Valley Rd	0.00	0.10	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.02	1.65	1.82	27.68
Canyon Rd	0.01	0.12	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.93	2.15	31.74
Pine Mountain	0.01	0.15	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.14	2.94	3.37	38.57
South Main @ East Oak	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.02	2.68	2.90	38.28
average	0.01	0.13	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.04	2.45	2.68	35.78

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

**KM CABINETRY**  
CUSTOM CABINETS FOR ANY ROOM IN YOUR HOUSE  
**CABINET REFACING**  
GOT A GREAT LAYOUT? WANT TO CUT COSTS?  
CABINET REFACING ALLOWS YOU TO UPDATE YOUR CABINETS WITHOUT THE HASSLE OF REMODELING. UPGRADE YOUR CABINETS AT A LOWER PRICE.  
**KEN MCCOURTNEY**  
707/605-1540 | KMCABINETRY.NET

**GARMAN CONSTRUCTION**  
ESTD. 1993  
NO BAD DAYS DIGGING  
Lic# 679517  
24900 N. HWY 101 IN WILLITS  
707-459-5859

**T and T TOWING**  
707-459-9116  
277 N. Lenore Ave. WILLITS, CA  
24-HOUR RADIO DISPATCHED TOWING

**FEBRUARY IS PET DENTAL MONTH!**  
-February Special-  
15% discount on dental cleaning and extractions only  
Call today to schedule your appointment!  
(707) 459-6723  
20000 Hollands Lane Willits, CA 95490  
**Willits Animal HOSPITAL**

**SOROPTIMISTS INTERNATIONAL**  
It's not too late! (But almost!)  
HURRY FOR LAST-MINUTE ADS!  
Send an email to: willitsphonebook@gmail.com and get your business included this year!

**NC Financial Group**  
A Wealth Management Company  
Voted Best Financial Advisor - Tax Preparer - Accounting Firm  
BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2026  
NICHOLAS CASAGRANDE, EA  
CEO & Financial Advisor  
nicholas.casagrande@cterafs.com  
Call us today! (855) 240-6606 (415) 480-3669  
207 W Stephenson St, Ukiah, CA 95482  
675 S Main St, Willits, CA 95490  
www.ncfinancialgroup.com  
Investments | Tax Planning | Insurance | Business Solutions | Retirement

# SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

**Agape Bible Church**  
290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Where love is first and the Bible is central.  
Sunday Services:  
10:00 a.m. - Worship  
Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
www.agapebiblechurch.com

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 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.

**Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom**  
• A University for Soul  
• Spiritual Living Courses  
• Spiritual Discussions  
• ECK Light & Sound Services  
More information?  
Call 530-224-8703  
www.eckankar.org

**Grace Community Church**  
Celebrating Life In Christ  
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 Bandanadam  
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/  
sainthonywillits@gmail.com  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

**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/stjohnwillits  
**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.  
399 W. Mendocino Ave.  
**All are welcome!**

**Willits United Methodist Church**  
Labyrinth and Peace Garden  
A place to find comfort  
where all are welcome  
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild  
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
707-459-2855  
www.uncm@outlook.com  
www.willitsumc.org  
Facebook: facebook.willitsumc  
If you want to be included in  
this column please call:  
**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
april@willitsweekly.com



## Thursday, February 19

**Willits Farmers Market:** Join your neighbors Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with 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.

**Creative Writers Workshop at the Library:** Share your fictional works in a supportive environment, receive constructive feedback and discuss publishing. Paper and pencils provided and Chromebooks available for check-out with valid library card. Ages 13 and up every 3rd Thursday of the month from 4:30 to 6 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

**Indoor Community Yard Sale in Laytonville:** This huge, multi-family yard sale will be held on Thursday, February 19 and Friday, February 20 from 11 am to 5 pm inside Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville.

## Friday, February 20

**FOWL Pop-Up Book Sale at the Library:** Friends of the Library offers books for \$1 apiece on Friday, February 20 from 10 am to 6 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

**Indoor Community Yard Sale in Laytonville:** Last day of this multi-family sale is on Friday, February 20 from 11 am to 5 pm in Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville.

**Book Lovers Discussion Group at the Library:** Come talk about books, authors, and genres every 3rd Friday of the month from noon to 1 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

**Create It, Make It, Break It STEM Activity at Library:** Join us for this week's activity "Tower Power" on Friday, February 20 from 3:30 to 5 pm at the library. Ages 9 to 14.

**'Importance of Being Earnest' opens at WCT:** Directed by Maria Monti, this classic farce opens on Friday, February 20 at 7 pm with show times each Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Sundays at 2 pm each weekend through March 8 at Willits Community Theater. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the door or online at wctperformingartcenter.org

**Blue Luke at Shanachie:** Enjoy the soul of the blues, the groove of funk, the grit of rock & roll and the harmonies of jazz on Friday, February 20 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

## Saturday, February 21

**FOWL Book Sale at the Library:** Friends of the Library offers books for \$1 apiece on Saturday, February 21 from 10 am to 5 pm at the Willits Library.

**Jewelry-Making at the Library:** Join us for a creative afternoon making beaded jewelry, with all supplies provided, on February 21 from 12 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

**Storytime and Fairytale at Round Valley Library:** Join us for this S.T.E.M. activity on Saturday, February 21 at 11 am at the Round Valley Library 23925 Howard Street, Covelo.

**'Importance of Being Earnest' at WCT:** Saturday, February 21 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. More info see Feb. 20 listing.

**Willits Sober Grad Poker Tournament at Sparetime:** Raise funds for Willits Sober Grad celebration at this Texas Hold 'Em Poker tournament which includes a free drink and dinner provided by Loose Caboose on Saturday, February 21

from 5 to 7 pm, with sign-up at 4 pm and a 'new player poker clinic' at 4:30 pm at Sparetime Supply, 300 East Commercial Street. Buy-in \$60 but save \$10 when you pre-purchase tickets by texting or calling Carrie at 707-671-6173.

**Open-Mic at the Munchery:** All ages are welcome for a night full of music and creativity every third Saturday of the month starting at 6 pm at 1797 South Main Street, Willits.

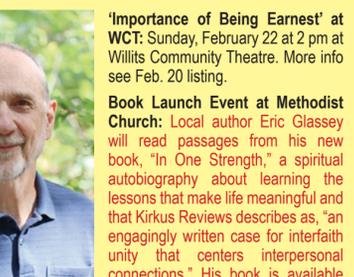
**Hillshaker at Shanachie:** Clay Hawkins and Andrew Robertson blend rapid-fire fingerstyle slide guitar and heartfelt songwriting in their own brand of acoustic rock on Saturday, February 21 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

## Sunday, February 22

**Sunday Breakfast at the Grange:** All you can eat of our "scratch" pancakes (sourdough, wholegrain, Hank's famous buttermilk, or gluten-free) plus organic, local farm-fresh scrambled eggs, Beeler's Quality Bacon, real butter, juice and organic coffee or tea for only \$13! (\$11 for Seniors, \$5 for kids under 10). Extra sides of organic fruit, Amish organic maple syrup, fresh fruit syrup or bacon for a small additional fee.

