#### Crowd opposes A&T's plan

on land lines

Annie Evarts
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"We're not ready" was the prevailing opinion at last Thursday's public forum put on by the California Public Utility Commission to determine whether or not AT&T can withdraw from its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation, and whether the company's application for relief from its obligation as the Carrier of Last Resort in California will be granted.

The hearing was held at the Mendocino County

Read the rest of Opposes

Over on Page 11

# Election Day is March 5

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

With mail-in ballots for all voters these days, many county voters have already cast their votes in California's March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary election. But based on previous elections, 40% or 50% or more of county voters will still drop off their ballots at the polls on Election Day itself.

Polls are open on Election Day, Tuesday, March 5, from 7 am to 8 pm. Polling stations will be open at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, and at the Brooktrails Community Center, 24860 Birch Street.

There is also a drive-up Official Elections Office

Read the rest of Election

Over on Page 11

# March 5 election ballot update

Jennifer Poole

Editor & Reporter

willitsweekly@gmail.com

About 13 voters living at residences along Blue Lake Road northwest of Willits had to be sent new ballots last week, county Registrar of Voters Katrina Bartolomie confirmed. These were residences that had been redistricted from the Third District into the Fourth District in 2021, and voters at those addresses should have gotten ballots for their new district. Instead they got ballots for the Third District, where is there no supervisorial election this year.

These were among 177 county voters, mostly in the southern half of Mendocino County, whose districts

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Read the rest of} \\ \textbf{Ballot} \end{array}$ 

Over on Page 4

# Above, from left: Kristina Ojeda receives her enchilada dinner from Kara Wilkes. Tickets for the Sober Grad Enchilada Dinner were \$20 for cheese and \$25 for chicken. Audrey Sherf and Kaylee Campball mark off received tickets for the picked-up dinners. Photos by Maureen Jennison GRAD Photos by Adamsen GRAD Photos by Maureen Jennison

Above: Some of the Class of 2024 grads who helped with the fundraiser included, from left: Audrey Sherf, Kaylee Campbell, Kara Wilkes, Millie Patino and Aidyn McFadden. Below: Patino shows off four tickets including two for cheese dinners,



Below: Attendees drove up, and were handed, their meals through the window, complete with bags of rice and beans to go alongside their ready-to-heat enchiladas.

# Made-a-Lada

# Enchilada Dinner makes senior class over \$2,700 during Sober Grad fundraiser

Turning tortillas into cash was a success for the parents, students and volunteers who helped coordinate and facilitate the Enchilada Dinner fundraiser for Sober Grad last Friday, which raised over \$2,700.

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Tickets were pre-sold for the dinner-for-two which included four chicken or cheese enchiladas, and sides of rice and beans. While there were still some

sides of rice and beans. While there were still some tickets left the morning of the dinner, they did sell out quickly that day, allowing the crew to roll some 600 tortillas-worth of meals.

"I want to put out a huge thank you to our community," said April Lamprich, president of Willits Sober Grad, and Class of 2024 parent. "We could not do this without them, or all the students who donated their time packaging up the beans and rice, rolling the enchiladas, bagging all the items, and handling the drive thru. This was the first year we did this, and it was a huge success."

Lamprich noted that all the items were donated by the parents of the Class of 2024, and the students themselves did the production of the meal at the Willits High School cafeteria, under the supervision of parents, and the cafeteria's Christy Wisdom's helpful

eye.

"The students scooped

Read the rest of **Enchilada** 

Over on page 9





# Willits' eldest resident Edie dies at 116 and 17 days of age

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Only being outlived by one person on the entire planet, Edie Ceccarelli literally saw an entire planet's worth of people change over during her 42,386 days on Earth.

Every friend, neighbor, every grocery store worker, every celebrity, every president, every family member, everyone, they've all have rotated out to be a whole new set of people during her lifetime.

But, now, she, too, is one of those members of the past generations.

Ceccarelli, Willits' famous resident and second-oldest verified person living on the planet, passed away Thursday, February 22 after celebrating her 116th birthday just two weeks earlier. She slipped into deep sleep and passed away without pain or discomfort, in her bed at the Holy Spirit Care Home in the afternoon on a most beautiful sunny day.

"I was there with her

Read the rest of Ceccarelli

Over on Page 9

#### BOS commits to rescinding veterans office move

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

All five members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors said they would "commit" to moving the Veterans Service Office back to its longtime home on Observatory Avenue in Ukiah at their meeting this wook

Board chair Maureen Mulheren asked her colleagues at the board's Tuesday, February 27 meeting if there was support by the majority of the board to rescind county staff's decision to move the VSO in January. Originally Mulheren had said the move would be placed on an agenda item set to come back to the board on April 9.

"I did have a brief conversation with the CEO [Darcy Antle] and county counsel before this meeting," Mulheren said. "And I wanted to check the temperature of the board" on the VSO move. "The agenda item I planned to move forward on the VSO has a lot of moving pieces," Chair Mulheren said. "There are some pieces of the puzzle that have shifted

Read the rest of **Veterans** 

Over on Page 11

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

#### Watch for Senior Center raffle tickets in the mail

To the Editor:

Thanks to the support of local businesses and residents, our last FUN-ding RAFFLE for the Willits Senior Center raised roughly \$15,000.

We will be doing a saturated mailing this year, so every residence and business in Willits and Laytonville will have a chance to win a variety of raffle prizes. Everyone will receive a letter that explains the programs and services their donations will support, along with a flyer that lists all the raffle prizes. For your convenience we provide a remittance envelope; just sign your tickets place them in the remittance envelope along with your donation.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$20. This is a great way to support the Senior Center, plus you get a chance to win one of over 40 prizes.

On Friday, May 17, at 5 pm we will have a spaghetti dinner (\$15) in the dining hall. Raffle tickets will be drawn and winners announced starting at 6:30 pm. One free ticket will be awarded to anyone who attends the raffle drawing but you need not be present to win, we will be calling everyone that wins a prize - so make sure you print your contact information clearly on your ticket stubs. Keep an eye on your mailboxes - our FUN-ding RAFFLE envelopes will be showing up early next week.

Richard Baker, director, Willits Senior Center

#### Our community

To the Editor:

It had been a great Friday drum circle (more precisely our hometown percussion jam) at the straw bale Episcopal Church. We closed the session at 10:30, and I was looking forward to dancing at the pub across the street, catching the last set at least.

Quickly stripping off winter warmth for dancing garb, I was now dressed and ready to go. Then I lost my car keys! The other pair was three miles up a dirt road. I futilely search for an hour for keys that do not show up until the next day. It is now 11:30, too late to call on friends. Faced with sleeping at the church, I call my wife who confesses to me that she is terrified of driving my old truck on a dark and stormy night. She then suggests that I go to the pub and ask for a ride.

I would never have thought of that myself, but desperate at 11:45 I head across the street, and tell Misha the bartender: "I lost my car keys. I need a ride." He tells me, "So do I" but disappears for a few minutes and returns and tells me, "I have a ride for you outside."

A couple I do not know met me in the shadows, with smiles and good humor, drove me all the way up my rutted dirt road to get my other set of keys, and back down. I tried to find a way to properly thank them, but they told me: "We do not need anything. We know you would do the same

That exemplifies our community. I hope to recognize them some day.

William Bruneau, Willits

# Willits Weekly

#### 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 esidence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name



Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area. Volume 11, Number 539

3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633

Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographress /

willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-972-7047

Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer

Jackie Cobbs, features editor

Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter

Annie Evarts, reporter / features writer

Danya Davis, Police Log

Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter Sheri Dockins, sports reporter

Ava Dockins, sports photographe

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707- 972-2475 / willitsweekly@gmail.com

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

#### SADDENED

Submitted by the City of Willits

February 26 - The City of Willits is deeply saddened by the passing of Edith Ceccarelli. Despite our sadness, the community was truly honored to have had the recent opportunity to celebrate her 116th birthday with the world.

Edith was an inspiration for the community as she experienced the growth of Willits and was eager to share her experiences with everyone. Her stories made every one of us proud to call this beautiful, Northern California community

These stories not only reflected historical changes, but also the life and times of an amazing woman. Edith will always be remembered by all.

#### Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Thursday, February 29: Muenster Chicken w/ Mushrooms & Noodles

Friday, March 1: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic

Monday, March 4: Western Bacon Burger, Chips,

Tuesday, March 5: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Wednesday, March 6: Lasagna w/Meat Sauce, Garlic

Thursday, March 7: Carnitas Burrito Wet w/Green

Friday, March 8: Chicken & Dumplings

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

Pancake Breakfast: every second Sunday, on March 10 this month, 8 to 11 am.

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

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

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.

#### Congressional Art contest open for submissions

Submitted by the Office of Rep. Jared Huffman

Washington, D.C. – On Tuesday, Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) announced that the 2024 Congressional Art Competition is open for digital submissions from all high school students in California's Second Congressional District, which spans from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon

"The Congressional Art Competition is one of the best ways to showcase the artistic skills of young people across California's Second District, and I'm excited to announce this year's competition is now open for digital submissions," said Rep. Huffman. "We always have a great showing from our talented students up and down the coast, and I'm looking forward to another year of fantastic art."

To enter the competition, students must submit a completed entry form through Congressman Huffman's website https://huffman.house.gov/ helping-you/art-competition and also email a picture of their submission with their name and school to ca2artsubmission@mail.house.gov by Thursday, April 18, 2024. We recommend viewing this video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0g4a1Ge-Ds for advice on how to photograph your art. Do not mail in your submission.

The winning artwork will be exhibited in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year alongside artwork from each Congressional District in the country. The winning student will receive two round-trip tickets to Washington, D.C. The winner will also be eligible for a scholarship to attend Savannah College of Art and Design (upon admission acceptance).

Guidelines for the Congressional Art Competition Artwork entered in the contest must be twodimensional and may be up to 26 inches in height by 26 inches in width by 4 inches in depth (including

The artwork cannot weigh more than 15 pounds.

The artwork may be: Paintings - including oil, acrylics, and watercolor; Drawings - including pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, and markers; Collage prints - including lithographs, silkscreen, and block prints; Mixed Media; Computer Generated Art; or Photography.

All entries must be an original in concept, design, and execution. Only one submission per student will be accepted.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition.

Congressman Jared Huffman represents California's Second Congressional District, which spans the North Coast of the state from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border, and includes Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties. He currently serves on the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. In the 118th Congress, Huffman serves as Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries. He is the founder of the Congressional Freethought Caucus.

#### Salmon Info Meeting webinar, March 1

Submitted by CDFW

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife invites the public to attend its annual Salmon Information Meeting via webinar on Friday, March 1, at 10 am. The meeting will provide informational presentations on topics such as last year's spawning escapement, estimates of forecasted ocean abundance, and management goals for 2024 ocean salmon seasons.

Salmon Information Meeting details, informational materials and instructions for attendance will be published in advance of the event on CDFD's Ocean Salmon Calendar of Events page https://wildlife.ca.gov/ Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon/preseason

The 2024 Salmon Information Meeting marks the beginning of a two month-long public process used to develop annual sport and commercial ocean salmon fishing regulations, which is also used to inform Salmon/preseason

development of inland salmon fishing regulations later

The process involves collaborative negotiations between west coast states, federal agencies, tribal co-managers, and others interested in salmon fishery management and conservation.

