



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## North County Center Mixer

To the Editor:

Mark Friday, March 13, on your calendar. Join Willits Chamber of Commerce members, faculty, and volunteers representing Mendocino College North County Campus for the unveiling of the biggest event to happen at Mendocino College Willits Campus since its opening.

Representatives of the college will present building plans expanding the campus by adding a vocational building containing classrooms and space to prepare students for careers in construction, fire, science, art and more.

The Chamber Mixer is for everyone, and there will be beverages and delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by Scoops! Students will share the benefit of a summer scholars program that the event provides scholarships for. There will be door prizes and a live auction with auctioneer extraordinary Tom Allman rapping the gavel, rolling out amazing getaway destinations donated by very generous supporters – as well as products and services for everyday life. You won't want to miss this fun 5 to 7 pm evening!

**Jim Harden, Friends of Mendocino College North County, Willits**

## Thank you

To the Editor:

Willits, you did it again!

We are so grateful for the incredible support behind our first annual Willits Sober Grad Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament. Thanks to this amazing community, we raised \$13,000 to give our seniors a safe and unforgettable graduation celebration.

A big thank you to our table sponsors: METALfx, Wylatti Resource Management, Northern Aggregates, Inc., Proseed, Coldwell Banker - Mendo Realty, Johnson Electric, Nor Crawl, Garman Construction, Family Tree Service, Granite Construction, and Willits Power Equipment Rentals. You made the night happen!

Thank you also to Loose Caboose Cafe, Grocery Outlet, Northspur Brewing, and Eagle Distributing for their generous support, and to every dealer and volunteer who showed up and made it such a great time.

A special shoutout to Andrew Hosford and Sparetime Distribution for going above and beyond to host and champion this event from start to finish – we couldn't have done it without you.

To everyone who sponsored, played, volunteered, or simply spread the word: thank you. What a way to kick off year one. We can't wait to see you at next year's tournament!

**Carrie Lambert, secretary, Willits Sober Grad**



## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters to the editor from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. Deadline is end of day Monday for each Thursday edition. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.



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

**Volume 13, Number 628**  
3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047  
willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

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

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

## Clay Romero

### Local machine shop owner promises 'change' in his campaign for Third District Supervisor

*Submitted by Clay Romero for Mendocino County Supervisor*

I've lived in the Third District for 51 years and have the wisdom and values to do the right thing for the people. They want change, and I can give it to them. People expect five things from their elected supervisors:

1. Safety – This is our law enforcement, fire personnel, court system, and our Constitutional 2nd amendment right. I am supportive of them all.
2. Economic Stability – The economics of the area needs improvement. The people need to be successful before the county can become financially stable. This will require policy changes at the county to reduce regulations, reduce permit fees, and promote any business that produces a physical product. The timber and cannabis industries are minimal, and we need more manufacturing and agriculture. We cannot continue from tourism alone. 20% of those employed in the county are employed by government. Time is money. The time to act is immediate.
3. Environmental Stability – We have a nice place to live, and I intend to keep it that way. Our children are counting on us to keep the air, water, and soil clean. I favor increased recycling capacity so that little trash is trucked out of the county.
4. Freedom: Our freedoms should extend to the extent that they do not infringe upon the freedoms of others. It is essential to exercise respect for your neighbors.
5. Basic Fairness – As a business, the county should provide excellent service and ensure customer satisfaction. Many people are asking for more transparency and a chance to be heard. Grand Jury reports have described the conditions for Mendocino County employees as a "toxic environment," and we need to address these issues. It's important to resolve any county problems that have been ongoing for over five years. Also, let's make sure that common permits for housing or businesses don't exceed 30 days. If state regulations aren't effective, we should challenge them.

I have developed a healthcare funding system to offer to our

Read the rest of **Romero** | Over on page 16

## Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Thursday, March 5:** Chicken a la King

**Friday, March 6:** Open Faced Chili Burger

**Sunday, March 8:** Pancake Breakfast

**Monday, March 9:** Chili Mac & Corn Bread

**Tuesday, March 10:** Mediterranean Chicken Sandwich

**Wednesday, March 11:** Tamale Pie, Rice, Beans

**Thursday, March 12:** Spinach Lasagna

**Friday, March 13:** Country Fried Steak, Side, Soup

**Activities:** Bingo on Friday nights, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class weekday mornings from 9 to 10 am.

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

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

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

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

### SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

## THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

# March 2026

*By Supervisor John Haschak*

One of the complaints I hear regularly is regarding the condition of County roads. There are plenty of potholes and overall poor conditions. The Mendocino Council of Governments of which I am the Chair, and the Department of Transportation are collaborating to propose a one cent sales tax dedicated to road improvements. This would repair potholes, prolong the life of roads, and repair major County maintained roads.

If passed by the Board, it will go to the voters in the county, excluding voters within incorporated cities (Ukiah, Willits, Fort Bragg and Point Arena) in November. This would be voted on by all voters, but the tax would only apply in the unincorporated areas of the County. This would provide much-needed funding (about \$5.5 million annually) and allow the County to access state funds for self-help counties.

Mendocino College is beginning construction on a new 18,843 sq. ft. building in Willits to support a fire academy and construction trades program along with growing enrollment. Congressman Huffman and state Senator McGuire were instrumental in getting Mendocino College the funding. Working together, we are creating long-term career and technical education opportunities.