**Seed Sharing at the Grange:** Preserve heirloom seeds by sharing seeds you've collected from your garden and won't plant this year to exchange for others on Sunday, February 22 from 10 am to 12 pm, with a short tour of the Grange Garden at 11 am at the Little Lake Grange.

**Slink-Pods and Conifers Forest Walk at Brooktrails:** Join forester Lynn Webb on a relaxed 1.6 mile walk to look for the first wildflowers of the season along with uncommon conifers on Sunday, February 22 at 10 am on the Parcourse/Nutmeg Trail which starts at 24860 Birch Street in Brooktrails. Please RSVP at allevents.com. Event will be cancelled if raining heavily.



**'Importance of Being Earnest' at WCT:** Sunday, February 22 at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre. More info see Feb. 20 listing.

**Book Launch Event at Methodist Church:** Local author Eric Glassey will read passages from his new book, "In One Strength," a spiritual autobiography about learning the lessons that make life meaningful and that Kirkus Reviews describes as, "an engagingly written case for interfaith unity that centers interpersonal connections." His book is available for purchase (cash or check only) at The Book

**Book Launch Event at Methodist Church:** Local author Eric Glassey will read passages from his new book, "In One Strength," a spiritual autobiography about learning the lessons that make life meaningful and that Kirkus Reviews describes as, "an engagingly written case for interfaith unity that centers interpersonal connections." His book is available for purchase (cash or check only) at The Book

**Juggler, but please note that the reading will be held at the United Methodist Church, 286 School Street on Sunday, February 22 at 2 pm. Light refreshments will be served and Glassey will sign books after the reading.**

**Tuesday, February 24**  
**FOWL Pop-Up Book Sale at the Library:** Friends of the Library offers books for \$1 apiece on Tuesday, February 24 from 10 am to 7 pm at Willits Library

**Wednesday, February 25**  
**FOWL Book Sale at Library:** Friends of the Library offers books for \$1 apiece on Wednesday, February 25 from 10 am to 7 pm at Willits Library.

**Lunch & Live Music at Brickhouse Coffee:** Enjoy live music while you eat every Wednesday from noon to 2 pm. February 25 features Deanne California, AKA Bunny, at Brickhouse Coffee, Willits.

**BGMS Fundraiser at Slam Dunk Pizza:** Support Baechtel Grove Middle School PTO on Wednesday, February 25 from 11 am to 9 pm at Slam Dunk Pizza, when a portion of every purchase will be donated to the school.

## Thursday, February 26

**Willits Farmers Market:** Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange for fresh produce, hot and cold food, crafts, the new edition of Willits Weekly and more. See Feb. 19 listing for more details.

**FOWL Book Sale at Library:** Friends of the Library offers books for \$1 apiece on Thursday, February 26 from 10 am to 7 pm at Willits Library.

**Storytime at Laytonville Library:** Every 4th Thursday of the month bring the little ones for a story the whole family can enjoy from 1 to 1:30 pm at the Laytonville Library, 44960 Highway 101, Laytonville.

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

## Friday, February 27

**FOWL Book Sale at Library:** Friends of the Library offers books for \$1 a piece on Friday, February 27 from 10 am to 6 pm at Willits Library.

**Create It, Make It, Break It STEM Activity at Library:** Join us for this week's activity "Energy Transfers" on Friday, February 27 from 3:30 to 5 pm at the library. Ages 9 to 14.

**Hal-a-Looya Debut and Benefit at the Noyo:** Enjoy Fillmore-era concert footage of It's a Beautiful Day, Santana, the Grateful Dead and six other San Francisco bands plus the live debut of Hal Wagenet's studio band, Hal-a-Looya at this benefit to support the Noyo Theater on Friday, February 27 at 7 pm at the Noyo. Tickets \$20.

**Seraphin Featuring Michael Parlengas at Shanachie:** Enjoy original music covering many styles in the classic Northern California rock and roll sound on Friday, February 27 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

## Saturday, February 28

**FOWL Pop-Up Book Sale at the Library:** Friends of the Library offers book for \$1 apiece on Saturday, February 28 from 10 am to 5 pm at Willits Library.

**Willits Rotary 2nd annual Grill & Give Winter BBQ:**

All-you-can-eat smoked pork, chicken, and homemade linguica, with beans, salad and bread plus vegetarian options. Also, live, silent and dessert auctions. Tickets \$50, all proceeds benefit Willits Daily Bread, Food Bank and Senior Center. Doors open at 5 pm on Saturday, February 28 at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street.

**Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie:** This local jam band plays original music that reflects our community on Saturday, February 28 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

## TOWN-WIDE ONGOING EVENTS

**Skunk Alley Improv Lessons at WCT:** Every Sunday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm with instructor Schuyler Marcier at Willits Community Theater. Cost is \$5, cash or Venmo.

**Free Meal by Willits Daily Bread:** Every week on Monday through Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at 66 East Commercial Street.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mobile Showers Available in Willits:** Mobile shower is in Willits every Monday and Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, behind St. Francis Church at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Toiletries, towels and washcloths provided. Those with disabilities may need to bring a helper. Sack dinners are served from 4:30 to 5:30 by

Willits Daily Bread.

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

**Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events**  
*Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street*

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

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

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

**Ongoing Events at the Willits Library**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

### 'Wuthering Heights'

**The Story:** This flick is based on the classic 19th century novel of the same name by Emily Bronte. It's the mid-19th century. Young Catherine (Charlotte Melington) is a high-spirited and wilful teenager. Her alcoholic father Earnshaw (Martin Clunes) has adopted

a young boy (Owen Cooper) who does not speak and whom nobody seems to want. Catherine names the boy Heathcliff. The teens hit it off as if they were made for each other.

**They grow up:** Catherine is played by Margo Robbie, and Heathcliff is played by Jacob Elordi. The stunningly beautiful young woman and the broodingly handsome young man fall desperately and impossibly and quite fatally in love. This is their heartbreaking story.

**My Thoughts:** Margo Robbie has a stunning and most-glorious, show-stopping wardrobe in her leading lady role. (I actually lost count of the many long full dresses (silk, satin, embroidered and plush, and edged with lace). Also, Robbie bedazzles us with jewelry, necklaces and pendants, diamonds and rubies and emeralds. Along with the spectacular wardrobes are an endless series of beautiful, wildly romantic landscapes. So much beauty! For poor doomed Catherine and her hopeless brooding Heathcliff, there is such a dark destiny.

**Parents:** Not for children. Some graphic violence and adult sexuality.

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

**'Seven Sisters' opens March 7 at WCA**

This eclectic exhibit, "Seven Sisters," features local artists Nancy Simpson, Carolyn Bakewell, Julie Beardsley, Nan Trichler, Esther Siegel, Laura Fogg, and Elizabeth Raybee, and will include paintings, quilts, mosaic, assemblage, and more, with a festive opening night on Saturday, March 7 from 6 to 8 pm including beverages and bar-bites. "Seven Sisters" will run through March 29, with galleries open Fridays through Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm.