California representatives will work together to develop a range of recommended ocean fishing season alternatives at the March 6 to 11 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Fresno. Final season recommendations will be adopted at the PFMC's April 6 to 11 meeting in Seattle.

For more information related to the salmon preseason process, including contact information, timeline and other opportunities for public engagement, please visit https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/











# Chili Cookoff

Wide variety of entries served up by local organizations at annual fundraiser for Willits Senior Center

It was refreshing to see Willits Mayor coordinator at the Chamber of Commerce, Officer Chris Dendy accepting bribes out in evening's only vegetarian chili.

Mathew Caine

organization.

and with great good humor, even if it was just a joke. The first indoor Senior Center Chili Cook Off since COVID took place last Friday with 15 entries vying to be considered the best of the competitors.

the open, not caring

who was watching,

Prizes were bestowed for Best Chili (Judges' Choice). Best Chili (People's Choice), and Best Décor (determined by the judges). The dining room at the Senior Center was ringed with brightly festooned tables with a variety of chili, some with and without beans, an assortment of meats, from hamburger to wild boar, and one vegetarian chili. The proceeds of the evening's event, raised through the \$30 entry fee, \$10 tasters' fee, \$1 muffin tin rental fee (so the tasters could sort and catalog their choices), and \$5 root beer floats, went to the Senior Center in order to help maintain the workings of the

Chili is a tradition in many families, with recipes passed down through the generations. Every one of the 15 entries had something that would distinguish it from the others, different meats, different beans, different spices, different choice of accompaniments (onions, cilantro, olives, cheeses, etc.). The booths also varied in looks, with decorations ranging from simple tablecloths to elaborate depictions of the organizations that sponsored the tables.

Jamie Cary, a new officer with the Willits Police Officer Association, brought both her parents and "my famous chili. I've been making it 10 years," explained Carey. "I don't give anybody my recipe. I use Italian sausage and some ground beef. It's gotta have beans, because what's chili without beans? It can be pretty spicy, but I adjust the recipe depending on who's eating it."

The Community Crossroads of Mendocino County, with Amy Fox, Jannie Longcrier, and Shannon Demuth, offered locally raised turkey and chicken chili with lots of organic veggies and organic tomatoes, all from scratch. "I make the tomato sauce myself. I added a little sweetness from maple syrup and date syrup," said Longcrier.

The Willits School District Transportation Division, with Charles and Krystal Duncan, won the award for the Best Décor, with Krystal dressed as the Magic School Bus, complete with working headlights. They offered a freshly hunted venison and wild

Virginia Jorge, Senior Center board ialapeño combread. Susan Mahoney, to sleep in separate rooms.

Saprina Rodriguez, City Council Member went solo. Under the watchful eye of a Gerry Gonzales, and Community Services flock of pink flamingos, she created the

> "I had this recipe from years ago and every time I bring it to a potluck, everybody likes it. So, I thought if I was going to stand a chance to win anything, if I did something a little bit different, it would stand out," Mahoney explained.

The Willits Daily Bread, under the direction of Cindy Savage, had two chili variations to offer the hungry crowd. "This chili is a black bean and corn, and this one is kidney bean chili with beef," said Savage. "I can drop any leftovers over at the soup kitchen and they can serve it on Monday. We have limes, and avocados, and chips and jalapeños and salsa, onions. The idea was to create a sort of charcuterie table." Lou and Adam Celaya, who have been participating for years, made a carnitas

First-timers, Bill and Lorri Barker, made a "Nobody Knows" chili. "We've never made chili before. I make good cookies and Bill makes good pies. Our chili has hamburger, some canned stuff, a little bit of onion,

Cathy Gernhardt made a wild boar chili from the animals that run on her property. She didn't care if she won anything. She was in it for the pure aesthetic alimentary joy of treating people to her chili. Harry So of the Little Lake Fire District toned down the spice a bit for the public, stating that the heat was a three out of five.

Gloria Westby, of TG Custom Designs, told of how her chili got its name: "When Neil Orr came to his last cook-off, he was telling everybody they needed to come over and taste 'the leftovers,' my chili. And that became his road name. So, this is 'Leftover Chili.'

Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra went strictly by the Texas rules of chili competitions, meaning no chili powder, no tomatoes (as they were not available on the trail), no beans (Texas side dish), and no white flour or artificial thickeners.

The winner of the People's Choice Award, ABC Team Blaze, with Devon and Kenneth, had chili that was "a little bit spicy with lamb and bison and beef. We have tomatillo, jalapeño peppers, Anaheim chilis, paprika, salt, a little bit of MSG, onions, celery peppers," said Kenneth, who in earlier life was a chef in New Orleans.

The Judges' Choice Award, for the second year in a row, was the Mendocino County Sheriff's Activity League, fronted by Mike Tobin. Their chili had pale ale included

By the end of the evening, the bribes member and Bingo producer, offered a didn't matter (except for raising more "Beango" Buffalo Wing Chili with blue money), everybody had a great time and cheese, celery sticks and homemade was well fed, and spouses had to go home

Above, from left: The Willits Police Officer Association's Jamie Cary made this chili with sausage and ground beef. Charles Duncan of the Willits Unified Schools Transportation Department should have won for best mustache. Mike Tobin, seemingly a professional taster, begins his methodical sampling. Lou Celaya and fellow competitor Virginia Jorge pose together in their chili aprons.









At top: Amy Fox, Jannie Longcrier and Shannon Demuth of Community Crossroads of Mendocino County serve a turkey and chicken chili.

Above, left: Charles and Krystal Duncan with the Willits Unified Schools Transportation Department hold their award for the Best Decorated Table. Above, right: Kenneth and Devon of ABC Team Blaze show off their People's Choice award. At left: Mike Tobin with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Activity League accepts the Judges Choice award for the second year

Photos by Richard Baker

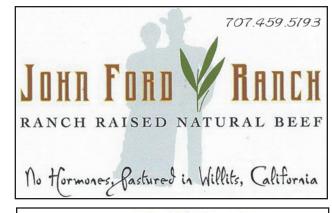
Below, left: Cindy Savage of Willits Daily Bread created a charcuterie table of extras used to top her two chili variations. Below, right: Harry So of the Little Lake Fire District spoons out some level-three heat chili.

Photos by Mathew Caine

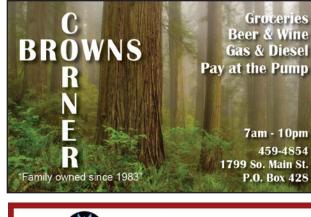




Fax: 707 459-6369











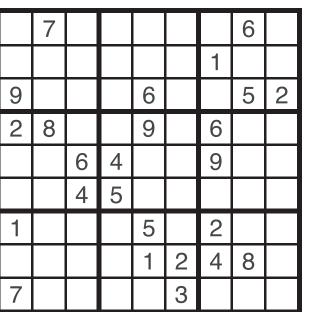
villitspower@gmail.com



2010 Industry Rd, Ukiah CA 95482 707-462-1660

# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



P L T P C E S A N R E V R E S U O R Y K

I V Y N R F T Y B C A B B N V Y F E G C

**EARLY BIRD** 

**FAMILY STYLE** 

**HAPPY** 

HAPPY HOUR

HOSTESS

LUNCH

**MANAGER** 

**MENU** 

51. Jaws of an animal

52. Short-billed rails

54. Chinese province

a mine

61. Adult males

63. Dried-up

62. Fail to entertain

65. Southern U.S.

66. German river

67. Oxygen

68. Make law

2. Wings

6. Overhang

have them

8. Type of bulb

10. Tattle

9. Lacking a plan

11. Rockers like it 'heavy'

14. Indicate time and place

12. One who's been canonized

56. Shameless and undisguised

60. Horizontal passage into

64. City in north-central Utah

**CLUES DOWN** 

3. From pentane (Chemistry)

7. Christmas and New Year's

5. Commercial document (abbr.)

1. Curved segment

4. Gradually gets into

**BARTENDER** 

**BILL** 

BUS

**BYOB** 

CHARCUTERIE

CHEF

COMBINATION

**COUNTER** 

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 January 22 and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers January 23 will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve

RESERVATION

**SERVER** 

**SERVICE** 

SHARE

**SPECIALS** 

**TAKEOUT** 

TICKET

**VALUE** 

17. Nobel Prize winner

in physics

23. They \_\_\_

26. Backside

is derived

34. Neither

32. Equal to 10 meters

35. Computer language

42. A way to dedicate

49. Large, influential bank

55. Napoleonic Wars general

58. \_\_ Clapton, musician

43. Challenges

50. Portended

47. British Air Aces

52. Cavalry-sword

56. Italian Seaport

59. Insect repellent

61. Decorative scarf

57. Hip joint

65. Delaware

53. Vaccine developer

37. Sacred book of Judaism

40. A woolen cap of Scottish

20. The voice of Olaf

21. Fragmented rock

25. Master of Philosophy

27. Landmark house in L.A

29. An act of undue intimacy

30. From which a later word

## SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles are

8:20 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Magnolia

**Summary of Active Investigations** 

and Arrests

7:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop near

the intersection of South Main Street and

East Oak Street and issued a warning.

8:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

#### January 24

7-day reporting period.

1:38 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued

the intersection of South Main Street and Holly Street and issued a warning. 6:43 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run

4:21 pm: Officers conducted a stop near

vehicle collision investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

1:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Holly Street and Poplar Avenue and issued a warning.

1:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued

1:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued

1:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued 2:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

a citation. 2:28 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and West Commercial Street and issued a warning.

#### January 26

10:15 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

1:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued

1:27 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

1:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Baechtel Road and issued a

The rest of

From page 1 Ballot

#### were changed during the 2021 redistricting everything is good," he said. "The registrar process, but whose changed districts were not properly recorded in the voter rolls. Redistricting happens after the U.S. Census data is released every 10 years, to balance out the number of voters in each county district.

A letter sent separately to these 177 voters by Voter Registrar Bartolomie reads: "As part of the 2021 Countywide Redistricting process, Mendocino County's Supervisorial Districts were changed, pushing some voters into a new district.

During this process there was an oversight with your residential area, which left you in your original Supervisorial District. Your address has been identified as one that belongs in the updated Supervisorial District.

"You will be receiving a new ballot to cast your vote for the March 5, 2024, presidential primary election. New ballots were mailed February 22, 2024."

Willits area resident Keith Rutledge lives at one of the former Third District addresses which was moved to the Fourth District during 2021 redistricting, but who still got a ballot for the Third District.

Rutledge said he has already received his new Fourth District ballot, with the election for Fourth District supervisor on the back, and is set to vote.

"The good news is, it's time to vote, and gov.

#### The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 79 incidents in this 800 block of South Main Street and issued

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**POLICE LOG** 

January 22 to January 28 By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

> 1:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the a warning.

2:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

2:38 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued

2:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Street and issued

4:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Hazel Street and issued a warning.

5:34 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

5:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and Spruce Street and issued a warning.

#### January 27

7:33 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Baechtel Road and South Main Street.

9:03 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 200 block of Bonnie

9:05 am: OWENS, Sheila Renee (31) of California was contacted in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road. She was arrested on felony charges of attempted first degree burglary and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (loitering on private property) and violation of probation

12:12 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street

12:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and

12:34 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Blosser Lane and 300 block of North Main Street and issued Franklin Avenue and issued a warning.