The Great Redwood Trail Agency is completing the Master Plan. The vote to approve the Master Plan is on March 19. This 586-page document will guide the progress of the GRT. It will have an impact in the Third District. Some segments have been completed already, some are under construction, and others are future concepts. One example is the segment from Willits to Longvale (where Hwy 101 and Hwy 162 meet) that is being planned by the Mendocino Land Trust. Of course, there are issues to be resolved but this will provide access to the beautiful areas north of Willits. Another issue yet to be determined is herbicide use on the GRT. The rail line has a toxic history, and this is an opportunity to do things differently.

The mid-year budget was presented to the Board. This year the overall budget is projected to be balanced by the end of the fiscal year. The Auditor-Controller is projecting an additional \$2.8 million in revenue. This will help balance the budget since some departments are projected to be over budget. The DA's budget looks to be \$1.2 million over (about 18% over) and the Supervisors' budget will be over by \$150,000 (16% over). I had proposed cuts to the Supervisors' budget in July, but the majority didn't support the cuts. Next year's General Fund budget is projected to have a \$5 million gap between revenues and expenditures.

The Board supported using \$500,000 of one-time-only money on water. Since this was not really defined or explained how the money will be used, I requested that the CEO come back with a written plan for the money. The Board supports the work of the Inland Water and Power Commission in regard to the Potter Valley Project and the future of water in both the Eel and Russian Rivers; we need to know how the money will be spent and that it aligns with the Board's policies.

There will be a Talk with the Supervisor on Thursday, March 12, from 10 to 11 am at Brickhouse Coffee. You can always contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-972-4214.

# 'Yes, And'

## Free youth improv class to be offered by Willits Community Theatre

"Yes, and?" is the basic question and agreement of improvisational theater. It forms both an agreement and a path forward and a method for social interaction, even off the stage. The participant accepts what their partner has created ("yes"), and then adds a new detail or action ("and"), so the scene can keep moving forward.

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

"This is the 'Yes, And' Improv Program, which is the spearhead for the new Gateway Youth Program, here at the Willits Community Theatre," remarked Chuck Mordock, WCT improv class instructor. "It's a very welcoming sort of technique. It's a great class for people who don't have any experience on stage or any type of performing in general. Even for people who aren't looking to pursue theater, it's something that I insistently push because it's great for everyone in their daily lives. It takes that burden off of feeling pressured when asked a question that you don't have an answer prepared for."

"We are going to be working with just high schoolers for this run, about 13 to 18 years of age," said Mordock. "We will start with the basics. There is a reason why we call it 'Yes, And.' It is the starting off point for all improv. It is the core rule of improv. Whenever someone gives you a statement, you 'yes, and' to it. You accept that statement and add to it, as opposed to disagreeing. At the moment you disagree with someone in your scene, it kills the flow of the scene. 'Yes, and' is the foundational principle of improv."

"Then we will be working into theater games, into more long-form scenes," Mordock explained. "We're going to be running the gamut, everything from doing games like 'Bench,' which are more of an exercise than anything else, working our way up to trying to do some long-form scenes like 'The Bat' or 'The Bard' which are both long-form types of improv where you are doing multiple scenes to tell a story over as much as an hour."

Mordock is well known at both Ukiah Players Theatre and Willits Community Theatre, last seen in the role of Dr. Frank N. Furter in "The Rocky Horror Show." The class will run April 6 through May 25, Mondays, 4 to 5:30 pm. Originally, the fee for the class was set at the extremely reasonable rate of \$125 for the six weeks, however, through the largess of donor Mary Guibert, the class, for up to 15 students, has been paid, so high schoolers can attend for free.

"The improv program is part of the Gateway to the Stage," explained Kirsten Myers, chairperson of the Gateway to the Stage Committee. "We are launching a Gateway Willits Community Theatre School. There will be a more official name in the future. We're hoping to provide continual theater programs throughout the year. We had 'Tutus and Toes' about a year ago, which was a dance class for the littles. Hopefully, we'll get to the point where we have two or three classes going at a time."

"I'm excited that Chuck has targeted the high school population because they really need something," said Myers. "A lot of high schoolers feel there is not a lot to keep them occupied in a positive manner. Our camp really hasn't targeted that population." There are several teachers who are interested in teaching dance, voice, acting, and more in the future.

"The community has expressed a need and desire for more youth programming, specifically for teens," said Amythyst Romero, managing director of the Willits Community Theatre. "I understand that back in the day, there used to be quite a bit of things for teens to do. We hope to grow the Gateway program, possibly into another location. We want to have music, dance, improv, acting, maybe even musical instruments, possibly tech, anything you can think of that is creative, anything that can be translated into performing arts. That's what we want to provide for the community."

"When kids have nothing better than to sit around and commiserate about how miserable they are, they do things to make them even more miserable," stated Mary Guibert. "I also believe in my heart, no matter how it's manifested, every child is born an artist. Art comes from our humanity and when our humanity is quashed and crushed and belittled and devalued, those things are not allowed to grow. Those ways of manifesting their angst and their troubles, be it writing poetry or journaling or writing plays, they display all the Sturm und drang of life and the nitty gritty that you see in your own real life. That is not a Disney thing. It's something with real people and real feelings and real emotion."