New Exhibit Reception at Grace Hudson Museum February 28

## 'Momin Wen/Medicine Water' at Grace Hudson

"Momin Wen/Medicine Water: Flowing Through California Indian Country" tells a story of tribal relationships between the people and their waterways through paintings, basketry, beadwork, and regalia of over 30 Native artists, and reflects the various tribal histories of California Indian Country. Meet some of the artists at the opening reception on Saturday, February 28 from 1 to 4 pm at the Grace Hudson Museum, 431 South Main Street, Ukiah.

## Register for Bereavement Support Group at Howard Hospital

This Avenues to Wellness facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the signs of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward. This free-of-charge group starts Wednesday, March 18 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. Space is limited so register now by calling Suzanne at 707-456-9697.



Photos by Ava Dockins



COMMUNITY SPORTS

Willits High School Wrestling at Divisionals in Clearlake

Willits Wrestling loaded up the vans and headed to Clearlake High School to compete in the very first 2026 Divisional Championships. The Divisionals Championships were created to provide another opportunity to prepare the wrestlers throughout the section for the State Tournament. It also allows the boys and girls to be in the same venue for the North Coast Sections Championships held next weekend in Albany.

Prior to Divisionals, boys and girls wrestling held separate North Coast Section Tournaments in the Bay Area. Top 4 placers qualify for the North Coast Sections Championships held at a James Logan High School in Union City on February 20-21. This is one of the absolute toughest tournaments for both High School boys and girls wrestling. Stakes are high as they battle for a chance to head to the streets of Bakersfield for the CIF State Tournament February 26-28.

There were 23 high school teams to compete with. Justin-Siena, Kelseyville, McKinleyville, Mendocino, Middletown, Oakland Military Institute, South Fork, St. Bernard, St. Helena, St Patrick-St. Vincent, Stuart Hall, Upper Lake,

Athenian, Berean Christian, Cardinal Newman, Clearlake, Cloverdale, Credo, Ferndale, Ft. Bragg, Healdsburg, Hoopa Valley, John Swett, and Willits all took to the mats for a plethora of dynamic matches throughout the day.

When all was said and done, Willits Wolverines Wrestling left the building with two more beautiful banners to add to their collection. A 1st place banner for the boys and a 3rd place banner for the girls.

WHS will proudly be taking 12 of their qualifying wrestlers to compete at NCS next weekend. For WHS boys wrestling Donald Glenn, Aiden Puninaole-Figueroa, and Vladimir Bertolino placed 1st. Rickey Ramirez and Gavin McFadden placed 2nd. Brian Bowles placed 3rd, and Kassy 4th.

For WHS girls wrestling Bella Glenn and Emilia Owsiany placed 1st, with Sophia Puninaole-Figueroa, Stormie Nowlin placing 2nd. and Allaya Glass placing 3rd.

Congratulations wrestlers on your two hard-earned banners and to your 13 NCS placers! You have had an epic season so far! We wish you the best of luck at sections next week! Your community is so proud of you. Let's Go, Wolverines!



Above: Gavin McFadden gets into a scramble with his St. Helena opponent at league championships. Above, right: Vladimir Bertolino. League and Divisional champion, celebrates after an amazing performance during league championships. Thomas Rano gets his hand raised after a long battle with his Kelseyville opponent that had the whole gym watching.

CHOOSE YOUR FAVE SENIOR FORMAL PICTURE

Students need to choose their photo by FRIDAY, FEB 27, 2026 or it will be chosen for them!

Return order forms by same date to avoid \$10 late order fee!

Questions: 707-972-7047 | maureengetsmail@gmail.com



**READ Across America Week**  
March 2-6, 2026

**Mon. March 2nd - Dr. Seuss Birthday**  
Dress like your favorite Dr. Seuss Character or Themed Clothing

**Tuesday, March 3rd - Future Career Day**  
Books help us dream big about the future. What careers have you dreamed about? Examples: Astronaut, Artist, Author, Archaeologist, Athlete, Actor

**Wed., March 3rd - Wacky Wednesday**  
Wear your clothes backwards, inside out, miss matched! Dress crazy!

**Thurs. March 5th - Color Day**  
Books add color to our imaginations. Wear neon, shiny, bright or iridescent colors.

**Fri. March 6th - Favorite Character**  
Bring your favorite story to life and dress like a book character. Examples: Harry Potter, Fairytale characters, Comic Book Super Heroes

Hostess Lane Elementary School - Hostess Lane PTO

**WILLITS PTO BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

**FEBRUARY 21-- 2<sup>ND</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE BOYS**

**FEBRUARY 22-- 2<sup>ND</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE GIRLS**

**CHECK IN TIME**  
8:30 AM

**START TIME**  
9 AM

**LOCATION**  
WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL

**NO TEAM ENTRY FEE**  
5 YEARS AND UNDER: FREE  
6 AND ABOVE: \$5

**DOUBLE ELIMINATION**

**REGISTER YOUR TEAM BY FEBRUARY 19**

**CONTACT: CAROLINA EVANS**  
707-941-9272

**DR. SUESS WEEK**

**EVENTS AT SHERWOOD SCHOOL**

**! Book Fair !**  
Your children will be able to purchase books or other little nick-nacks throughout these dates!  
MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup>, 5<sup>TH</sup>, & 6<sup>TH</sup>.

**! Family Night !**  
Come join us and enjoy a swell, stress free time with your children; equipped with complimentary snacks such as finger food! Everyone deserves a night off!!  
MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>

**Check in on your cervical health**

Get up to date on your cervical cancer screening with care you can trust at MCHC

If you're 21-65, staying up to date with cervical cancer screening is one of the best ways to protect your health. MCHC is here to make it easy and comfortable—right in your community.