> 12:39 pm: SUBA, Kristoff Eddie (44) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of State Street and North Marin Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation

> 12:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Blosser Lane and Franklin Avenue and issued a warning.

> 1:25 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of South Humboldt Street.

2:08 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation near the South Willits Bypass. 3:09 pm: Officers initiated a theft

investigation in the 800 block of South Main 5:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

a warning. Read the rest of

800 block of South Main Street and issued

WPD Over on page 11

took care of it. I got a message on the phone and the letter," as well as his new

completely apologize for that [redistricting] mix-up," Bartolomie said. "We're sorry, and before this election we've never had that issue.

This problem with 177 of the mail-in ballots, came on top of an error with original ballots mailed February 5 by a third-party vendor to Mendocino County's contracted ballot vendor, Integrated Voting Systems.

An out-of-county employee of the thirdparty vendor, Bartolomie said, used a "test file" over and over to produce ballots to be mailed, instead of the correct designated files for each different type of precinct and voter in Mendocino County.

This error resulted in every voter in the county getting a Republican primary ballot as if they were GOP voters living in one First Supervisorial District precinct.

New ballots were mailed out to every voter in the county two weeks ago at the vendor's expense. The California Secretary of State's Office is reportedly conducting its own investigation of the original ballot error.

Anyone with questions about their ballot for the March 5 Presidential primary election should contact the Elections Office at 707-234-6819 or mcvotes@mendocinocounty.









Above, from left: A portrait of Roberta's father, Robert Poe, is one of several on her walls. Roberta Yokum loves all things to do with cows, having had many on her property. This cake, made by Santa Ramirez, depicts a British highland cow. A couple of Roberta's great grandkids. DJ and Jacob, came to visit for her

At left: Roberta Yokum still gets around her house and can go outside to enjoy the beauty of the property she lives on.

Below: One of the photos from "Through the Eyes of the Elders," a series of books created by Laytonville High students, features a photo of Roberta Yokum along with some other children; Roberta is far right in the back row.

Photos by Mathew Caine



# **Century of** Happiness

Roberta Yokum celebrates her 100th birthday with friends and four generations of family members

One hundred years of history reside within one of Willits' oldest residents. She has seen so much and still looks at the world from a place of joy and love, surrounded by family, friends and caregivers. She is young at heart, she is able to get around with her walker,

Mathew Caine

and can offer a smile and a "bless your heart" to all those who enter her circle. Every morning, she wakes up to the vast green expanse of fields and trees, hummingbirds, and the sounds of the hawks. She lives her life surrounded by love.

Roberta Yokum, who turned 100 years young last Sunday, hosted a gathering of friends and family (of which there are many) to celebrate her birthday. They turned up to enjoy her radiant smiles and the aura of well-being which she exudes to all who encounter her. Four generations were in attendance at the party, which was more of a reunion, with people paying their respects, catching up, remembering, and playing guitar and outdoor games.

She is a part of the history of the area, having grown up in Laytonville, and lived in history: "She was born February 24, 1924, at the Poe residence south of Laytonville to her parents, Esta and Robert Poe, and big sister, Lois. Roberta was 2 years old when her family moved from that house to the house in Laytonville, at Highway 101 and Harmon Lane. That was a three bedroom, no bath on one acre of property. She lived there until she was married.

"Roberta went to school in a one-room schoolhouse, heated by wood, and sometimes they would go early to school to pack in the wood to keep the schoolroom warm," told Grider. "That was grades one through six. Laytonville did not have a high school at that time. They had to ride the school bus to Willits for high school. In the wintertime, the lakes north of Willits would get up over Highway 101. The school bus would let them out and the students would walk down the railroad tracks, then a bus would meet them on the other end and take them the rest of the way to school."

Roberta became a Yokum after meeting and marrying Glenn Yokum. "It was Roberta's freshman year in Willits High School when she met the love of her life, Glenn Yokum," Grider continued. "He was in study hall, working on a math problem and she offered to help him. He was a rather handsome young man with dark curly hair and very interested in Future Farmers of America. He had a steer he was raising for FFA.

Roofing applications available

to fit any roofing need.

Office: (707) 462-4514

Mobile: (707) 367-3786

Online:

www.basroofing.com

Ca. Lic. #92700

**Email:** 

basroofing@live.com

W.C. & G.L. insured

OOFINGL

License #927007

In the meantime, Laytonville had built

**Yokum** |

Over on page 11







Above, left: One of the several colorful bouquets, which relatives and friends brought for Roberta Yokum's birthday, brighten up the party. Above, right: A photo of Roberta, right, and her older sister, Lois, circa late 1920s, hangs on the wall. At left: Great granddaughters Maci and Kylie Yokum are triumphant in a game of cornhole. Below, left: Roberta Yokum greets relative, Everley Reiter, one of the may well wishers who came to show love and respect. Below, right: Roberta's great niece, Jessica, and another relative pose for a photo with Tink the Chihuahua.







Our mission is to provide compassionate, high-quality care for our communities. Your health matters. Call us today.



LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER 45 HAZEL STREET., WILLITS mchcinc.ora

(707) 456-9600

Willits Weekly | February 29, 2024

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Residential & Commercial

Serving areas of

Mendocino, Lake and

**Sonoma Counties** 

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

63

1. Bleated

system

Negatives

19. Assigns tasks to

23. Detergent brand

24. Famed NY Giant

29. Extremely angry; highly

36. David \_\_\_, US playwright

38. Move one's head slightly

45. 18-year astronomical period

39. Secret rendezvous

44. A place to exercise

21. Island nation native

17. Rescued

22. Trade

25. Before

28. Split pulses

incensed

33. American state

31. Body part

41. Improved

46. Automobile

48. You can take it

49. A radio band

6. Snakelike fish

CLUES ACROSS

9. Database management

13. Russian-American violinist

14. Wendy's founder Thomas

15. Ancient Italian-Greek colony

18. Self-immolation by fire ritual

#### 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 dult Sunday School 9:00 a.r 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.n 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, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

#### Eckankar: The Patl of Spiritual Freedo

• 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 **Modified Worship Service** 10 a.m. Other ministries suspended

for now. For appointments call: (707) 459-3106

#### St. Anthony of Padu Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadan 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 appointmet at 707-459-2252

https://stanthonywillits.org/ aintanthonywillits@gmail.co 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**

Church Service: Sunday 10:00 to 11:00 (707) 459-2988 24 Mill Creek Drive 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 Availabl Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m. 399 W. Mendocino Ave. All are welcome! Willits United

# **Methodist Church**

Labyrinth and Peace Garder A place to find comfort where all are welcome Pastor Rosemary Landry Sunday Worship at 10:30 at 286 School St. (at Pine) 707-459-2855 wumc@willitsonline.com www.willitsumc.org Facebook: facebook willits um

f you want to be included ir this column please call: April Tweddell (707) 972-2475 april@willitsweekly.com

#### Thursday, February 29 Happy Leap Day! Enjoy your extra day!

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the winter season Thursday afternoons at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, the Herbal Wellness Wagon, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Celebrate folk artist Mark Walker's birthday: Join us on Thursday, February 29, 3:30 to 4:30 pm, at the Mendocino County Museum as we celebrate the birthday of beloved Mendocino

County folk artist Mark Walker (1892-1999) who was born on Leap Day 1892. View art works from his collection, learn about his life, and enjoy birthday cake provided by the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum. Event attendance is included with standard Museum admission: \$7 adults, \$2.75 children 6 through 13; children 5 or younger are free; For more information, including other discounts, visit www. mendocinocounty.gov/museum, email museum@mendocinocounty. gov or call 707-234-6365.

#### Saturday, March 2

Senior Center Thrift Store open on Saturdays: The Thrift Store at the Willits Senior Center will once again be open for shoppers on Saturdays, starting March 2. The store will be open from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturdays, in addition to their regular Monday through Friday hours: 10 am to 4 pm. The store remains closed on Sundays. Visit the Senior Center Thrift Shop at 1501 Baechtel Road, or contact them by calling 459-

Mendocino County," 109 North Main Street, Willits. \$25 to sell/swap: free to attend.

**Quarterly Bingo** Blast at the Senior Center: Doors open at 11 am, bingo starts at noon, Saturday, March 2 at the Willits Senior Baechtel Road. \$35 buy in.



Music Equipment Gear Swap and Demo at BACE: Used music gear, pro audio. Instruments, hi-fi, demo equipment. Saturday, March 2 from 11 am to 4 pm at BACE "collaborative music & art space in the heart

Assemblymember

Jim Wood in Ukiah

The regular meeting of the Inland

Mendocino Democratic Club on

Thursday, March 14, will feature guest

speaker Assemblymember Jim Wood.

At Mountain Mike's Pizza, 1090 South

State Street, and on Zoom (find login at

http://inlandmendodems.org), from 6:30

to 7:30 pm. Pizza will be provided for

If you have a question for

Assemblymember Wood, please

email it before March 14 to info@

inlandmendodems.org. For more info,

to join the club, or to see a video of the

club's District 2 Assembly candidates

forum, visit www.Inlandmendodems.org

Senior Center

Thrift Store

back open on

Saturdays

Starting March 2

The Thrift Store at the

Willits Senior Center will

once again be open for

shoppers on Saturdays,

starting March 2. The store

will be open from 10 am

to 2 pm on Saturdays, in

addition to their regular

Monday through Friday

hours: 10 am to 4 pm. The

store remains closed on

Sundays. Visit the Senior

Center Thrift Shop at 1501

Baechtel Road, or contact

them by calling 459-6826.

WSI PRESENTS 2024 QUARTERLY BINGO BLAST! Saturday March 2nd 1501 Baechtel Rd. Willits CA

Doors Open at 11am Bingo Starts at Noon BUY IN \$35.00 INCLUDES 1-10 Game Pack 1- Double Action Special EXTRAS: 10 Parks: \$10.00 Fa. Or 2 for \$15.00 Double Action Special- \$5.00 Ea. 4,6,8 Special-\$5.00 Ea.



#### Free First Saturday Family Fun at the Mendocino Museum: County Museum presents a series of family programs from March through May, along with the "In the Field: Exploring Botany at Mendocino County" exhibit, including hands-on activity stations and a Wildflower Scavenger Hunt, available daily. On first Saturdays, starting March 2, from 1 to 3 pm, make DIY Throw 'n' Grow Seed Balls to grow

own wildflowers. Program and Museum attendance are free for our First Saturday Free Admission Day. All ages are welcome. 400 East Commercial Street. More info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/ museum; museum@mendocinocounty.

> gov; or 707-234-6365. Women's History Movie at the Library: Celebrate Women's History Month with the first of two compelling and powerful feature films that capture the true spirit of the theme, on Saturday, March 2 from 2:45 to 5 p.m. This film is about one woman's contribution to U.S. law, focusing on the legal prowess and skill of a lawver who eloquently brought down and exposed the discriminatory hypocrisy and blatant patriarchy of U.S. tax law. All are welcome,

including children with adult supervision. Light refreshments will be served. Willits Branch Library meeting room, 390 East Commercial. Info www. mendolibrary.org or 707-459-

WCA March Show: Willits Center for the Arts brings Richard Weiss of the Mendocino coast's 3-D paintings and Susie Racecar of Laytonville's amazing art. Opens Saturday, March 2, with Meet the Artists reception between 6 and 9 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. More info: 707-459-1726, www. willitscenterforthearts.org or email Gary Martin, curator, at gtm1950@gmail.com

#### Tuesday, March 5

Assemblymer Jim Wood

Free 'Learn How to

Repair Your Credit'

online seminar

March 5

West Business Development Center

presents a no-cost Zoom seminar by

Small Business Development Center

advisor and business finance expert Joe

Rodola, Tuesday, March 5, 12 to 1 pm.