To learn more about the Gateway to the Stage programs, the improv classes, or the multitude of activities, plays and music that is going on at Willits Community Theatre, located at 37 W Van Lane, visit: [www.wctperformingartscenter.org/gateway-to-the-stage](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org/gateway-to-the-stage) or call 707-216-1826.



Above, left: Improv instructor Chuck Mordock enjoys his interactions with young adults and instills in them a sense of confidence. Above, right: Amythyst Romero, as managing director of the Willits Community Theatre, has introduced many innovations. At left: The Willits Community Theatre management team gathers for a photo: from left, House Manager Michelle Havenhill, Managing Director Amythyst Romero and Production Manager Jeff Shipp. At left, below: Last year's Gateway to the Stage production of "Shrek, Jr." was a lot of fun for the kids. Below, left: Mary Guibert, mother of the late Jeff Buckley, a musician well-known for his version of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" is deeply moved by Desa Holt's rendition of the song. Photos by Mathew Caine

At top, right: Children have a great time learning the art of theater and performing in front of people for the first time. Above, left: In one of his less serious moments, improv instructor Chuck Mordock demonstrates the sense of fun which is inherent in the art of improv. Above, right: The 2024 Gateway to the Stage production of "The Addams Family, Jr." provided six weeks of camp culminating in two weeks of performances. At left: Kirsten Myers, chairperson of the Gateway to the Stage Committee, smiles with her youngest son outside of Willits Community Theatre.

# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

Level: Beginner

## HOW TO SUDOKU

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

## CAUGHT READING WORD SEARCH

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

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| APPENDIX<br>AUDIO<br>AUTHOR<br>BIBLIOGRAPHY<br>BINDING<br>BLURB | BOOKS<br>BOOKSTORE<br>BORROW<br>CHAPTER<br>EDITION<br>E-READER | GENRE<br>HARDCOVER<br>ILLUSTRATION<br>IMAGINATION<br>INTEREST<br>LIBRARY | NONFICTION<br>PAGE<br>READING<br>SHELVES<br>SPINE<br>STORYTELLER |
|---|--|--|--|

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

## CLUES ACROSS

- Unit of dry measure
- One who defies authority
- Social media giant
- Render holy
- 'Mach \_\_ about nothing'
- Computer manufacturer
- Creed
- Immoral act
- Mountain pass
- Winged nut
- Don't know when yet
- Elected officials
- Corrupt tendencies
- Popular adult beverage
- Made a mistake
- Morally correct
- Type of whale
- Portable conical tent
- Native people of the Congo
- More (Spanish)
- Classroom implements
- Cognizant of
- One who tells
- Free from bondage
- Thick piece of something

- Containing two adjacent nitrogen atoms
- Removed from the record
- Legendary singer Turner
- Broke up the earth
- Hunting expedition
- Contributes
- Unit of work or energy
- Wreckage on the sea bed
- Affirmative! (slang)
- Witness
- Scrape (Archaic)

## CLUES DOWN

- '\_\_ and flows'
- Popular request for help
- A position of leadership
- Continent
- Adherent of a particular religion
- Things that can be eaten
- Self-governing Netherlands territory
- Long-tailed crow
- Repeated
- Bluish greens
- Humanities
- Someone who serves in the armed forces
- Labor (Spanish)
- Zero
- Shared by involving three parties
- Queens ballplayer
- Consumed
- Rest here please
- Men's fashion accessory
- American time
- Sound unit
- They \_\_
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Places to play video games
- A sudden attack of illness
- When you hope to arrive
- Charges
- Actress Seyfried
- A tributary of the Ohio River
- Omit when speaking
- Armored fish
- Remain
- From a distance
- Adventure story
- Geological times
- Eat dinner

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

February 16 to February 22

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported 65 incidents in this 7-day period.

## Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

### February 16

7:35 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

8:17 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:21 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Walnut Street.

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

8:40 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

### February 17

10:37 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

9:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

### February 18

12:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

### February 19

8:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of North Main Street and Sherwood Road.

5:40 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:11 pm: ROGERS, Wyatt Shawn (21) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Holly Street following a disturbance. He was arrested on felony charges of first-degree robbery and destruction of property more than \$400, and on misdemeanor charges of battery with serious bodily injury, damaging or destroying a wireless communications device, and disorderly conduct (alcohol).

### February 20

12:23 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.

### February 21

2:19 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

5:45 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

### February 22

4:37 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Sherwood Road and North Main Street and issued a warning.

5:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

7:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

## Multi-agency operation in southern Humboldt recovers 3,395 pounds of illegal cannabis, stolen guns, and vehicles

Submitted by CHP

February 27 – On February 26, at approximately 10:30 am, the California Highway Patrol, with assistance from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department, the California Department of Cannabis Control, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, executed a search warrant at a cannabis cultivation operation in southern Humboldt County as part of an ongoing criminal investigation into stolen vehicles with altered Vehicle Identification Numbers.

After securing the property, the Department of Cannabis Control found the site operating illegally. Investigators identified multiple environmental violations, including the unlawful diversion of water for the irrigation of the cannabis operation. Officers also found unpermitted structures used for cooking and habitation.

Based on those findings, investigators obtained and executed a second search warrant.