**MCHC HEALTH CENTERS**  
HILLSIDE | DORA ST | LITTLE LAKE | LAKEVIEW

Schedule your cervical cancer screening today.  
**(707) 468-1010**  
1-800-FOR-MCHC MCHCINC.ORG

WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP, AND OTHER INSURANCE  
MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

**Please join us for a Book Launch and Reading with local Willits author, Eric Glassey**

**Sunday, Feb. 22 2 p.m.**  
Willits United Methodist Church  
286 School St., Willits  
Light refreshments to follow

**Books now available at the Book Juggler or your favorite online bookseller**

**IN ONE STRENGTH**  
There is a New Order Coming. Leaving Behind the Brokenness of What was Before.

**"Developing a spiritual life is leaving behind the strictures of external religions and finding out what is real to you. Have faith, and to complete the circle, find a way to be of service."**  
--Eric Glassey

**inonestrength.org**

LEGAL NOTICES

WW584  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2026-F0009  
The following person or persons are doing business as Longevity Kombucha, 349 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490. Mailing Address: 438 McPeak St., Ukiah CA 95482.  
Registered owner: Jared Soinila, 438 McPeak St., Ukiah CA 95482.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/6/2026.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on 1/6/2026.  
/s/ Jared Soinila  
Publication Dates: February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

WW586  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2026-F0021  
The following person or persons are doing business as Hidden Gem Studio, 234 S. Main St. #3, Willits, CA 95490. Mailing Address: 390 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits CA 95490.  
Registered owner: Emilee Cavallari, 390 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits CA 95490  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/20/2024.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on 1/8/2026.  
/s/ Emilee Cavallari  
Publication Dates: February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

LEGAL NOTICES

WW585  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE KITTY BARR TRUST**  
[Probate Code §19000, et seq.]  
Case No. 25PR00408  
In re: the KITTY BARR TRUST, Dated June 21, 2013  
KITTY LOUISE BARR, aka KITTY L. BARR, aka KITTY BARR, Decedent.  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named decedent, that all persons having claims against the decedent are required to file them with the Superior Court of the County of Mendocino, at 100 No. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482 and deliver pursuant to Section 1215 of the California Probate Code a copy to Allison Morse, as trustee of the KITTY BARR TRUST dated June 21, 2013 wherein the decedent was the settlor, c/o Jennifer M. O'Brien, Neary and O'Brien, at 110 So. Main St., Ste. C, Willits, CA 95490, within the later of four months after February 5, 2026 or, if notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, 60 days after the date this notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, or you must petition to file a late claim as provided in Section 19103 of the Probate Code. A claim form may be obtained from the court clerk. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, with return receipt requested.  
**Publication Dates: February 5, 12, 19, 2026**

LEGAL NOTICES

WW587  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2026-F0005  
The following person or persons are doing business as Flying Dog Pizza, 65 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490; 707-459-4747.  
Registered owner: Caroline Ashley Rehberger, 98 W. Commercial St., Willits CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on January 6, 2026.  
/s/ Caroline Rehberger  
Publication Dates: February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026

WW590  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2026-F0067  
The following person or persons are doing business as Babcock House Photography, 96 S. Humboldt St., Willits, CA 95490; 415-317-1379.  
Registered owner: Brodman Photo LLC., 96 S. Humboldt St., Willits, CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/10/2022.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on February 11, 2026.  
/s/ Rob Brodman, Managing MBR  
Publication Dates: February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 2026

**Rotary Club of Willits**  
*People of Action*  
Serving our Community Since 1948  
[www.willitsrotary.org](http://www.willitsrotary.org)  
[WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com](mailto:WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com)

Locally raised in Willits, organically fed and pasture raised Beef, Pork and Lamb

**EASTSIDE RANCH**  
NATURALLY BLENDED MEAT

Personal and Commercial orders available

Contact Melissa at (707) 513-5705 | eastsideranchwillits@gmail.com

WW587  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2026-F0005  
The following person or persons are doing business as Flying Dog Pizza, 65 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490; 707-459-4747.  
Registered owner: Caroline Ashley Rehberger, 98 W. Commercial St., Willits CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on January 6, 2026.  
/s/ Caroline Rehberger  
Publication Dates: February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026

Love Willits Weekly?  
Help support our free-circulation community newspaper by becoming a subscriber! Fill out a form on page 2!

The rest of Pets | From page 1  
and you can quote me on that!" said Radmilovic. "She needs to be in a one-dog household, and she'll be happy to just chill; she doesn't need a lot of exercise and she would be great for a nice couple who just wants a cuddly dog."  
These three, plus the rest of the animals still at HSMC, are available for adoption at a reduced rate. Until this Sunday, February 22, altered dogs are available for \$50, and altered cats for \$25.  
There is also a special raffle running through the end of the month, with a drawing on February 28, for several baskets filled to the brim with pet goodies. Tickets are \$2 each, and the baskets can be viewed inside the Mendo Mill store where they're displayed near the front door.  
"Mendo Mill donated all the goodies, and put together the baskets," said Radmilovic. "They also donated a truckload of treats and goodies to HSMC for our fosters and to help fill our supply barn. We can't thank them, and

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!

**Inner Guidance**  
Inner Guidance: A doorway to greater confidence and love for life. Join us in a spiritual discussion, Tuesday, March 3, 11 - noon; Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial Street. Questions? Call Joy at (707) 367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of CA & NV. (This program is neither sponsored by nor affiliated with the Mendocino County Library.)

**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

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

**Lawn Bids Wanted**  
Willits Elementary Charter School seeks bids to improve the current lawn. We would like to remove the current grass, regrade, and install RTF sod. In order to make a bid, please contact the school to look at the current lawn. Phone: 707-459-1400. 405 E Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490. Bids due by Feb 27th.

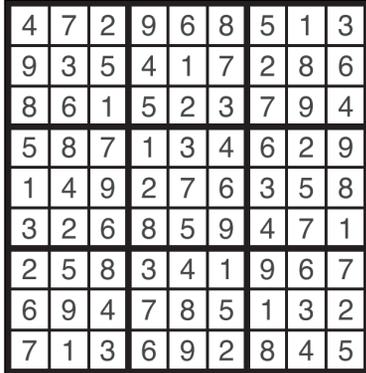
**RV/Trailer Space for Rent**  
Space for RV's and Trailers - starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/lp>

**Indoor Yard Sale**  
Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). Saturday, February 28 - 8 am to 4 pm

**Love Willits Weekly?**  
Help support our free-circulation community newspaper by becoming a "street subscriber"! You send in an annual donation, and pick up the edition on the street each week! We love our regular subscribers too: \$75 for home delivery in the Willits area; \$120 for a year's subscription in the U.S. mail. Fill out a form on page 2!

**Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for two weeks. Email us your ad today to include your ad here next week! Deadline is Monday for Thursday's paper**

The rest of Science | From page 3  
like wild edibles and I find them all the time in my yard. I like eating them. They're really good. Some are high in different vitamins and minerals. She found dandelions, stinging nettles, wild mustard, and purple dead nettles in her yard. Hers was a display project rather than an engineering or experimental offering.  
Wade Hosford received a Certificate of Science Achievement from one of the sponsoring companies for his project on how bouncing tennis balls are affected by temperature. "We did it at room temperature, refrigerator, freezer. We put the balls in a little baggie and then immersed them in hot water." He did multiple tests and recorded the results.  
Naya Bennett did a project on "Kitty Bridges," exploring which type of bridge would hold the most cats. Class projects were also on display with subjects such as which plants can purify water the best or "Bristle Bots," moving creatures made from toothbrushes. Other subjects included "The Science of Paper Airplanes," "Does the Weight of a Bat Affect How Far a Ball Goes?" "Cookie Chemistry," "Ultimate Perfume Faceoff," "Cereal Fingers," and "Global Warming" were some of the subjects on display.  
Samantha Williams had a particularly interesting display about how clouds form, complete with tiny lights in the cotton clouds. She created clouds in a jar as part of her exploration.  
Finn Shipp had an extremely detailed display that won him an Outstanding Science Award for his dive into the different properties of anabaena and spirogyra algae.  
If the displays at the fair are any indication, these students learned lessons that can be utilized throughout their lives to find solutions to questions and problems. They learned that the method is more important than being correct in their assumptions, and learned a way to find the answers.