"Learn how to use your credit report and

start repairing your credit." Repairing

your credit is always a good idea, but

even more so if you might need a loan

any time soon. Whether you are looking

to expand your business, or add some

extra cash flow, having a good credit

score is an important step in the funding

process." For more info, and to register:

www.westcenter.org/trainings/credit-

Willits Block Party at Evergreen Center

March 15

Mark your calendars for our Willits Block Party, at the Evergreen

Shopping Center. Local businesses including Esthetics by Eden, Skin

by K Aesthetics Studio, The Mane House, Flourish & Flow Mendocino,

and Breakthrough Fitness will offer discounts, deals, raffles, prizes, and

so much more! Super Taco will be doing a dinner deal. Multiple booths

including activities for kids! Everyone welcome! Friday, March 15, from

At right:

'Walk Through the Grades': Can you believe math can be taught through art? Well, come see for yourself how they bring this magical concept to life at The Waldorf School of Mendocino County's "Walk Through the Grades" event on Tuesday, March 5 at 8:30 am. After the tour families will have a chance to connect with teachers to learn more about their unique philosophy and pedagogy. To learn more, or to RSVP visit www.mendocinowaldorf.org/event- dwillis@mcn.org or mstrong@willitsonline.com. details/walk-through-the-grades.

# What's Happening Around Town

#### Wednesday, March 6

Twining Time at Brickhouse: John Wagenet and Anita Wagenet Blu of Twining Time perform at Brickhouse

every month), from 12 to 2 pm. Folk/ Country/Mountain Americana Roots plus new and old as original music, with 2 part polished

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE

Meet the Artists

Saturday, March 2 6-9 PM.

keyboard. New CD "While White Roses" available for streaming and at the show. Info: https:// twiningtime.weebly.com

Twining Time

DIY Paper Flowers at the Museum: Create, explore, and listen to stories every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. during the family History Makers! programs inspired by the "In the Field" botany exhibit. March 6, 13, 20 and 27 features DIY Paper Flowers; April: Wildflower Watercolor Painting; and May: Botany Inspired Collage. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission, which is free on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. Also hands-on activity stations and a Wildflower Scavenger Hunt available daily. More info: www.mendocinocounty.

gov/museum or museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

Willits Song Circle: Every first Wednesday, this month March 6, from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Methodist Church, School and Pine streets. Led by Don Willis and Madge Strong, but anyone can lead (or request) a song. All genres of songs, rounds, popular songs, folk songs, simple part songs – anything that can be learned easily. Open to all. Instruments welcome. Free, donations accepted for the use of the hall, Info:

#### "Twelfth Night – The Musical"

opens at Mendocino College

The Mendocino College Theatre Arts Department presents "Twelfth Night - The Musical" March 7 through March 17 at Mendocino College's Center Theatre on the Ukiah Campus, 1000 Hensley Creek Road. Originally produced by the Public Theatre in NYC in 2016, this joyous jazz-funk musical adaptation of Shakespeare's beloved comedy is set in a modern world inspired by the music and culture of New Orleans, featuring an onstage New Orleans-style jazz-funk band. For ages 11 and older. Opens with a "pay what you wish" preview on Thursday, March 7 at 7:30 pm. Regular tickets \$20; \$15 students and seniors. Advance purchase is advised; tickets at Mendocino Book Company or online at www.ArtsMendocino.org, and at the door as available. Info: 707-468-3172 or www. mendocino.edu/academics/programs/arts.







and Gwendolen van Wyk (Viola / Cesario) in the Mendocino College production of "Twelfth Night – The Musical." Above, right: Gwendolen van Wyk (Viola/Cesario) and Dakota Laiwa McKay (Orsino) in the production

# **Sherwood Firewise Communities**



#### 25 FREE Home Hardening Inspections left!

To schedule a FREE Home Hardening Inspection sign up at sherwoodfirewise.org OR email info@sherwoodfirewise.org



#### Thursday, March 7 Willits Farmers Market: farmers weekly

Bring any equipment you have, chainsaws, safety market is indoors goggles, gloves, ear protection, hard hat, and for the winter chaps, but loaner tools and personal protective season Thursday equipment will be available. \$35/person includes afternoons lunch and a light breakfast. Register here: https:// Womens-Chainsaw-Workshop.eventbrite.com the Little Lake Grange, Sit-N-Sew: Second Saturdays at the Willits Library, Street. School March 9 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in – Thursdays, from bring your sewing project and have fun. 390 East 3 to 5:30 pm. Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or Local produce, meat, local farm fresh eggs, Sunday, March 10

delicious meals, tasty treats, music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, the Herbal Wellness Wagon, and more. Tobin's Tales

299 East Commercial Street story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome

#### Friday, March 8

CHAMBER OF BUTHERIA

info@willits.org

707.459.7910

www.Willits.org

'Art of the 18th Century' at WCA: the March Art Talk, Friday, March 8 at 6:30 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, offers a captivating

journey through the cultural and artistic riches of the 18th century, a pivotal period in art history; talk by WCA Curator Gary Martin. "From the opulent grandeur of Rococo to the intellectual rigor of Neoclassicism, the presentation will feature paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts that epitomize the spirit of the era." A free event. 71 East Commercial Street.

#### Saturday, March 9

**Chainsaw Workshop for Women** in Laytonville: Join Mendocino County Fire Safe Council on Saturday, March 9 from 9 am to 5 pm for a workshop designed to provide a safe and welcoming

offering two events per month,

first and third Saturdays, at 1250

Blosser Lane, from noon to 1

pm, weather permitting. Free

food for all! In March these food

pop-ups will happen March 7 and

21 this month. Info: outreach@

'In the Field' Exhibit: Mendocino

County Museum's latest exhibit,

Mendocino County," celebrates

the study of unique plants that

grow in our region, reflecting on

the pursuits of Mendocino County

botanists from past to present,

featuring sketches, illustrations,

photographs, and pressed

specimens. Mendocino County

Museum, 400 East Commercial

Street, is open 11 am to 5 pm,

Tuesday through Saturday. More

info: visit www.mendocinocounty.

Willits Tennis Club: Meets

Mondays and Wednesdays from 9

to 11 am at the Willits High School

courts. New members welcome.

Free. Show up or call 707-484-

**Tibetan Buddhist Meditation** 

Group: Meets every week on

Mondays, 6 pm, at the Muse in

Willits, 30 East San Francisco

Street. More info: 707-354-1866.

Willits Drum Circle: Every

second and fourth Fridays

at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the

Redwoods Episcopal Church,

Main and Commercial 7pm. Info:

City Park (or across the street

in case of rain) every Saturday

from 1 to 2 pm. Come early to at 707-354-0565.

Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

org/museum

fbfoodbank.org; 707-964-9404

#### UNLEASH YOUR INNER SAWYER!

Join us for an immersive workshop designed to provide a safe and welcoming learning environment for women who want to learn the art of using a chainsaw. Don't worry if you've never held a chainsaw before -- our friendly instructors will teach you what you need to know!

**WOMEN'S CHAINSAW** 

#### AGENDA:

Ongoing Events

Food and Nutrition Program's various churches and community

"In the Field: Exploring Botany in The Redwood Empire Food

Food Pop-Up in Willits is now organizations.

• 9-12:30: Indoor presentation 12:30-1:15: Lunch (provided)

Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying

Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl:

"Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Games

start at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee,

teams of two, winner takes the

pot! We'll have the games on

all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've

got everything you need!" Flying

Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main

Bank: Twice-monthly drive-thru

food distribution in Willits, second

and fourth Thursdays of the

of the soccer and baseball fields,

9:30 to 11 am. Groceries to go,

senior basket (for low-income

seniors 60 or older), and diapers.

Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays

and Fridays at 3 pm: The outdoor

boules course is located across

the street from the Willits Skate

Park. Info: bbruneau@bbruneau.

Free Kids Karate Classes at

Body Works Gym: Sheriff's

Youth Activities League offers free

classes for kids at the Willits Body

Works Gym, 1511 South Main

Street, on Thursday evenings.

"We teach Matsubayashi Shorin

Ryu Karate, Kenpo Youth/Adult

Self Defense, Bully and Abduction

Awareness/Defense, and Small

Child PreSkills." Little Dragons

Small Child "PreSkillz" karate

class, 6 to 6:30 pm, ages 3, 4,

5, 6 (7) year-olds. Beginner/

intermediate class, 7/8 years

and above, 6:35 pm to 8 pm.

Intermediate/advanced class,

registration fee (waivable). More

info: call or text Sensei Mike Tobin

Brown Bag Lunch Program: all ages, 8 to 8:45 pm, There is

Sack lunches served at the an annual \$20 SAL insurance/

month, located in the parking lot

 1:15-2 pm: Intro to field training • 2 -4:45: Hands on stations i.e. Start the saw, cookies, downed trees, limbing, pruning, cleaning, maintenance

Conservation Corps; Northern Mendocino-Ecosystem Recovery Alliance; Tan Oak Park 1

# 9 AM - 5 PM

#### Sponsored by: Safe Council; California

learning environment for women who want to learn

the art of using a chainsaw, for beginners or those

who want to learn more. Tan Oak Park in Laytonville.

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: Every second

Sunday, 8 to 11 am; March 10 this month, at the

Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Menu

choices: 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked

the way you like them, and choice

of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits

& gravy with eggs cooked the

way you like them. \$10; \$9

Senior Center members;

\$6 children under 8. Extra

meat sides \$2: 3 slices

bacon, 2 sausage links.

Breakfast Includes Peet's

Coffee and orange juice or milk.



MARCH 9 Tan Oak Park, Laytonville

#### Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Story Time: Tuesday through Friday each week, 10:30 to 11 am. "Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in the children's area of the library."

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe". Topics will range and will be announced ahead of time."

LEGO Club: Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

Willits Walk and Talk: Join the Willits Branch Library staff for a 20- to 30-minute walk around the neighborhood. Come enjoy a little bit of exercise as well as some pleasant conversation. All ages are welcome. Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am; meet at the front entrance to the library, 390 East Commercia

Open Lab / Study Hall: Don't have a decent place to study? Come to the Willits Branch Library's meeting room every Wednesday from 3 to 5 pm for the new Open Lab / Study Hall. The library has plenty of helpful resources including public Wi-Fi, computers with internet and word processing capabilities, and databases to aid you with your research, plus friendly and helpful staff ready to point you in the right direction.

Calming Coloring at the Library: Thursdays, starting Thursday, February 15, from 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. An hour of quiet with coloring pages. Supplies provided. All ages welcome.

Chess for Teens: On Fridays, from 4 to 6:30 pm. Teens, ages 12-18 are invited; all skill levels welcome. Library staff will be there to help beginners and those who want to learn. Light refreshments will be provided. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Games at the Library: Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month we will be bringing out the cards and board games. All ages & player levels welcome. Bring your own games to add to the fun!

Tech Help: Every first and third Saturday from 11 am to 12 pm: Is your computer on the fritz? Want to install a new app? Bring your tech questions and get help from the

library's tech savvy volunteer Spinning & Knitting: Every

Saturday at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. "All skill levels welcome!

#### Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B.

Bring any instrument you can

play and sign up to perform

a 15-minute set with other

local musicians. "Meet new

musicians, discover new

genres and explore your

Bluegrass String Jam:

Every 1st and 3rd Saturday

of the month starting at 3

pm - welcomes all Bluegrass

musicians! An official jam

which

for the California

Bluegrass

Association, "so

you never know

from out of the area

Wednesday

Open Mic Night:

may drop in!"

members

creativity!"

Shanachie Pub. 50 South Main Street Wednesday Open Mic Night! Saturday Scramble: Every to celebrate the soul-deep all-encompassing 2nd and 4th Saturday from

blessings of Peace in the Spirit. But

then, Marley is shot with a handgun. He survives. He decides for the safety of his wife,

leave the Island. He takes them to punk-infested England. Compared to the thump-thump whiny and drunk-on-self and drunk-on-anger of punk bands then dominating the British music scene, syncopated reggae was a melodic and gentle balm—it was kindness personified. Though they were already popular, Bob Marley and the Wailers became gigantic international stars. Their studio album "Exodus" sells millions.

My Thoughts: The actors are great, the music too. Ganja-grinning Kingsley Ben-Amir is magnetic as Bob Marley. Lashana Lynch as his singer-wife Rita can quietly, and sometimes not so quietly, command a scene. Though I personally did have some trouble deciphering some of the Jamaica patois (accents and sleepy enunciation and slang), I never had any doubts about what was happening on screen. This movie is a keeper. And note: there were many Marley surnames in the cast list which certainly kept this

movie a blessed-by-family and certified honorable

Shanachie Pub presents its popular Open Mic Night every Wednesday, featuring an eclectic array of local musicians and

performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can be entered for the lottery. Lottery determines order from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20 pm



Next Week:

**KUNG FU PANDA 4** 

**Sun.:** 3:00 & 6:30pm Mon.-Thurs.: 6:30pm



# Fri.: 6:00 & 8:30pm

Sat.: 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm **Sun.:** 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30pm Mon.-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30 pm



Fri.: 6:30pm **Sat.:** 3:00 & 6:30pm Sun.: 2:00 & 5:30pm Mon.-Thurs.: 5:30pm OVER 21 CLUB -Luxury Recliners

(PG13) 2 hrs 46 mins

#### **BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE** (PG13) 1 hr 44 mins

Tightwad Tuesday Title for March 5 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!

### COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES 'One Love' Free Food Pop-Ups: Mendocino be assured a lunch! Provided by

The Story: Bio-pic of Rastafarian prophet, singersongwriter Bob Marley (Kingsley Ben-Adir). It's the Seventies: it's a violent time on Jamaica Island. Armed street gangs are shooting each other. Why, and what the conflicting issues exactly are: this flick does not make clear. But regardless, Marley and his Wailer band are planning a huge Peace Concert. They want an end to the violence fracturing everyone's life. And more importantly, they want

Dan Essman

his children, and his band mates that it's time to

depiction of Bob Marley the man.

Parents: If the kids like reggae and can stomach some violent moments, this is a fine and educational experience for twelve year olds and up.

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

**DUNE: PART 2** (PG13) 2 hrs 46 mins Fri./Sat.: 4:00 & 7:30pm

**DUNE: PART 2** 

#### Willits Weekly | February 29, 2024 Willits Weekly | February 29, 2024 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 **Pg. 6** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

























At top, left: Spring-planted Broccoli should be sown indoors in March or April. It's best to plant an early and a main crop variety. This is Solstice, an early type. Photo by Brian Campbell At top, right: Plant peas indoors now, outdoors in April. I have a tub in my greenhouse now to clip for salad leaves. Plant a separate row for sweet crisp pea pods in mid- to late spring. Above, left: Calendulas need cold soil for germination and will bloom almost every month of the year. This sunny assortment is "Flashback Mix." Above, right: Love-in-a-Mist is a cool weather flower you can sow now outdoors. Its lacy foliage and edible flowers mix well with taller vegetables like peas, to provide nectar for pollinators. Below, left: Hungarian Pink Winter Lettuce is a perfect choice for spring. It can be picked leaf by leaf or left to make a rose-like head. Below, right: Purple Sprouting Broccoli is a classic example of an overwintering vegetable. These are mostly unknown in the U.S. because you can only grow them in mild climates like ours. Sow in summer for a bounty like this the next spring. Photo by Sarah Kleeger











CalFresh benefits. Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify. 707-459-6826



**Pg. 8** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

At top, from left: Starting some seeds for immediate use indoors can give you weekly harvests of salad leaves and microgreens. This one is in a south-facing window, so it doesn't need a grow light. But notice how deep it is, to keep from drying out on sunny days. If you start bekana indoors now, you'll be eating it in a month. This sweet and juicy Japanese leaf adds a flash of fresh apple green to the spring landscape. I recommend it in containers with pansies and other spring flowers. Carrots are hard-wired to sprout in wet soil 50 degrees or above. This is Chantenay, a favorite for clay soils. Elecampane is a big beautiful plant for semi-shade. It's used by many for throat and lung problems. Like many herbs, it should be sown outdoors in cold soil. Miner's Lettuce is the fastest-growing spring green of all. Above, from left: Collards are the easiest of the cabbage family for our climate. They overwinter without fuss, are more heatresistant than kale. Purple Tree Collards are a special perennial type with especially tender leaves that can produce most of the year. They are grown from cuttings, not seed. Vervain is a drought-resistant, long-blooming herb that butterflies love. It should be sown now in pots outdoors to cold-condition the seed and ensure germination. Everyone loves California poppies, especially bees and beneficial insects. They are another wildflower that will bloom a long time if watered. Early lettuce grows fast and should be eaten when young and fresh. Start some now indoors for transplant, and direct-sow some as soon as the soil is well-drained and over 45 degrees. Emerald Fan and Hyper Red are good choices. Photos by Jamie Chevalier

#### COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

#### March: **Early spring planting**

Early spring marks a watershed in the garden. Instead kale, and other brassicas are at the sweetest now that of shutting down more and more, the world is making new they've been frosted. Another overwintered harvest that growth. This is the time to plant or prune trees and shrubs. you can tap is the edible weeds and wild greens that are It's a good time to clean up after the storms, assess the at their best in March. Miner's lettuce, dandelion, dock, condition of your soil, deal with weeds, and make plans for

Jamie Chevalier

The gardener's mind jumps pretty quickly to sowing tomatoes for summer. But wait! What about food for the next three months before those tomatoes are ready? That's a lot of grocery bills. Let's think about food

We're entering the time traditionally known as the "hunger gap" because the fall harvest may be used up while the newly seeded crops aren't ready yet. A priority for many gardeners is to bridge this gap. There are several ways to do it.

First, you can start fast-growing seeds indoors or under cover. Hardy crops you start now can go outside in April.

But you can also keep some indoors for quick harvest. While your starts for outdoors are in small pots or cells, those for indoor gardens need more root room. Wide pots or trays 3 to 6 inches deep are ideal. There should be holes in the bottom and a drip pan underneath.

Prime candidates for this treatment are lettuce, arugula (particularly the variety Astro), miner's lettuce (Claytonia), greens like early mizuna or bekana, cilantro, and peas - fastest cropping comes from transplanting young seedlings not for pods but for clipping the young shoots. Mix extra rather than big plants. compost into good potting soil for lush growth.

Your next harvest will come from these same crops (lettuce, peas, and so on, plus spinach, turnips, and beets) sown now and transplanted outdoors in 3 to 4 weeks.

Broccoli, cabbage, kale, collards, Brussels sprouts, and especially onions should be sown indoors now and

When you transplant your broccoli, lettuce, etc. next month, you should also sow several things directly into the ground: another round of lettuce, peas, spinach, etc., along with carrots, parsnips, and parsley. Carrots are adapted to a climate like ours, with a wet start and dry finish. So get them in while it's wet.

A major source of fresh food in March and April is of planting them. overwintered fall vegetables. Hardy annuals from last fall - like kale, collards, turnip greens, mustard, spinach, and the overwintering types of broccoli and cauliflower – put on a final spurt of growth.

Their young leaves and flower stalks are a spring treat. If you don't have these in the garden now, be sure to include them in your plans for the future. They're sown in mid- to late summer, and can go in spots vacated by peas or garlic.

Even if you didn't plant fall vegetables, it's worth looking for things that did survive or that have self-sown. Cilantro, parsley, and arugula often go all winter. Mustard greens, how-to information.

NC Financial Group 675 S Main Street, Willits, CA 95490 www.ncfinancialgroup.com (855) 240-6606 (415) 480-3669 Wealth Management Investments | Tax Planning | Insurance | Business Solutions | Retirement

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

nettles, and chicory are all common and nutritious. Seed is also available at quailseeds.com for those who like a

Perennial vegetables were developed especially for the "hunger gap" time slot. Their established root systems can produce leaves and sprouts long before seed crops can. Perennial arugula, green onions, and chard love our climate.

Asparagus and rhubarb are classic perennials for spring harvest. Probably the best-loved perennial here in Willits is Purple Tree Collards. At Quail Seeds, we're shipping tree collard cuttings nationwide. If you start some now, they will make food all winter and next spring

Now, back to those tomatoes. Remember that the best results and fastest crops don't come from the earliest sowings or the biggest transplants. Quite the opposite. Try doing what professional tomato farmers do. They plan on transplanting shortly after their last frost date. In Willits, that's late May. Then they start the seeds 6 weeks before that, in greenhouses with heat mats under the flats.

If you don't use heat mats, start 8 weeks before your last frost date. Study after study has shown that the least transplant shock, the best root development, and the

Peppers take longer to get to transplant size (4 to 8 inches) but should be transplanted later, into very warm soil. Cold soil can damage their productivity permanently. So you can start them at the same time as tomatoes and transplant 2 to 3 weeks later. Plant eggplants, zinnias, marigolds, and basil then as well. Many other herbs and transplanted in 3 to 4 weeks, but will take longer before flowers grow quite slowly and don't need as much heat. You can start them indoors this month.

For the rest, summer crops like squash, cucumbers, corn, okra, and beans can be direct-sown at the same time you transplant tomatoes. Or if you want an early start, you can sow indoors just 4 weeks ahead. And don't forget melons! They need hot days and cooler nights – a natural for our climate. Yet for some reason many people are afraid

Be brave. Sow melons along with your squash. Wouldn't you rather have a sweet juicy slice of melon than one more

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in both Alaska and California, as well as teaching, homesteading, and working with several national seed organizations. She started Quail Seeds in 2018 as a locally focused seed company. Her website quailseeds.com offers over 400 varieties of seed adapted to the Northern California climate, as well as extensive



#### **LEGAL NOTICES**

WW475

2024-F0108

**Fictitious Business** 

Name Statement

The following corporation is

Travel Guides, 1816 Buckeye

doing business as EURoad

Road, Willits, CA 95490.

Mailing address: P.O. Box

Registered owner: Digital

This business is conducted by

The registrant commenced to

transact business under the

above on December 2016.

Mendocino County Clerk-

/s/ Victoria Bertotti

March 7, 14, 21, 2024

fictitious business name listed

FBN statement filed with the

Recorder on February 14, 2024.