Following service of the second warrant, officers seized the following items as evidence:

- 3,395 pounds of processed illicit cannabis
- One fully automatic AK-47 assault rifle
- One short-barreled shotgun
- Four pistols
- One rifle
- A stolen 2022 Polaris RZR
- Four VIN-switched stolen vehicles: 2025 Ford F-350 King Ranch (approximate value \$90,000); 2020 GMC Sierra AT4 (approximate value \$38,000); 2023 Cadillac Escalade (approximate value \$67,000); and 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Trail Boss (approximate value \$39,000)

- Hundreds of rounds of ammunition
- Counterfeit identification documents
- Cellular phones
- One mounted wolf seized as contraband by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigators also located a safe containing high-end jewelry and approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 in U.S. currency within the residence and other structures. Authorities seized the property under asset forfeiture laws. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Department will handle asset forfeiture proceedings in coordination with the CHP and the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office.

During the operation, investigators located three cannabis-processing workers at the site. Following further investigation, officers determined the individuals were likely victims of labor trafficking. Authorities provided the workers with information and support services from the Northern California Coalition to Safeguard Communities.

"This case highlights the evolving nature of organized criminal enterprises operating in our rural communities," said CHP Northern Division Commander Chief John Pinoli. "What began as an investigation into stolen vehicles uncovered an illicit cannabis operation, illegal firearms, environmental crimes, and individuals who may have been exploited for labor. Our personnel and partner agencies remain committed to protecting the public, safeguarding natural resources, and holding those who profit from criminal activity accountable."

Prosecutors will file all criminal charges via complaint.

## Have something to say?

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



Necole Aguilar, on vocals, and Hal Wagenet, on guitar and vocals, front Hal A Looya.

# Hal A Looya

## Local musicians perform and reminisce about the '60s and '70s music scene at Noyo Theater showing of 'Last Days of the Fillmore'

Those who were around in the late '60s and early '70s and were of an age to be aware of the musical revolution happening throughout the United States and Europe, can name dozens of bands who lead the new sounds. Bands like Santana, The Grateful Dead, Cream, Jefferson Airplane, The Who, The Birds, The Doors, and It's a Beautiful Day, created a unique sound, a sound that reflected the times in their creativity and ability to make their own rules. Willits, as many know, is home to two of the members of It's a Beautiful Day, who's song "White Bird" has endured lovingly through the decades and is recognizable even in the younger generations, as is much of the music from the era. Hal Wagenet and Mitchell Holman live in Willits and are still making music, along with several very talented local musicians.

Wagenet has formed a group of studio musicians to play and record many of his compositions, and they occasionally play out in public, as was the case last Friday at Noyo Theater. The concert and the film, "Last Days of the Fillmore," drew an almost full house in the larger auditorium of the theater, many of whom came dressed colorfully in their best tie-dye, one of the trappings of the era. The evening was a fundraiser for the Noyo to be able to erect a stage for live music at the venue. It has long been a plan of the current owner, Jim Devine, who along with

his wife, Michelle Hutchins, purchased the theater in 2024.

"This is a benefit for the Noyo's Next Stage Project, where we are trying to build the infrastructure to have live performances on a regular basis," said Devine. "We needed electricity in the front of the hall. We need a platform or a stage. We need supplemental lighting, auxiliary sound. For now, we are past the first level. We have brought our electricity up to code and we have two 20-amp circuits up front. That's all we had available on the panel."

The model of working a small town movie theater, simply through ticket sales and popcorn, is proving not to be a sustainable business model, so innovation-through-diversification seems to be a viable path, utilizing the space for music, parties, and more.

"Getting people in the seats for the films continues to be a struggle. Developing the multi-use capability of this theater really is, I think, going to help us sustain, because a movie-only business model is fading in terms of feasibility," explained Devine. "It's about finding the right fit. That means a lot of different things. One thing that comes to mind is alcohol sales. We get a lot of criticism for not jumping on the alcohol sales. We had them for a while. They were a big hassle and didn't pay for themselves. The thing I found

Read the rest of **Noyo** | Over on page 15



At top: The former owners of the Noyo Theater, Lois and Jeff Hoover, enjoy seeing what is happening at the theater and expressed their appreciation at the changes. Above, left: Theater co-owner Michelle Hutchins and Tessa Ford dress in colorful attire to celebrate the '60s. Above, right: Hal Wagenet's gold record celebrates the success of his group, It's a Beautiful Day. Below: Hal Wagenet, of the group It's a Beautiful Day, plays guitar and sings oldies and originals. At bottom: Entrepreneur Bill Graham was very present in the film "Last Days of the Fillmore."



At far left: Several of the attendees sport tie dye and art of the era. At left, top: Hal Wagenet wore his musical attire to celebrate the entertainment for the evening. At left, below: This young lad is an admirer of The Grateful Dead and enjoys the music of the era.

Photos by Mathew Caine

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS SEVEN SISTERS

Back row L-R: Nancy Simpson, Carolyn Bakewell, Julie Beardley, Nan Trichler, Esther Siegel | Front row L-R: Laura Fogg, Elizabeth Raybee

Opening March 7, 2026 6-8pm  
Art, Refreshments, & Community \*\* FREE  
Galleries open Sats, & Suns. thru April 29 \* 11-5pm

**BUFFEY BOURASSA** for District 3 Supervisor

Experience Leadership Strength

TEAMBUFFEY.COM

Ad Paid for by Elect Buffy Bourassa for District 3 Supervisor 2026 FPPC 1488011

**NOT WHAT WE MEANT BY 'TREEHOUSE'**

Residential and Commercial Roofing in Mendocino, Lake & Sonoma Counties

**B.A.S. ROOFING** INC.

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

by the city finance department, not the CPAs. The CPAs are hired to audit – that is, verify the accuracy of – the city’s financial records, primarily income and expenditures. The auditors were only partially able to accomplish this, and issued what they call a “qualified opinion,” an unusual and troubling disclaimer according to CPA Ben Zeng, the lead auditor.