# Cupid Crawl

Madame King and friends tour bars throughout town dressed as burlesque cherubs

**Mathew Caine**  
Features Writer  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

In a time of economic and societal uncertainty, Rebecca King, aka Madame King, is dedicated to creating events and happenings that bring smiles to the faces of all who might come in contact with her and her group of freewheeling lovers of life and happiness. King is bringing back fun to the adults of Willits, offering a respite from everyday responsibilities and apprehensions.

On Valentine's Eve, King and her merry band of creative fun-seekers put together what they called a Cupid Crawl, visiting almost every bar and brewery in Willits, festooned with feathers and wings. From 6 pm onward, they treaded the sidewalks in their bizarre and beautiful costumes, and generally laughed and smiled all the way.

"Tonight, we are doing Madame King Presents Willits Love and Laughter Cupid Crawl," said King. "This is a pub crawl through Willits, supporting all the local businesses that we have, encouraging people to come out and connect and have fun and dress up and create some joy. We are starting here at the Buzzard's Roost at 6 pm, which is something new that we haven't done. We've done other holiday crawls, but this is the first time we've incorporated the Buzzard's Roost. They were so encouraging with our Mrs. Roper's Romp that we decided to incorporate them in our crawl."

The Mrs. Roper's Romp attracted about 40 citizens, dressed in muumuu and other trappings of the "Three's Company" television show.

"We kind of paraded around," King continued. "There were a bunch of ladies in muumuus and wigs. It was hysterical. Fiorella Bianchi and I have started doing the crawls for Christmas and then we just had it evolve. From here [Buzzard's Roost], at 7:30 pm, we are headed to Northspur [Brewing Co.]. We will be there for about an hour and then we'll head to Shanachie's [Pub] for about an hour. Maybe we'll go to Flying Dog [Pizza] if they're still open. Then we'll head to John's Bar. From there, we will probably disburse, but a lot of people end up back at Shanachie because there is usually live music. Sometimes some people will stay at John's. We go all by foot."

At very top, from left: The Cupid Crawl wouldn't be complete without a stop at Drover's Distillery. Photo courtesy of Madame King Presents LLC. Wings of all types and sizes help these Cupids along their journey. Photo courtesy of Madame King Presents LLC. Heather Whitehurst as a furry cupid takes her young daughter with her for a night of fun.

At top, left: Mathew Alaniz is looking for some couples to shoot through the heart. At top, right: Tiffany Dunlap joins the group of flying cherubs at Northspur Brewing Co.

Above, left: Newlyweds Malakai Schindel and Melody Clearbrook join the group at Shanachie Pub. Above, right: Mathew and Tamara Alaniz attend the Cupid Crawl as a couple - he is dressed as Cupid, complete with bow and arrow.

Photos by Mathew Caine

In addition to her crawls, King is a practitioner of the art of burlesque, having produced a wildly popular show at the Willits Community Theatre as well as periodic burlesque classes, designed to explore her students' concept of body positivity and self-love.

"I've started beginner burlesque workshops," said King "The next one is next Saturday, February 21. I do still have a few spots left but I'm anticipating it will sell out. There are 20 spots total. It is a two-hour workshop with some course work online, things that you can review - an extra benefit. We practice the top-10 burlesque, basic things. In the class, they already had a basic idea of movement and a basic idea of the history. I also gave them some nice things to wear, so there's very specific outfits, button up shirts and long gloves, for a hand-and-glove reveal. The last 30 seconds is the big reveal. I'm trying to make it more of an essential dance class, encourage women to want to connect with their sensuality."

King wants to help women to love the person they are. "As we age, we have a tendency to think beauty and sexiness is a young woman's game," said King, "but I think, in this new modern world, with neo-burlesque, we are all sexy. We are all made of sexuality. We're all sexy, no matter what we are, we can tap into our own sexuality. We can feel that. It doesn't matter what size you are. It doesn't matter your health condition. The feeling and sensation is available for everybody."

There are no men in the class as King wants the women to feel safe and powerful.

"I wanted to create a space," explained King, "where women could feel like no one is judging them, all here for the same reason, not seeking anything from a man, just purely for themselves. It's a beautiful self-love experience."

"I want Willits to know that I am so grateful for being welcomed and well-received. It feels good to be a little weird, a little different, a little unusual, and to not feel weird socially. It feels good to feel welcome in the community for all my weird, silly goofiness," King concluded. And silliness and pure fun is the point.

## By Sgt. S. Ochoa for MCSO

On February 13, 2026, at about 12 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to the 11700 block of Branscomb Road in Laytonville for a report of shots fired. The reporting person notified MCSO Dispatch that Brandon Lee Langenderfer had shot at a 68-year-old adult male victim. The victim's head had been grazed by a bullet and Langenderfer fled the scene. Langenderfer, 32, is from Willits.

Upon arrival, first aid was rendered by medical personnel who confirmed the victim had sustained a superficial wound. The victim was examined and treated at the scene by medical personnel. and Sheriff's Office deputies initiated an attempted-murder investigation.

During the investigation, deputies learned that Langenderfer had walked up to the victim's property while he was outside his residence. Langenderfer produced a firearm, pointed it at the victim, and discharged the firearm. The victim ran for safety, and Langenderfer fled on foot into a wooded area.

During the investigation, deputies learned of a vehicle that was associated with Langenderfer. Deputies along with the assistance of other law enforcement agencies vigorously searched the area for Langenderfer.

At about 4 pm, a CALFIRE Prevention law enforcement

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

Community College, who represents Trustee Area No. 1, Willits/Covelo on the board, gave Willits Weekly some background on the bond measure.

"The board voted unanimously to place the bond measure on the June ballot following a recent vote to accept the Facilities Master Plan that has been formulated over the past months with considerable community input. The Master Plan will guide the college in critical investments in our infrastructure. We know that the coursework the community college offers is eight times less expensive to the student than a four-year institution."

In the Willits area, O'Neill noted: "The bond will allow our North County Campus to expand with a fire science and construction program. This has been in the planning phase for some years, and the bond will help the college with the final local match to state funds, and the construction will begin in summer of 2027."

"Other exciting elements in the master plan include an Allied Health Building on the main Ukiah Campus to house our expanding nursing program, as well as the EMT and culinary programs. Major updating on our Fort Bragg Campus will also occur. This bond measure offers an exciting opportunity for our community within the Mendocino Lake District," O'Neill concluded.

The bond measure is required to pass with 55% voter approval, and would establish an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee "to ensure that funds are spent as promised and specified."