Publication dates: February 29,

Willits Weekly

can run

legal notices

including

fictitious

business name

statements,

foreclosure

notices,

storage unit

auctions, and

more. Contact

us for more

information at

willitsweekly@

gmail.com

At right: Edie

poses for the

camera at the

age of 25, all

the way back

in 1933.

Ceccarelli

2127, Willits CA 95490.

Aeon Inc., P.O. Box 651,

Nvack, NY 10960.

a corporation

#### Statement of Abandonment of Use of **Fictitious Business Name** File No: 2021-F0220

The person or persons listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name: Loet Vanderveen Legacy Editions 12 Maple Street, Willits, CA 95490, Mendocino County. The FBN was filed in Mendocino County on April 21 2021. File Number 2021. F0220. Registered owners Mas Art, LLC, 12 Maple Street, Willits, CA 95490

This business was conducted by a Limited Liability

Company This FBN Statement of Abandonment was filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 2, 2024 /s/ Martha Ann Seifert Publication dates: February 15, 22. 29. March 7. 2024

WW474

#### **Order to Show** Cause –

**Change of Name** I, Kylan DuFriend L. Simpson, residing at 59 Alameda Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, am proposing to change my name to Pinky Xohahra Simpson.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the

If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

petition should not be granted

My court hearing date will be 4/5/24 at The Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Hon. Ann C. Moorman Judge, Superior Court of Mendocino

My case number is 24CV00179.

Publication dates: February 29, March 7, 14 and 21, 2024

#### The rest of From page 1 Enchilada

the beans and rice that Marisela Lamprich and I made into the containers, we set up both a chicken and a cheese enchilada station, and they got to work, rolling them all up. We started at 2 pm and had everything ready to go by the time the drive thru was open at 4 pm," said Lamprich.

Lamprich expressed her appreciation to chicken; Brandy Sanderson for donating it was going to be the last time. I got the call about 45 minutes later the cheese and tortillas; Windi Kvasnicka for donating the enchilada sauce; Randy Crothers for donating the rice; Nor Crawl for donating the beans and spices; and to Christy Wisdom for donating her time and helping with prep.

The next fundraising event for Sober Grad will be the take-home tri-tip dinner event, which will be on April 26.

"Overall, we're doing better than expected for our fundraising goals," explained Lamprich. "As of now, we have raised just under half of what we need but the tri tip dinner is biggest fundraiser of the year – keep your eyes open for info!"

If you're interested in helping with Sober Grad, learning more, or getting involved, the public is welcome to attend the board meetings, held on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on March 20, at the Willits High School cafeteria at

# **Mendocino County invites**

**Agricultural Commissioner/** Sealer of Weights & Measures \$125,112 - \$152,068

Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/ **Sealer of Weights & Measures** 

Community Services Officer \$48,984 - \$59,529

\$55,369 - \$67,308

**Deputy Probation Officer I/II** \$51,937 - \$69,617

\$75,878 - \$93,142

Social Worker Assistant I/II \$40,976-\$54,766

**Victim/Witness Advocate** \$45,260 - \$54,995

and to apply: www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs **EOE** 

# **Marc Komer**

Non-Attorney Service

245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits

torney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific di



# applications for:

\$88.899 - \$108.076

**Corrections Deputy** 

**Department Application Specialist** \$50,377 - \$61,235

**Deputy Sheriff-Coroner** 

**Public Safety Dispatcher** \$53,102 - \$64,542

For a complete list of current job openings

#### Legal Document Assistant An Affordable

(707) 459-2775

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



Computer Help Need help with your Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearbhaill@gmail.com

Help Wanted

Avenue, Willits. Must be

Covid vaccinated and

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; \$100 for

a year's subscription in

the U.S. mail. Visit www.

willitsweekly.com for a

signup form and more.

substance free

Willits Food Bank Office for Rent warehouse associate Office for Rent: 100 sq. ft. part-time position. Able centrally located, shared to lift up to 40 pounds; waiting room, off street patient, tolerant of those less fortunate. parking, central heat and A/C. Handicap Access. Inquire at 344 Railroad

John Ford

Ranch Beef

John Ford Ranch

still has the 50 lb.

Rancher's Choice Box

for \$390.00 and the 25

lb. Hamburger Box for

\$170.00. Please contact

Debbie Arkelian @ 459-

5049. (Prices change

Utilities included. \$250/

mo. 707-354-2473 avail.

effective 6/25/23)

**CLASSIFIEDS** 

30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks

**Indoor Yard Sale RV/Trailer Space** for Rent Giant Indoor Yard Deep Valley Christian School, 8555

Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water Uva Drive, Redwood & garbage. Close to Valley, (across from Safeway in Willits Call the Broiler). Saturday, Tony (707) 972-4696. March 9 - 8 am to 4 pm oaknvine.net/tp

#### Willits Food Bank at new location

Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, pantry staples, hygienic products, and more, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, at their new location at 344 Railroad Avenue. Food distribution is available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.









107, above, left, 109, above, center, and when she was 116, above right.

The rest of Ceccarelli

that she was gone."

From page 1

just after lunch," said Evelyn Persico, a cousin-by-marriage, dear friend, and advocate for Edie. "I kissed her forehead and told her Danny and Shelley Lewis for cooking the goodbye, just like I've done every time I see her; I just didn't know

> There had been hints of health-declining indicators for Ceccarelli, and nerves had been growing as to whether she'd make it for her 116th birthday on February 6, 2024, and the accompanying parade and party the day before on February 5. But, amazingly, she rallied for the festivities, and Persico, caregivers, and event planners all gave a sigh of relief that she not only made it, but even lasted for a good 45-plus minutes, piled under blankets and surrounded by

> "It was a long day for her with all the people and activities of the day," said Persico. "But I do think that she really did enjoy it. She waved at the parade, and had her photo taken, and enjoyed some birthday cake. I was amazed she did so well."

heaters, in the inclement weather for the parade.

Excitement and speculation about everyone meeting again for Edie's birthday No. 117 stirred in the air among the gathered group during this year's birthday celebrations, which included local and national news cameras, a documentary crew, and many friends and family members. However, those close to Edie knew that this to attend these events.

"I remember looking at her for what turned out to be that last day, and telling her she just looked so beautiful," said Persico. "Her complexion and coloring looked good, I laughed at her and told her

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

that she even gave me all of her wrinkles, she looked so wonderful!'

additional signs were showing that Edie was shutting down more and more, and that the end was indeed not far away. They were able to have Father Arogyaiah "Aaron" Bandanadam from the St. Anthony of Padula Catholic Church, and her cousin

Chuck Persico come to Edie's side Thursday morning, and they

Persico said that in the three days leading up to Edie's passing,

gave her their final blessings and prayers. "We were just there, saying 'we love you' and kissing her forehead, and I think that's what she needed: the blessings and all the love and knew it was finally OK to go," said Persico. "She was gone by mid-afternoon. I still shake my head and think to myself, 'did all this really happen?!' It's hard to wrap your head around everything that we've been through with Edie, not to mention all the

celebrating and press and attention these last few years especially,

all celebrating our Edie. It's been wonderful." Two events are planned at the St. Anthony of Padula Catholic Church, located at 61 West San Francisco Avenue: a Rosary Prayer Service on Friday, March 15 at 5:30 pm and a Mass held the following day, Saturday, March 16 at 2 pm. The public is welcome

A community gathering, with light refreshments – and of course Edie's favorite vice: glasses with two fingers of red wine! – will take place at the Willits Senior Center on Saturday, after the 2 pm mass concludes through 5 pm.

LE	3	Α	Α	Е	D			Е	Е	L		D	В	М	S
E	Ε	L	М	Α	N		D	Α	٧	Е		Е	L	Е	Α
1	V	Α	Υ	S		S	Α	٧	Е	D		S	Α	Τ	1
[	O	Е	L	Е	G	Α	Т	Е	S		С	U	В	Α	Ν
				S	Α	L	Е	S		Α	L	L		L	Т
F	Р	R	Е		D	Α	L		I	R	Α	Т	Е		
ŀ	Н	Ε	Α	D		М	ı	N	N	Е	S	0	Т	Α	
_1	M	Α	М	Ε	Т		Ν	0	D		Т	R	Υ	S	Т
		R	Е	С	0	٧	Е	R	Е	D		Υ	М	O	Α
			S	Α	R	0	S		С	Α	R		Α	-	М
	0	В		М	Α	W		S	0	R	Α	S			
ŀ	+	0	Р	Ε	Н		В	Α	R	Е	F	Α	С	Е	D
1	4	D	ı	Т		В	Α	В	U	s		В	0	R	Е
3	S	Ε	R	Ε		0	R	Е	М		D	ı	Χ	_	Е
E	Ε	D	Е	R		Α	1	R			Е	N	Α	С	Т

Е	L		D	В	М	S		4	7	2	1	8	5	3	6	9
V	E		Ε	L	Е	Α	Н			_		0	5	0	U	3
Е	D		S	Α	Т	I		8	6	5	2	3	9	1	7	4
S		С	U	В	Α	Ν				4	7		4		_	
	Α	L	L		L	Т		9	3		/	6	4	8	5	2
1	R	Α	Т	Е			Н	2	8	7	3	9	1	6	4	5
N	Е	S	0	Т	Α		ш			-			-			
D		Т	R	Υ	S	Т		5	1	6	4	7	8	9	2	3
Е	D		Υ	М	С	Α		2		1	_	2	6	7	4	0
С	Α	R		Α	ı	М	Н	3	9	4	5	2	6	/	ı	8
0	R	Α	s				П	1	4	9	8	5	7	2	3	6
R	Е	F	Α	С	Ε	D	Н	-	H-	$\dot{}$	$\vdash$		$\vdash$			Ĕ
U	S		В	0	R	Е		6	5	3	9	1	2	4	8	7
М		D	ı	Х	ı	Е	Н	7	2	0	6	1	2	_	0	4
		Е	N	Α	С	Т		/	2	8	O	4	3	5	9	L
Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490												0	Pg.			

#### **Furry Friends Hoping** for a Home

#### Gentle Buddy

Buddy is a 2-year-old husky mix ready to capture your heart with his unique blend of intelligence. sweetness and charm. Unlike the stereotypical husky temperament, Buddy is a truly exceptional companion who is eager to learn and please his special person.

This handsome fellow has a striking appearance, with his beautiful short coat that is as soft as a cloud. But it's not just Buddy's looks that will draw you in, it's his remarkable personality that shines through. One of Buddy's most endearing qualities is his gentle nature. He takes treats with the utmost care, never nipping or snatching. This delightful trait demonstrates his understanding and respect for boundaries, making him an absolute pleasure



Buddy's eagerness to learn also sets him apart, as he readily picks up new commands and thrives on mental stimulation. When it comes to leash manners, Buddy is a star pupil. He walks beside you with minimal pulling, making your adventures together an absolute joy. This is a testament to his great training and his desire to please. Whether you're strolling through the park or exploring new trails, Buddy will be right by your side, enjoying every moment of the journey. He would do well in a peaceful and consistent environment, surrounded by loads of affection.



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

#### Attention-loving Chia

Chia has lived at the Humane Society as the infirmary cat for over 10 years. She is a very special lady who loves to nap in sunny windows and accepts all of the attention that comes her way. She is an indoor-only lady and refuses to set a paw outside. Chia has particular tastes and is on a special diet to keep her digestion regular. Chia home of her very own!