The audit was actually several audits conducted simultaneously, because the city has several funds. All of the funds are in the same bank account, but each fund has its own separate accounting and separate financial statements. The audit covered the General fund and related funds, the Water fund, the Wastewater (sewer) fund, and the Airport fund, for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

The CPAs determined that the general fund financial statements were accurate – showing looming financial problems, but accurate.

The CPAs were not able to determine the accuracy of the water fund, the wastewater fund, or the airport fund, due to a lack of supporting documents to verify income to these funds. This was due to the city being in the middle of a difficult conversion from an old accounting software system to a new software system, but also due to problems in the city’s finance department.

Finance Director Orozco blamed “a breakdown in one of our controls that was at the front desk.” The CPA was more specific: “We weren’t able to get billing information. We weren’t able to get copies of receipts. The recordkeeping was lax, poor documentation.”

The auditor placed part of the problem on “third party contractors,” outside financial consultants hired by the city to work with the auditors: “When you [the consultant] just come in and try to understand what’s going on, that’s been going on, it was difficult getting information. We weren’t quite sure who we were corresponding with.”

However, the CPAs did not find any obvious errors in the funds. Most of the income to the wastewater fund comes from property taxes, unlikely to have discrepancies. For the other funds, the CPA, replying to questions from Councilmember Bruce Burton and Mayor Tom Allman, stated that there were no indications of theft or embezzlement.

Burton asked if the auditor saw anything “amiss.” Zeng replied, “No, I don’t think so.” Allman specifically asked the auditor, “Is there anything you saw that was negligent or criminal?” Zeng said there wasn’t.

The auditor gave a detailed overview of the city’s finances, but the discussion was about the 2023-2024 fiscal year, ancient history in light of the current financial crisis. At that time, the city was in good financial condition, but there were already warning signs of declining revenues and increasing expenses, information that would have been helpful a year ago.

The auditors are now starting the 2024-2025 audit, for the fiscal year that ended last June 30. And already the auditor is warning of the same problems as the 2023-2024 audit. The city was still struggling with the two incompatible software systems. And the city was still hiring outside financial contractors to work with the city’s finance department.

As the legendary New York Yankee catcher Yogi Berra famously said, “It’s deja vu all over again.”

**WILLITS RAIN BOX**

The storm that came ashore Monday night and continued through Tuesday, February 24, yielded significantly more rainfall than originally predicted. Accumulation across the Little Lake Valley averaged 5.19 inches, versus a forecast for 3 to 4 inches.

Rainfall recorded during February 2026 averaged 10.51 inches, about 3.4 inches less than the past two Februaries. Total rainfall since October 1, 2025 now stands at 43.43 inches. Current forecasts call for a warm and dry start to March.

– *Tim Hanna, Willits Rain Box*

location	Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)							rainfall since 01Oct25
	Mon Feb 23	Tue Feb 24	Wed Feb 25	Thur Feb 26	Fri Feb 27	Sat Feb 28	Sun Mar 01	
Northbrook Way	0.80	4.93	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47.80
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.93	5.57	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.93
Valley Rd	0.54	3.74	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.12
Canyon Rd	0.55	3.83	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	38.13
Pine Mountain	0.54	3.64	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	44.46
South Main @ East Oak	0.76	4.96	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47.13
<b>average</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>4.45</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>43.43</b>

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

**Mendocino County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund solicits grant applications**

*Submitted by Planning and Building*

The Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services on behalf of the Mendocino County Fish and Game Commission, are accepting grant applications for the Mendocino County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund. Grant applications must demonstrate protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife, in conformance with California Fish and Game Code Section 13103.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, consisting of supervised formal instruction carried out pursuant to a planned curriculum and aids to education such as literature, audio and video recordings, training models, and nature study facilities.
- Temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.
- Temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence.
- Breeding, raising, purchasing, or releasing

fish or wildlife that are to be released upon approval of the department pursuant to FGC Sections 6400 and 6401 onto land or into waters of local, state, or federal agencies or onto land or into waters open to the public.

- Improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, including, but not limited to, construction of fish screens, weirs, and ladders; drainage or other watershed improvements; gravel and rock removal or placement; construction of irrigation and water distribution systems; earthwork and grading; fencing; planting trees and other vegetation management; and removal of barriers to the migration of fish and wildlife.
- Construction, maintenance, and operation of public hatchery facilities.
- Predator control actions for the benefit of fish or wildlife following certification in writing by the department that the proposed actions will significantly benefit a particular wildlife species.
- Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental

agencies, if approved by the department.

Applications must be complete, provide all requested information, and be submitted by the deadline. This includes applicant’s Taxpayer I.D. number, project timeline, project budget, maps and photos, and at least one letter of support for the proposed project. For more information, please review the Grant Guidelines and Application information on the Department of Planning and Building services website at: <https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/planning-building-services/fish-and-game-commission>

Grant application deadline is Friday, April 3, 2026 at 4 pm.