Mendocino College staff started gathering community input into the Facilities Master Plan last summer, including 200 responses from across the region. Outreach included "phone, online, and in-person engagement with residents and community groups, as well as the establishment of the President's Community Workforce, Safety, and Education ad hoc group. This ad hoc group, composed of local leaders and regional safety advocates including allied health and firefighting experts, reviewed the district's budget and programs and provided recommendations," the staff report in the February 11 agenda packet stated.

Feedback from this outreach "indicates strong community support for the affordable education provided by Mendocino College," with up to 61% of voters prepared to support a facilities measure to address basic repair and career training needs. Residents also expressed "interest in maintaining and expanding career technical education programs, which require safe, clean, and up-to-date classrooms and labs to train nurses, EMTs, firefighters, and other essential workers who serve local rural and remote communities that are experiencing staffing crises."

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

administrative leave while the criminal investigation was conducted. The victim was an inmate at the time of the alleged assault and has since been released.

During the investigation, detectives interviewed the involved parties and witnesses. Based on the evidence gathered, detectives determined Constancio engaged in unlawful sexual conduct with the victim while she was incarcerated at the Hill Road Correctional Facility in 2024.

On February 12, 2026, Detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Constancio on misdemeanor charges of intimate touching against the will of the victim (243.4 (E) (1) PC), and on felony charges of oral copulation in a correctional facility (287 (E) PC), and sexual penetration by threat of retaliation against victim (289.6(a)(2) PC). Constancio voluntarily surrendered himself the same day and was booked into the Mendocino County Jail.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office takes allegations of misconduct seriously and is committed to accountability, transparency, and the safety of those in our care. Any criminal behavior by an employee is a violation of the public trust and will be investigated thoroughly.

If anyone believes they have any information regarding this case, please contact Detective Marcos De La Torre at (707) 262-4231 or the Major Crimes Unit Tip Line at 707-262-4088.

## Willits man arrested for attempted murder in Laytonville

officer observed the vehicle that had been associated with Langenderfer in the 6900 block of Branscomb Road. Deputies responded to the location and contained the area. Multiple verbal commands to prompt Langenderfer to surrender were given with no response.

Deputies formulated a plan to safely clear the area. With the use of a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) and deputies searching on foot, Langenderfer was located hiding in some brush, along with Miranda Marie Mullins, 31-year-old female from Willits). Langenderfer and Mullins were safely detained.

Langenderfer was placed under arrest for 664/187 PC (Attempt Murder), 30305(a)(1) PC (Prohibited Person in Possession of Ammunition), 11395 H&S (Possession of Controlled Substance With Prior Convictions), 3056 PC (Violation of Parole), 148(a)(1) (Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Law Enforcement), and a felony warrant for violating state parole. Langenderfer was booked and lodged at the Mendocino County Jail and is being held on

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

at the east end of Gobbi Street. Once at the park the male began sexually assaulting the female, ripping her dress, and placing his mouth and hands on her breasts. The female victim yelled at the male to stop but he continued to forcefully attempt sexual contact with the victim.

The female was eventually able to free herself and get out of the vehicle. The female ran home, where she reported what had happened to her husband and contacted law enforcement. The female was transported by ambulance to the Adventist Health Ukiah Valley Emergency Room, where she was treated for minor injuries and underwent a sexual assault forensic examination.

The female was not familiar with the suspect, who had only identified himself as "Bruce," and was described as a white male adult with red hair and a ginger beard. UPD detectives looked for security video or any witness that might have information that would assist with the investigation but were not able to develop any further investigative leads.

In late January the results of the sexual forensic exam of the victim were returned from the California Department of Justice, and the report contained a DNA match from a swab taken from the female's body. The DNA was linked to a Bruce K. Edwards of Willits, who was confirmed to be a white male adult with red hair and a ginger beard.

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

that the current water supply and quality conditions were good. Lake Emily and Lake Ada Rose were "spilling over." Alaniz also gladly reported: "Golf course transition to new management has been going smoothly with no hiccups," and Brooktrails Fire Chief Jeff Donaldson was soon to be certified as a fire safety instructor which will be a boon for local training opportunities for staff and mutual aid partners and possibly other regional partners. "Also," Alaniz continued, "a reliable source in the community has reported that there are fish in the creek near the Fawn Lily Trail."

The first item on the January 13 agenda was "Consideration of Resolution 2026-02 Amending and Adopting the Proposed Recreation and Greenbelt and Conservation Committee Charter."

Chair of the RGCC Committee Lynn Webb addressed the board and spoke of the committee's desire to be engaged when a board decision affects recreational resources and vegetation management in the greenbelt. The committee has worked on creating the charter to help guide their actions and hone the focus of their work. All six members of the RGCC serve on a voluntary basis and are solidly committed to serving the community.

Brooktrails board member Mary Ziady, who will be the board representative on the committee, said: "All who are part of the committee are professionals who show up and put in hours of time, and all have expertise that no one on our board of directors has. They are very well qualified to serve."

Board President Tyler-Shea who served on the committee in years past remarked: "I'm very excited about this item. It was on our agenda all those years ago when I was on the committee. I thought it was important to have a committee charter for the group to really establish those roles and responsibilities and have a clear relation."

Alaniz said: "The six members of the committee have interests in biology, environmental issues, ecosystem, forest management, recreation programs and the like." The proposed charter was coordinated to provide a consensus on the role of the committee in Brooktrails. The board approved the resolution and adopted the RGCC Charter as proposed.

At the January 27 Brooktrails board meeting, one agenda item was "Consideration of Resolution 2026-03 for Acceptance of the Grant Deed on 1817 Clover Drive from Kin-Man Hung Revocable Trust." This site recently became available for purchase. Tank 2 is located on the northerly adjacent property at 1829 Clover Drive, a site that does not have enough area to successfully execute a tank replacement project. The repairs which ultimately involve items such as a shed, pumps and electricity will be able to move forward with the acquisition of the Clover Drive property. The purchase cost of the lot was \$7,000, so it was a reasonable purchase for the timely repair of Tank 2.

It was recommended that the board approve 2026-03

a no-bail status due to his parole violations.

Mullins was placed under arrest for 148(a)(1) (Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Law Enforcement), 11364 H&S (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), and an out-of-state arrest warrant. Mullins was booked and lodged at the Mendocino County jail and is being held on a no-bail status due to her outstanding charges and out-of-state warrant.

This investigation is ongoing, and anyone with information regarding this case is requested to call the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center at 707-463-4086 (option 1), or the Sheriff's Office non-emergency tip-line at 707-234-2100. MCSO Captain Quincy Cromer told Willits Weekly that the assailant and the victim were known to each other, that it was a not a random crime.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the following agencies for their assistance with this investigation: CALFIRE Prevention, California Highway Patrol, California State Parks, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

UPD detectives launched an investigation into Edwards, and obtained a search warrant for his residence, his vehicle, his electronic devices, and a comparison DNA sample. On February 11 UPD detectives located and detained Edwards in Ukiah. During a search of Edwards' cell phone pursuant to the warrant, detectives located numerous videos that appeared to be secret recordings of an unclothed young female. Edwards admitted to secretly video recording the Willits minor, 17, for his own sexual gratification, who was the daughter of his adult roommate. Edwards also provided information on the sexual assault from Riverside Park, and was placed under arrest for felony charges of sexual assault, sexual battery by force, and sexual penetration with a foreign object, and misdemeanor charges of unauthorized recording for sexual gratification.