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

#### Kind Amber

Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Once Amber is comfortable with you, she is friendly, playful and outgoing. This beauty is easy to walk on leash and enjoys getting outdoors for walks. The good citizen who found Amber on the street and brought her to the shelter told us that she was great with her small children.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet our feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.





OBITUARY |

#### Elaine Robinson

Elaine Hope Robinson also known as "Miss Molly" and "Bubbles" passed away in Willits, California on February 10, 2024 at the age of 85. Elaine was born on August 30, 1938 in San Mateo to Robert E. Barr and Evelyn G. Hyman. She married Alvin K. Robinson, Jr. in Burlingame on June 15, 1957.

Elaine was a housewife and mother for many years, and was also an

entrepreneur for over 50 years. She worked for two years as a camp cook for California Conservation Corps, four years for CAL FIRE, and eight years for the Boy Scouts of

She was a member of the Black Bart Gunfighters for 29 years, and participated in the Christmas Skunk train for nine years and the Christmas motorcycle Toy Run for seven years. In her spare time Elaine enjoyed rock painting, growing plants, and collecting owls. She would often say that she was so fond of owls that she married one.

Elaine was preceded in death by her husband Al Robinson, also known as "Crusty." She is survived by her three sons Alvin K. Robinson, Jr., Gregory S. Robinson, and Brian C. Robinson; daughters-in-law; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to Ruth L. Robinson, trustee of the Alvin and Elaine Robinson living trust. Donations would be greatly appreciated by the family to assist with

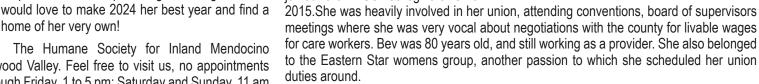
Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

OBITUARY I

#### **Beverly** Galten

Beverly Jane Galten was born to Oscar and Harriett Galten July 19, 1943 in San Francisco. In 1960 the family moved to San Bruno where Bev met and married Al Barien. The couple moved to Vermont.

Some years later Bev moved to Willits and worked for her brother Fred's mill. When Bev left the mill, she began working in healthcare and then home care. She joined the IHSS Caregivers Union in



Bev had her beloved babies Carmelita and Bear, her chihuahuas, and Mittens and Misty, her cats. Her favorite thing to do with her friends was to go to El Mexicano, where she was treated like a queen by her favorite, Emilio.

Bev attended Grace Community, Agape and Calvary Churches. Bev went to Heaven on February 15, 2024. Bev is survived by her brothers Fred, Bob and Doug, various nieces and nephews, her second family SEIU 2015, her clients, and many friends

A tribute from Raul Gardea:

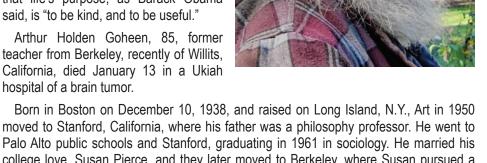
"Saddened to learn about the passing of Bev Galten, one of the first members I met when I started organizing care providers in SEIU Local 2015 Mendocino County. Bev was no radical labor leader. She was a regular person who saw unfairness in her profession and wanted to be part of the change for her co-workers. She dedicated countless hours to her union in late night bargaining prep, canvassing for candidates, phone banking for a thousand things, and travelling with me meeting caregivers from every corner of Mendo. I heard Bev did a union presentation at a new employee orientation and canvassing for CD1 the day before she passed. Sounds about right.... Rest in Power, my Comrade."

OBITUARY |

#### Arthur Goheen

You wouldn't call him beautiful. with his acne-scarred face, broken nose, and gimpy leg from a motorcycle accident. But inside was a beautiful man who believed that life's purpose, as Barack Obama said, is "to be kind, and to be useful."

Arthur Holden Goheen, 85, former teacher from Berkeley, recently of Willits, California, died January 13 in a Ukiah hospital of a brain tumor.



college love, Susan Pierce, and they later moved to Berkeley, where Susan pursued a Ph.D. in classics and Art began teaching third and fourth grades in Oakland. Two sons were born, Matthew and Daniel. Mild-mannered and soft-voiced, Art showed an abiding sense of empathy. Many people benefitted from his kindness, whether he helped move a household, rebuild a roof, fix a

If Arthur was all about kindness, life was not kind to him. Susan died of metastatic melanoma, leaving him to raise his young sons alone. Second wife Marilee Lewis brought along her own children – Mark, Christa, and Andrea – then she too died, of ALS. His third companion, of 24 years, was registered domestic partner Denese Ullom, who had her own

Originally an atheist, Art joined the pagan Church of All Worlds, and moved with Denese from Berkeley to Willits, near the group's spiritual home, Annfwn, in Mendocino County.

Survivors are Denese, sister Anne Shelly, Matthew and Daniel Goheen, granddaughter Sofia Goheen; Christa Lewis and Andrea Lewis; nephew Arthur Quinn; Sofia's mother, Michelle Maresco; Matthew's fiancée Audra Hartman; nephew Zachary Ullom; Barbara Ullom and Clayton Ullom; and many others.

Arrangements are pending.

Willits Weekly The Local Paper Online & In Print

South Main Street and issued a warning

From page 4

5:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of

6:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning

6:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Mendocino Avenue and

#### January 28

issued a warning.

8:01 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

The rest of Election

From page 1

Ballot Drop Box outside of Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street, available 24/7 for ballot drop-off, now through the close of the polls at 8 pm on Election Day.

Elsewhere in the Third District, there will be a polling station in Laytonville at the Lions Fire Hall, 44920 Willis Avenue, and a ballot drop-off station in Covelo, Election Day only, at the Round Valley Justice Court, 76270 Grange Street – both stations open from 7 am to 8 pm.

Ballots can also be dropped off at the Mendocino County Elections Office, 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020, in Ukiah, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. The Elections Office will be open from 7 am to 8 pm on Election Day, Tuesday, March 5.

The first local results for the March 5 primary election will start being posted at the Elections Office's "Current Election Results" page not long after the polls close at 8 www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/assessorcounty-clerk-recorder-elections/current-election-results

A note: Don't mistake the "Final Election Night Report" posted online in the wee hours of Wednesday morning with final official results, which won't be issued until all the ballots are counted later in March, although it would be unexpected for final official results to change the outcome of a local election.

In the 2020 Presidential primary election, final official results in Mendocino County had Democrat Bernie Sanders winning the primary with 45.81% (Joe Biden with 18.90%, Elizabeth Warren at 13.38%, and multiple other candidates, most with just a handful of votes.

In the 2020 Republican primary, official results show 91.89% of local GOP voters supporting Donald Trump, with Bill Weld and Joe Walsh each getting less than 3% of the county vote.

Another online resource the county recommends is the online map of Mendocino County's five supervisorial districts, where you can enter your residence address and verify which district you live in: Visit https://gis. mendocinocounty.org/portal/home/index.html and click the right arrow for the "Redistricting" map.

For any questions about voting, contact the Elections Office by calling 707-234-6819 or emailing mcvotes@ mendocinocounty.gov.

The rest of

Yokum

From page 5

their high school, from which Roberta graduated in 1942." She wasted no time in marrying Glenn after high school, tying the knot in 1943. They moved to Willits and had two children, James and Chris.

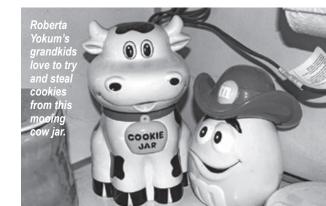
Roberta worked as a telephone operator during high school and after Glenn was drafted in WWII, she worked at the Willits Theatre (now the Noyo Theatre), and at Johnson's Mercantile (in the current J.D. Redhouse building). After Glenn was discharged, they operated the Willits Feed Store and she also worked for Eric Glassey at the Willits Senior Center. Her son. Jim. married Bobbie and had children, one of whom is Jeff Yokum, who took over Yokum's Body Shop (now Carstar) from his father, and has two girls, Maci and Kylie.

According to the Blue Zones Project, the pillars of long life are, in part, a positive attitude, having close family and friends, a purpose (a reason to get up in the mornings). Roberta Yokum has these attributes.

"She puts on a great front for people who come to see her," said Stella Bonnet, who has been Roberta's caregiver for around two years. "She's in great spirits to have a party. She has a lot of stamina. Her balance is good. She sleeps mostly. Half a beer will put her to sleep. We used to do a whole beer right before bedtime and it was hard to get her to bed because she was so relaxed.'

Roberta is the great grandma that everyone likes to visit. "She always has cookies in a little jar over there for us," laughed Maci Yokum. "She always has Oreos for us in a little cow cookie jar that moos every time you open it. Kylie and I learned that every time you open up the cookie jar, you put your hand on the button real quick so it doesn't moo and Roberta doesn't know that we're getting the fifth cookie."

Roberta is enjoying her life, even though she can't do all of the things she used to. "Just be happy," she said. "You have to stay happy." When asked what makes her happy, she answered, "My family. I love my family. I've had a good life. What a beautiful day today. How's life? So far, so great. Being 100 was easy. Getting old was easy."



From page 1

since then, and before I head down that path, of meeting he thought it would be "a really nice location for another with community groups and meeting with the veterans, is there support by the majority of the board to move veterans back to Observatory?"

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams was first to agree, acknowledging "unanticipated consequences" from the unwelcome move and suggesting apologies were in order. "The appropriate action would have been to reach out to the veterans ... the board should take ownership for it, not staff," although Williams did comment he still hadn't received information from staff about the "financial analysis" reportedly done before the move was decided on.

"I haven't enjoyed sitting up here ... not having answers," Williams said. "These are people who fought for this country.... We ought to honor them and give their building

First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty weighed in next: "This has been rolled out so poorly.... Everything was incorrect from the start" ... and veterans are a "pretty important protected class." McGourty commented that the board needed to do even more "to find a way to help the people who stood up for us at a critical time," but that rescinding the move was "definitely the right direction."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak commented on the poor communication between the county and veterans and their advocates and agreed: "If the veterans really don't feel comfortable in this kind of industrial Public Health building. I'm all for giving them what would best serve their

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde noted that county

From page 1 Opposes

Board of Supervisors' chambers, and the turnout by the public was substantial. The board's chambers filled to capacity with folks who'd waited in a long line outside the chambers in order to sign up to speak in front of a small panel of commissioners representing the CPUC.

Those who didn't arrive early enough for a seat inside were herded to a large conference room beyond the chambers where the hearing was aired on a big screen TV. Once that room filled, chairs were lined up in the courtyard outside so more people could see and hear the television. And once those seats filled, everyone else had little other choice but to stand for the duration of the 2.5-hour presentation.

AT&T's Vice President for External Affairs Tedi Vriheas was the first to be called to the podium. She read from a prepared statement that attempted to assuage the concerned public, saving in part, "AT&T has been the COLR in California since it was Pacific Bell, 25 vears ago. I want to assure you that no one is going to be left without service. All of our customers will have access to voice service, and especially 911. In addition, we will continue to provide service where we are the only provider, and we will work to update antiquated copper phone lines to ensure customers have better technologies, either from us, or another provider."

The pressing issue for most all who attended the forum, however, is that there are no good alternatives for reliable voice service everywhere in Northern California should AT&T's requests be allowed.

According to Peter Pratt, policy supervisor of the California Office of Public Advocates within the CPUC. who also spoke at the forum: "The fundamental principal here is the ability to reach all that request service. The so-called alternative providers are not equivalent providers because none of them are legally obligated to offer service to everyone."