Applications may be submitted via email to [pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.gov](mailto:pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.gov) with the subject line “Fish and Game Commission Propagation Fund Grant Application” or in person to the Fish and Game Commission c/o Mendocino County Planning & Building Services, 860 North Bush Street, Ukiah. If you have any questions, contact Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services via telephone at 707-234-6650.

The rest of **Arrest** From page 1

active arrest warrants out of Mendocino County. Martinez was also determined to be on formal probation out of Mendocino County for assault with a deadly weapon.

Deputies began to search the area for Martinez, and he was ultimately located lying down on the ground hiding from law enforcement. Deputies detained Martinez without incident.

Due to Martinez being involved in a vehicle collision, Sheriff’s Office deputies requested medical personnel to treat Martinez for minor injuries.

The rest of **Salmon** From page 1

Third District Supervisor John Haschak went to the podium and addressed the group. He said: “I’m excited that the fish are back. I remember when I was a kid going to the golf course and seeing the fish. This is exciting news.” Continuing he said, “I’m the chair of the Mendocino Council of Governments, aka MCOG, and we have a public position that’s open; Mike Carter was the public representative at large. Matthew Alaniz is the city representative. For all of you who are concerned about transportation issues, this may be a good opportunity for you to get involved.”

Continuing Haschak said, “The Great Redwood Trail group had a meeting the other day, and we have our draft master plan ready. The Mendocino Land Trust is looking to work with us from Commercial Street (the Skunk Train Station) up to Longvale. The meeting is on March 19, at Ukiah City Hall in the chambers.” The time of the meeting was not set at this time.

Haschak talked about new changes planned for Mendocino College’s North County Center, including expanding the center “to build a Fire Academy and a Construction Trades Facility which will pretty much double what’s there on the campus now.” The Willits Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Chamber Mixer – everyone is welcome – on Friday, March 13, from 5 to 7 pm, at the North County Center, with information about the planned changes, as well as an auction to raise money for Willits High School students attending the college’s summer program, beverages and hors d’oeuvres by Scoops.

Candidate for Third District Supervisor Buffey Wright Bourassa went to the podium and stated: “I am the Historic Justice Manager for the Mendocino County Sheriff’s office. We are getting ready to start our Ag 142 Landscape Maintenance class. It runs 10 weeks and is aligned with Mendocino College.

The instructor is our garden manager.” The program is offered to incarcerated individuals who end up finishing the program with two to three Mendocino College credits. Seven to 10 individuals usually complete the program.

The board then focused attention on the Consent Calendar. There were three items listed, and the board decided and voted to separate the audit from the list and focus on it first, separately. (Note: The complete 70-page audit presented by JJACPA, Inc. A Professional Accounting Service Corp., Dublin, California, is available to view on the Brooktrails Township website: [btcsd.org](http://btcsd.org))

Brooktrails board member Susan Mahoney had several specific questions regarding certain expenditures that were listed, and her questions were quickly and capably answered by the general manager and Brooktrails Deputy Finance Officer Tom Simms.

Following the explanations regarding various expenses, Board member Ed Horrick said, “I’d just like to comment that for this fiscal year that ended seven-eight months ago, June 30, 2025, it’s outstanding that we already have the audit report in our hands.”

Alaniz responded, saying, “We have a diligent deputy finance officer that really worked closely with the auditor to get it finished in a timely fashion, because that matters. We care about that.”

At the end of her extensive question/answer back and forth, Mahoney said, “Well, at this time I would like to formally acknowledge our wonderful manager and staff.” There was an eruption of applause, and Mahoney added: “For a small district with not huge volumes of money flowing around, it is very technically difficult to match things and to anticipate things and to find money where we can and all of that. You all do just a great, super job.”

Financial Statements. The motion was seconded by board member Horrick, and the vote was unanimous in approval.

Next up was the agenda item: “Consideration of Mendocino County Firesafe Council MOU Memorandum of Understanding #2.”

The general manager provided a brief explanation: “Back in May of last of last year you considered a similar plan. Staff, in coordination with the council and Firesafe Council and Sherwood Firewise communities came together with a plan to use grant funding through these nonprofits to abate parcels under the district abatement ordinance.

What’s happened here, and what’s in front of you now is a similar example. All that’s changed is name of the grant. We foresee that there will be about 1,000 properties that will be included in the mailing of abatement letters.

Director Mary Ziady said, “We are very fortunate in having people come up with creative ideas that work to benefit our community.”

Supervisor Haschak echoed Ziady’s comment and thanked everyone involved in this effort. He said: “This is an example of a ‘can do’ spirit that made this happen. After trying for several years with the county to get this to happen, it was with your council, your general manager, the Firesafe Council and Sherwood Firewise all working together to figure out how to make it all work that created this thing of beauty that really creates a safer community.”

Williams reiterated Haschak’s comments and said, “Sherwood Firewise deserves great credit in this endeavor.” He then called for a vote to approve the Second Memorandum of Understanding with Mendocino County Firesafe Council for Vegetation Abatement on Nuisance Parcels in Brooktrails. The board voted unanimously to approve the second MOU.



COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

**March: Starting the spring season**

Spring is unfolding. We may still get many frosty nights – or even snow. But as we approach Equinox, the longer days give plants the two big things they need to resume growth – more light, and more heat.