The Ukiah Police Department remains committed to keeping the residents of Ukiah safe and preventing violent crime in our community. The Ukiah Police Department would like to thank the California Department of Justice and the staff members of the Adventist Health Ukiah Emergency Room for their assistance with this investigation. For updates about crime in your neighborhood, residents can sign up for telephone, cell phone, and email notifications by clicking the Nixle link on our website: www.ukiahpolice.com.

Accepting Grant Deed on 1817 Clover Drive from the Kin-Man Hung Revocable Trust.

This item was held over until the February 10 meeting, and at that time the board approved the purchase of the parcel by roll call vote. The report garnered "ayes" from all of the roll.

Also at the February 10 meeting, during the Public Comments portion of the meeting, Buffy Wright Bourassa went to the podium and introduced herself, stating that she was a candidate for the Third District supervisor position up for election this year. She said, "I'm here to listen and learn and to figure out what this community needs."

Fire Chief Donaldson submitted the 2025 Fire Calls Report, and Director Ed Horrick remarked that there were 385 calls listed on the report which meant that there was just over one call per day. It was noted that 80% of the calls received were requests for medical assistance.

Also on the February 10 meeting agenda was "Consideration of Resolution 2026-04 Accepting the Balance Hydrologics Proposal to Update the Emergency Action Plans for Lake Emily and Lake Ada Rose Dams."

Updates to the emergency action plans are required at least every five years and whenever regulatory or operational changes are significant enough to warrant updating the plans. Balance Hydrologics completed the district's inundation mapping for EAP compliance, and their staff has the knowledge, experience and resources to provide compliant EAP updates. The proposed cost of these services are \$18,890, and the work will take from four to six months to complete.

General Manager Alaniz noted that the price for the service was very reasonable, and it will be paid for from the water enterprise fund. The resolution was then approved by a roll call vote.

Finally on the February 10 agenda was "Consideration of 2026-05 Accepting the Specialized Utility Services Providers Proposal to Conduct a Third Party-Median Household Income Survey."

The general manager provided an in-depth background explanation regarding the proposal, and in the final analysis she stated: "The reason for this survey is the ability for this community to apply for and receive state and, ultimately, potentially to receive federal funding for the Water Reuse Project that we've been working on for the last four to five years. We think this is an opportunity for us to continue going down this path that has cost the ratepayers so far only our internal labor. If, upon completion of the survey, the community is determined to be 'disadvantaged,' it will represent an advantage in applying for funding for the Water Reuse Project."

Following some positive discussion about the survey possibilities, the board agreed that the survey would be very useful for the community to participate in. The proposal was approved by roll call vote.

**Oh Hey Wilma!**

Our cowgirl is getting ready for her June debut at the Willits Frontier Days 100th Annual Event

At very top, from left: The Cupid Crawl wouldn't be complete without a stop at Drover's Distillery. Photo courtesy of Madame King Presents LLC. Wings of all types and sizes help these Cupids along their journey. Photo courtesy of Madame King Presents LLC. Heather Whitehurst as a furry cupid takes her young daughter with her for a night of fun.

At top, left: Mathew Alaniz is looking for some couples to shoot through the heart. At top, right: Tiffany Dunlap joins the group of flying cherubs at Northspur Brewing Co.

Above, left: Newlyweds Malakai Schindel and Melody Clearbrook join the group at Shanachie Pub. Above, right: Mathew and Tamara Alaniz attend the Cupid Crawl as a couple - he is dressed as Cupid, complete with bow and arrow.

Photos by Mathew Caine

**Senior Center THRIFT STORE**

Open Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lots of clothing and furniture available.

459-6826  
1501 BAECHTEL ROAD • WILLITS

**Willits Best POWER & HARDWARE**

HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT

Lawn & Garden Equipment • Generators  
Sales, Parts & Service • Pick-up & Delivery

1600 S. Main St. Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420  
Willits, CA 95490 Service: 707 459-0596  
willitspower@gmail.com Fax: 707 459-6369

**SPARETIME - GARDEN CENTER -**

**Spring SALE**

NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

SAVE 15%

LOOK FOR THE ORANGE TAGS

SELECT SOILS & AMENDMENTS

(707) 459-6791

208 E. San Francisco Ave. sparetimegardencenters.com

STORE HOURS: Mon - Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday CLOSED

**COUGAR'S CLOSET II MINI-STORAGE**

GOT A PLACE FOR YOUR THINGS!

317 Robert Drive Willits, CA 95490

**12<sup>TH</sup> Month FREE!**

WHEN 1 YEAR PAID IN ADVANCE

707-259-0159 or 707-459-4599

Lincoln Realty  
1661-A South Main St. • Willits, CA 95490

**CROWNERS**

Groceries Beer & Wine Gas & Diesel Pay at the Pump

7 am - 10 pm  
459-4854  
1799 So. Main St. P.O. Box 425

Family owned since 1983

**FARMERS INSURANCE**

Randall Cantua, LUTCF Agent  
Cantua Insurance Agency  
16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490  
786 Redwood Drive Garberville, CA 95542  
Tel 707.459.3276  
Tel 707.923.2179  
Fax 707.923.9550  
rcantua@farmersagent.com 067822

“Everyone has ideas about what should happen in our county,” Bourassa said. “But the job of a supervisor isn’t about advancing the loudest voice or the most influential interest. It’s about serving the entire district. We must seek the best outcomes for everyone. That’s why I’m starting this campaign by listening first.”

She added, “I have outlined ideas on my website about economic development, public safety, infrastructure improvements, transparency, and stronger partnerships – including with our local Tribes – but I want to know what matters most to the people I will serve.”

All District 3 residents are invited to share their priorities and perspectives at <https://teambuffey.com>

Bourassa also invites community members to join her for an in-person Meet & Greet, Sunday, February 22 in Laytonville from 2 to 4 pm at the Laytonville Community Room (Book Room), 200 Branscomb Road.



This gathering provides residents with an opportunity to meet directly with Bourassa, share their priorities, and participate in constructive dialogue regarding the future of the Third District and Mendocino County.

Additional community events will be announced in the coming weeks. Members of the public are encouraged to follow campaign updates on Facebook at Elect Buffy Bourassa Supervisor 2026 and on Instagram at @buffeysupervisor2026 for information on upcoming appearances and engagement opportunities.

Bourassa’s campaign priorities include expanding good-paying local jobs, improving public safety, increasing government transparency, repairing and modernizing infrastructure, and building stronger working relationships with community partners and Tribal governments.