Without their landlines, lots of people in the rural parts of Northern California are consistently without phone service. Even though in some cases there is the assumption that they ought to have service according to their wireless provider's service maps.

Ruth Valenzuela, field representative for Second District Assembly Member Jim Wood, read a statement from Wood, including: "ATT appears to be out of touch with their customer base and the viability of the options they believe are available. Additionally, there is an incentive for service companies to over-represent their service area. We cannot afford to be the unattended consequence." Many elders throughout the area

who received letters from AT&T stating its intentions to end copper service. took their turn to speak passionately about the anxiety they feel when they think of losing their most reliable form of communication. Several of these older folks told the commission how they came to Mendocino and Humboldt counties decades ago looking for a change of pace in the hills where there is limited, if any, cellphone reception.

They described their landlines as how they regularly talk to their children and grandchildren; how they contact

Nevada. In her earlier presentation for contact them; and how they stay in AT&T, Vice President Vriheas said that California was the last state where

did "need to keep consolidating into fewer buildings.... This

was a sincere effort to reduce the county's footprint." Gjerde

said he's just taken a tour of the Public Health building and

This move by the supervisors came after another

lengthy and eloquent session of comments from veterans

during Public Expression at the beginning of the meeting.

Comments ranged from the negative effects on veterans

of losing their Observatory Avenue VSO, with anecdotes

about the inadequacies of the space in the Public Health

building they'd been moved to unwillingly, to reminders that

the VSO brings in funds to the county's general fund, and

When asked about the potential timeline of getting the

When pressed again, Board Chair Mulheren repeated

that the board had all committed to this policy, and

suggested that there could be an update on progress at

In another "commitment" announced by Board Chair

Mulheren after a lengthy closed session, she said: "We

don't usually report out on this information, but the board

is committed to getting everyone in SEIU 2015 to \$20/

hour within the life of the contract with SEIU Local 2015.

We unanimously agreed that we will attempt to obtain

additional dedicated funding, and if we are able to do so

sooner, we will attempt to get there sooner than the third

Veterans Services Office moved back to Observatory

Avenue, County CEO Darcy Antle said "at least give us a

the better services offered, the more funds are possible.

county department."

couple months.

the March 5 meeting.

Pay for caregivers

vear of the contract."

work.

their doctors and how their doctors

touch with elderly friends and relatives.

Rhiannon Philippi, who spoke

representing state Senator Mike

McGuire's office, said: "California

is a big state, and a one-size-fits-

all approach to safe and reliable

Especially here on the rugged North

Coast. Plain and simple, North Coast

residents will be left vulnerable and

in danger if hard line phone systems

Glenn McGourty, First District

supervisor for Mendocino County, also

made comments to the commission.

McGourty said: "We're an aging

community, we've been very faithful to

AT&T all these years. They have been

a public monopoly. We've gone along

Supervisor McGourty was the first

of many people to talk about the

deterioration of AT&T 's copper lines.

"Our service has declined." he said. "I

basically gave up my landline because

I couldn't use it a good deal of the time.

It would rain, and it wouldn't work. And

large amounts of static. But bad as it

John Haschak, Third District

supervisor for Mendocino County,

spoke for himself and Fourth District

Supervisor Dan Gjerde. Haschak

addressed the commission saying:

"Please ensure that your decision

takes into account not just the

bottom-line of ATT, but rather the

pact with our communities to provide

for essential services. And this

means communications. That means

maintaining landlines in our rural,

mountainous, beautiful county. To do

otherwise would put people's lives at

Many people, including Michelle

Wivot tribe in Humboldt County.

reiterated that they use their landlines

for emergencies because traditional

telephone service doesn't require

electricity to work. It's able to be used

Administrator Vassel also said more

than 60 percent of her tribe's population

live in rural parts of the county that do

not have any other service other than

landlines. She said Wiyot tribal elders

and the disabled use the LifeLine

program. According to Public Advocate

Pratt, those who use LifeLine or Deaf

may not be able to obtain those

services, as AT&T has not committed

to providing them should their time as

COLR end, and they would no longer

Another argument made against

the removal of traditional landlines

had to do with Wi-Fi radiation. Vicki

Sievers, who came to the forum from

San Rafael, is an advocate for people

made ill by wireless emissions. Sievers said, "Please know that only fully wired

copper lines are tolerable for the 3 to

7 percent of the population that is very

One gentleman who stood to speak,

sensitive to wireless radiation.

be legally obligated to do so.

even if there's a power outage.

with their rates.

have access to."

aren't maintained or are abandoned."

communication doesn't

when their cellphones don't work.

Most importantly, they said it's how AT&T still served as COLR. AT&T's they dial 911 during emergencies applications for relief from its obligation as COLR had been granted in 20 other states. Ellis spoke as someone who experienced the end of AT&T's role as COLR in Nevada.

> Ellis said: "Let me tell you exactly what AT&T will do. I'm a technician for AT&T. I work in rural Nevada. I have to do whatever I can to keep these lines working. They [AT&T] will not upgrade, they will not maintain. have to MacGyver every which way. And then I have to go and tell these elderly customers, 'I'm sorry ma'am, can fix this maybe three more times. can't tell you how long it's gonna last, but when I get to my last time, you're gonna have to find an [alternative] way to communicate." He warned the commission: "Don't let happen in California what happened in Nevada It's a horrible idea.

Public comments ended at 4:30 pm for the first hearing, and a break was taken before the second hearing began at 6 pm. The Board of Supervisors' chambers were again full when it wasn't raining, I would get for the second hearing. Mendocino County Sherriff Matthew Kendall spoke is, for some people, that's all that they candidly about his views on the matter

> He said, bluntly, "Mendocino County is not ready for this." Kendall echoed the concerning lack of cell reception along the 101 and in rural areas of the county. He repeated the necessity for landlines during emergencies, saying "When we go to put out a reverse 911, you don't have to sign up for a reverse 911 when you have a copper line. It goes out to everybody I need it to go

Sheriff Kendall appealed to the commission about the poor timing of AT&T's request. "Right now," he said, "This is a gamble. Somebody is gonna lose their life over this." He persisted: "If I were a betting man, I would not Vassel, tribal administrator for the slide my chips forward on the hand that's being dealt to us right now. Please. Let's not do this right now. We're not ready for it right now. There may be places in the state that are. But it's not here.

No decisions have been made regarding AT&T's application. No changes will occur until there is a vote by all five commissioners. According to the CPUC website, "the Administrative Law Judge assigned to the proceedings is scheduled to issue a Proposed Decision in the case for consideration by the CPUC within a and Disabled Telecommunications year."

> For more information on upcoming public forums regarding the Application of AT&T California to Withdraw its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation (A.23-03-002) and the Application of AT&T California for Relief from its Carrier of Last Resort Obligation (A.23-03-003) visit the CPUC website: https://www.cpuc. ca.gov/pph. Two sets of online only hearings are set for March 5 and March 20.

> More info: public.advisor@cpuc. ca.gov Or call: 866-849-8390 or 415-703-2074, TTY 866-836-7825, or write: CPUC Public Advisor's Office, 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102.

Mark Ellis, came all the way from Reno. Willits Weekly | February 29, 2024 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Willits Weekly | February 29, 2024 **Pg. 10** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490











Above, from left: Several of the items left for sale are accessories, including a chandelier, modeled by Kyle Brandon; a folding side table, modeled by Mike Smith; two lamps, modeled by Curtis Dashiell; a vase and silk flowers, modeled by Tanya Brandon; and two kissing

# Closing the doors

#### Willits Furniture closes on Saturday, March 2 after 55-plus years in business

There's still a last-minute chance to purchase any of the remaining inventory at Willits Furniture before they officially close their doors for good at 5 pm on Saturday, March 2 – and at a deep discount.

"Everything is a minimum of 70% off," said Mike Smith,

Maureen Jennison Graphics & Photographress willitsweekly@gmail.com

owner of Willits Furniture. "We're trying to clear out everything that's left, which is only about 5% of our original

inventory. While there's still a few big pieces, we do still have lots of smaller accessory items including lamps, mirrors, wall art, centerpieces, nightlights, kitchen towels, and more."

Everything sold between February 22 and March 2 will be tallied, and 15% of that amount will be divided evenly between local non-profits including Willits Rotary, the Soroptimist International of Willits, the Willits Lions Club, the American Legion Post 174, and also the Willits Community Services and Food Bank.

Of the traffic coming into the store since the closing was announced four months ago, Smith said at least one or two of each day's customers have explicitly expressed their appreciation for the store, the pricing, the selection, the quality - and that almost every piece of furniture they own has come from the store.

"That's got to be 400 or 500 people who've come in to say things like that," said Smith. "It's been so humbling and wonderful to hear."

But, even with the great track record, COVID, the collapse of the marijuana industry, the bypass, and the rise in online shopping has been a "perfect storm" of problems for small independent furniture stores, and the Smiths said it just wasn't working anymore to stay open.

"We're making a huge life adjustment, closing the store," explained Smith. "The original store opened in 1968, and I started here in 1978. The original 4,500-square-foot store was at the north end of the Safeway building, but when the grocery store bought the property from us, we built this building on what was once a basically empty lot. There was just one old tree and an old saw shop here. This has been our home away from home for many, many years."

But new adventures await Mike and wife, Margie, who have uprooted and moved to Tucson, Arizona, a place where they loved to vacation, and where they will reside

fish, modeled by Margie Smith.

"I've loved Arizona since I was a child, we would drive through there when we would head to the East Coast to visit family," explained Smith. "At one point, we were visiting Margie's family near there, and spent time on vacation there, and it really felt like a great place for us to settle and enjoy retirement."

> Smith said they plan to do lots of hiking, join the local Rotary Club, and "hopefully do a 'reasonable' amount of golfing."

> What's "a reasonable amount"? Smith said twice a week would be a great start.

The Smiths say they'll be back to Willits to visit some, though, and hope to be around for a week or two before the annual Claws for a Cause event.

"We'll miss all our friends and the beautiful Willits valley," said Smith. "But it's time for a new adventure!"

Willits Furniture will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm, and then will close their doors. Stop by and say hi, get some great deals, and give the Smiths and the rest of the staff a final send-off and good luck in their next adventures.



Above: The staff and owners of Willits Furniture stand in the emptying showroom.





Ruth McLarty, MD General Surgery AdventistHealth.org/RMcLarty



Cristina V. Cueto, MD General Surgery AdventistHealth.org/CCueto

Now welcoming new patients

Adventist Health Howard Memorial 3 Marcela Drive, Willits

707-459-6115

If you're looking for a partner for your complex healthcare needs, look to Ruth McLarty, MD and Cristina V. Cueto, MD, our new general surgeon team.

You were made for more. More knowledge. More compassion. More expertise. That is why we're proud to introduce two new general surgeons and welcome them to our team.

Dr. McLarty, PhD, is a skilled, board-certified general surgeon, caring for ages 2 and older with such common conditions as cholecystitis, diverticulitis, bowel obstructions and hernias. Dr. McLarty also specializes in colorectal surgery.

Dr. Cueto, is a skilled, board-certified general surgeon, and speaks both English and Spanish to best care for patients ages 18 and older. Some common conditions she treats are biliary disease, hernias, benign and malignant diseases of the colon and small bowel, soft tissue conditions and diseases of the breast.

Together, this experienced general surgeon team is available and ready to serve our community.