Day length is an under-appreciated aspect of gardening that affects almost all plants and is crucial for many. Onions, for example: They start to make a bulb when days reach a certain

length. Whether they are big or little, young or old, they’ll start to bulb in June. To have big onions, you need a big plant by June. So onion seeds are a priority for planting as soon as possible. Spinach is similarly sensitive, and best started now as well.

In the past few years, long cool springs have been more common in Willits, but it’s impossible to know whether May will bring scorching heat or misty cool days. If you love peas, lettuce, and greens as I do, plant every couple of weeks in March and April for an assured harvest of those crisp juicy spring bites.

Spring sowings that take a bit longer to size up (and need warmer indoor conditions at first) include broccoli, cabbage, kale, collards, brussels sprouts, and spring onions. You’ll be able to plant them out in April, when you direct-sow beets, chard, fennel, parsnips, radishes, and carrots.

Some seeds need to sit in cold ground before sprouting. Be sure to sow seeds that need cold-conditioning now, while conditions are right for them, including poppies, milkweed, echinacea, lavender, catnip, marshmallow, lemon balm, meadowsweet, larkspur, elderberries, sochan, anise hyssop, and alpine strawberries.

What about tomatoes? Isn’t it time to start those? Well, unless you have a large greenhouse and lots of space (and time for transplanting into bigger pots next month),

I’d wait. Professional growers have found they get less transplant shock and better yield if the seeds are sown six weeks before transplant. Younger seedlings transplant without shock, grow fast, and make deep roots. I sow tomato seeds in April for late May transplant. Peppers take about two weeks longer than tomatoes.

Now is a good time, though, to choose and order your tomato seeds. (Avoid buying starts from big-box stores, which often carry disease.) There are some great new tomatoes from local California breeders, like California Sungold and Magic Bullet.

And local seed companies have discovered some little-known European heirlooms, too. This is the first year Quail Seeds will offer a traditional Italian “winter tomato.” They’re traditionally hung in bunches in the kitchen, like garlic, for winter use.

Early spring is the time when perennial vegetables and overwintered biennials really shine. Asparagus, rhubarb, and sorrel send up tender shoots long before a seed-grown crop could produce a harvest. Perennials like tree collards, perennial arugula, Erba Stella, asparagus, sorrel, evergreen onions, or perpetual spinach do well here, and fill the March/April May harvest slot. There is a lot of buzz about these right now, with a couple of popular books and loads of media. My latest blog post at [www.quailseeds.com](http://www.quailseeds.com) gives a more nuanced view, explaining when, where, and how to use them.

Check your garden for another early spring specialty: the young shoots of the brassica family. After they have wintered over, these biennials send up stalks that will lengthen, bloom with yellow flowers, and set seed. One of the most prized of Italian specialties is Cima di Rapa, brassica shoots picked when they are just a few inches long and look like tiny broccoli.

Read the rest of **Garden** Over on page 15

At top, from left: Peas are the queen of the early garden – sweet, crunchy, and good either raw or cooked. Whether you choose snow, English (shelling), or sugar snap types, you’ll get the best results in moist but well-drained soil containing compost and a calcium source. Poppies are the essence of spring. Plant them now, while the soil is cool. Poppies are not just for looking at. Hungarian blue breadseed is not only gorgeous, but produces poppyseeds for breads, pastries, butters, and sprinkles. Cima di Rapa, or brassica flower stalks, are an Italian delicacy you can pick from any brassica that’s starting to bolt. It’s a classic pasta sauce, with or without sausage and cheese. Above, from left: Asian greens are among the fastest-growing vegetables, and the most tolerant of cold soil. Greens such as tatsoi, bok choy, and mizuna are a fast and easy way to have fresh food from the garden in a hurry. Salad greens are among the most rewarding things to grow. Those with red, pink, or purple coloration have extra cold-hardiness as well as healthy antioxidants. Broccoli is a favorite vegetable to grow at home, and Piracicaba, a Brazilian heirloom, is well adapted to our local climate. The heads are smaller but sweeter than grocery-store types, and it’s more heat-resistant. Add some spice to your life with mustards. They come in a range of colors and flavors, from mild salad types to wasabi-flavored spicy ones. Some are flash-cooked in oil, while traditional Southern style greens are cooked low and slow with bacon or ham.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier

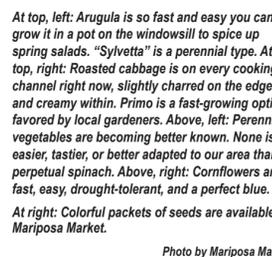


Photo by Mariposa Market

Dreaming of homegrown tomatoes, leafy greens, and colorful blooms?

## BROOKTRAILS COMMUNITY GARDEN

A GARDEN IN A FOREST

Our Community Garden beds are filling up fast! Secure your spot and:

- Save on your grocery bill
- Harvest fresh veggies, fruits, herbs
- Access full season
- Family-friendly environment
- Annual \$50/fee covers water, raised beds, organic compost, community support
- A quiet, peaceful, sunny location
- Brooktrails residents only

For info, contact at: [brooktrailscommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:brooktrailscommunitygarden@gmail.com) & to visit our Spring Equinox Potluck on Saturday, March 21 from 3-3:30

## KM CABINETRY

CUSTOM CABINETS FOR ANY ROOM IN YOUR HOUSE

**CABINET REFACING**  
GOT A GREAT LAYOUT? WANT TO CUT COSTS?  
CABINET REFACING ALLOWS YOU TO UPDATE YOUR CABINETS WITHOUT THE HASSLE OF REMODELING. UPGRADE YOUR CABINETS AT A LOWER PRICE.