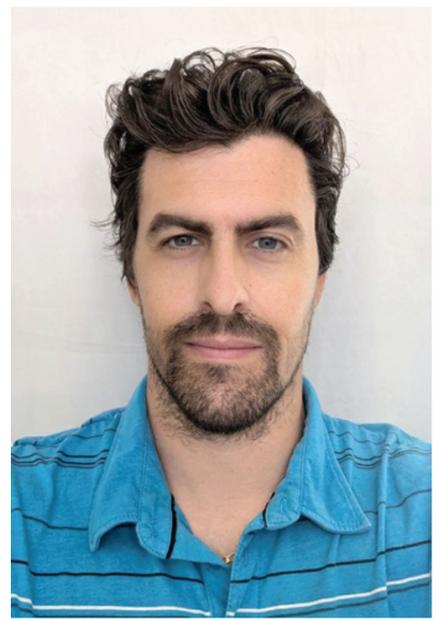
To get involved, request an event, or share input, contact [district3@teambuffey.com](mailto:district3@teambuffey.com) or visit <https://teambuffey.com/>

safety. I’m ready to roll up my sleeves and fight for our communities by getting the government off your back and out of your wallet.”

Green’s campaign emphasizes transparency, accessibility, and a commitment to modernization. He plans to leverage his background in software automation to slash bureaucratic waste and increase the efficiency of county services.

“Government should serve the people, not the other way around,” said Green. “That’s not just a slogan. It’s how I’ll operate every single day.”

Community members who wish to donate, endorse, or volunteer can visit <https://green4mendo.com>. For more information, contact [russell@green4mendo.com](mailto:russell@green4mendo.com) or text (707) 272-7805.



Have something to say? Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor about local issues. Please email us: [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com) REMEMBER: Deadline is end of day Monday for each week’s Thursday edition.



Above, from left: Farmers and friends enjoy the farm-to-table lunch at the 2025 Farmers Convergence. The herbalism round table – in the shade – at last year’s Farmers Convergence in June. Seed-saving expert Julia Dakin teaches at the 2025 Farmers Convergence.

## 11th annual Farmers Convergence, February 20 to 22, expands farm-to-school focus

Submitted by **Farmers Convergence**

The 11th Annual Farmers Convergence will take place February 21, 2026, with pre- and post-programming on February 20 and 22, at the UC Hopland Research & Extension Center in Hopland. The Convergence is planned

and hosted by a coalition of organizations, including the School of Adaptive Agriculture, the Hopland Research and Extension Center, the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Farm to School Program, and West Business Development Center.

The three-day event brings together farmers and food producers of all backgrounds, alongside educators, researchers, schools, and organizations committed to land stewardship and strengthening the local food web.

“We’re seeing farmers face unprecedented challenges around climate resilience, economic sustainability, and food sovereignty,” said Lucy Kramer, Mendocino County Food Policy Council Coordinator. “The Farmers Convergence creates a space where real solutions emerge through shared knowledge and collective progress. This is where the rubber meets the road for most people who are growing food.”

One major focus this year is farm-to-school programming, which will anchor the first day of the event. On February 20, organizers will host a free bus tour of farm-to-school champions throughout Mendocino County, giving participants firsthand exposure to successful projects and potential partnership opportunities. February 21 will feature workshops running throughout the day, including farm-to-school networking opportunities, a cooking demonstration by the Chef Ann Foundation, and technical assistance tabling.

“This is the perfect time to build your farm to school network! Attendees will have the chance to connect with experienced practitioners, see what’s working on the ground, and prepare for the CA Farm to School Incubator Grant, which opens for applications later this year.” said Meerae Park who is a Regional Producer Engagement Specialist in the North Coast Region for the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Farm to School Program.

The main Convergence day on Saturday, February 21, at UC Hopland Research & Extension Center, 4070 University Road, will offer breakout sessions on a variety of topics including livestock management, soil science, crop planning and cost analysis, medicinal herbs, as well as regional economic development initiatives, environmental stewardship, mutual aid and community organizing projects. The event welcomes farmers and ranchers of all kinds. The day will include hikes led by naturalists around the Hopland Extension Center Campus.

Sunday, February 22 will begin at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street in Willits for pancake breakfast and a tour of their garden and kitchen, then a tour of the School of Adaptive Agriculture’s Incubator Farm and presentations on adaptive seed breeding projects and open-source seed initiatives.

Tickets are limited. Cost: \$60-\$100 (full scholarships available for Saturday’s event to ensure accessibility. Space is filling quickly. Registration and more information are available at [www.schoolofadaptiveagriculture.org/convergence](http://www.schoolofadaptiveagriculture.org/convergence).

The School of Adaptive Agriculture supports farmers, land stewards, and food system leaders through education, research partnerships, and community-building initiatives focused on ecological resilience and economic sustainability.

**Noyo Theater**  
BENEFIT

**Fillmore-era Concert Film**

**LIVE DEBUT Hal A Looya**  
with Hal Wagenet & Mitchell Holman from IABD

Starring  
Santana  
Grateful Dead  
Jefferson Airplane  
It’s A Beautiful Day  
Quicksilver  
Cold Blood  
Hot Tuna  
Elvin Bishop  
New Riders

Feb 27, 2026  
Movie 7 pm

LIVE  
Hal A Looya  
8:45 pm

Benefit Donation  
\$20

Pre-sale tickets at  
**MAZAHAR**  
38 S. Main St. Willits  
\$20 each until 2-26-2026 at 5 pm

**Welcome Young Eagles**  
Free Flights for Youths 8 to 17

The free flights include many other free aviation benefits worth hundreds of dollars provided by EAA, including an airplane ground school course for preparation for the FAA Private Pilot written exam, reimbursement for the cost of the written exam, and a voucher for the first instructional flight with an FAA Certified Flight Instructor, and scholarship opportunities.

Visit [www.eaa1027.org](http://www.eaa1027.org)

BLUE ZONES PROJECT

The easier way to better health.

it only takes enjoying each bite.

Discover how mindful eating is one of the 9 ways to live a healthier life.

BROUGHT TO MENDOCINO COUNTY BY ADVENTIST HEALTH

**Cold Creek Compost, Inc.**

NUTRIENT-PACKED COMPOST, PLANTER MIXES & CUSTOM BLENDS  
MADE IN UKIAH, CA

**WHY USE COLD CREEK COMPOST?**

- CLOSE THE LOOP
- SAVE MONEY
- REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
- GROW MORE

RECYCLING ORGANICS SINCE 1995

[coldcreekcompost.com](http://coldcreekcompost.com)  
(707) 485-5966  
@ColdCreekCompost

**BE THE ANTIDOTE**

“Art and love are the same thing: It’s the process of seeing yourself in things that are not you.”  
- Chuck Klosterman

Be the Antidote  
Be the Antidote - Willits

CREATED BY **AST** DESIGNS