**KEN MCCOURTNEY**  
707/605-1540 | [KMCABINETRY.NET](http://KMCABINETRY.NET)

ESTD. 1993

## GARMAN CONSTRUCTION

**NO BAD DAYS DIGGING**

Lic# 679517  
24900 N. HWY 101  
IN WILLITS

**707-459-5859**

## FARMERS INSURANCE

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

## CROWNS GRNER

Family owned since 1983

Groceries  
Beer & Wine  
Gas & Diesel  
Pay at the Pump

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

**Do it Best WILLITS POWER & HARDWARE**

HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT

Lawn & Garden Equipment • Generators  
Sales, Parts & Service • Pickup & Delivery

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

# SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-272-0177  
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.  
In-person and on Zoom  
Call for information.  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

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

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

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



## Thursday, March 5

**Willits Farmers Market:** Join your neighbors Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

**FOWL Book Sale at the Library:** Books for \$1 apiece on Thursday, March 5 from 10 am to 7 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

**Free Food at Mendo Food Network:** First Thursday of each month (excluding federal holidays) receive free food from 10 to 11:30 at 1250 Blosser Lane, Willits.

## Friday, March 6

**FOWL Book Sale at the Library:** Books for \$1 apiece on Friday, March 6 from 10 am to 6 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

**Create It, Make It, Break It STEM Activity at Library:** Learn the 'Science Behind the Magic' with this week's activity 'Dancing Drawings' on Friday, March 6 from 3:30 to 5 pm at the library. Ages 9 to 14.

**'Importance of Being Earnest' at WCT:** Last weekend to see this classic farce directed by Maria Monti on Friday, March 6 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theater.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the door or online at wctperformingartscenter.org

## Saturday, March 7

**Low-Cost Pet Vaccinations at Mendo Mill:** VIP Petcare will be offering affordable, preventive care for your pet on Saturday, March 7 from 9:30 to 11 am at Mendo Mill in Willits. More info: vippetcare.com.

**FOWL Book Sale at the Library:** Last chance to buy books for \$1 apiece on Saturday, March 7 from 10 am to 5 pm at the Willits Library.

**Graphic Novel Open House at Round Valley Library:** Explore the graphic novel genre at this free event featuring a comic-making station for all ages, a scavenger hunt and bilingual hands-on crafts and activities on Saturday, March 7 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Round Valley Library, 23925 Howard Street, Covelo.

**Seven Sisters Show Opens at WCA:** This eclectic exhibit which includes paintings, quilts, mosaic, assemblage and more by seven women artists opens on Saturday, March 7 from 6 to 8 pm with beverages and bar-bites, and will run through March 29, with galleries open Fridays through Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm.

**'Importance of Being Earnest' at WCT:** Final evening performance on Saturday, March 7 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. More info, see March 6 listing.

**Cowtown Sound at Shanachie:** This ska-boogie band serves up originals and oldies in a bouncing style on Saturday, March 7 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

## Sunday, March 8

**Pancake Breakfast at the Senior Center:** Second Sunday of the month from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Menu choices: 1) Biscuits & gravy with scrambled eggs. 2) All-you-can-eat pancakes with scrambled eggs, sausage or bacon, coffee, orange juice or milk. Adults \$13; Senior Center members \$12; Children 8 and under \$8 and benefits Nutritional, Transportation, and Outreach services for Willits seniors.



**'Importance of Being Earnest' at WCT:** Final performance on Sunday, March 8 at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre. More info, see March 6 listing.

## Tuesday, March 10

**Digital Skills for Everyday Life at the Library:** This digital skills-building program happens every second Tuesday of the month from 11 am to 12:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library. Chromebooks available for checkout.

## Wednesday, March 11

**Free Dog Services for Low-Income Folks at Food Bank:** Free flea & tick medication for dogs, and other dog supplies distributed from 11 am to 2 pm on second Wednesday of the month at the Willits Food Bank, 244 Railroad Avenue. Dogs in attendance must be sociable and well controlled.

**Lunch to Live Music at Brickhouse:** Enjoy live music while you eat every Wednesday from noon to 2 pm with March 11 performance by Lhasa Summers at Brickhouse Coffee, Willits.

**History Makers Family Activity at the Museum:** Join us every Wednesday in March from 2 to 4:30 pm for a family-friendly craft project. This week: Watercolor Geodes. Cost is free with valid Mendocino County library card. 400 East Commercial Street, Willits.

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



pm at the Willits Branch Library. Ages 18 and older.

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

## Friday, March 13

**Create It, Make It, Break It STEM Activity at Library:** Learn the 'Science Behind the Magic' with this week's activity 'Vanishing Water' on Friday, March 13 from 3:30 to 5 pm at the library. Ages 9 to 14.

**Chamber Mixer and Auction at Mendo College:** Willits Chamber of Commerce hosts this informational meeting and mixer about the upcoming phase-two expansion of Mendocino College's North County Center, adding construction, solar, fire, art and science classes here in Willits. Live auction with auctioneer Tom Allman, and beverages and hors d'oeuvres by Scoops. Auction proceeds will raise funds for Willits High School students to attend summer college classes. Friday, March 13 from 5 to 7 pm at North County Center, 372 Commercial Street, Willits.

**Art Talk with Gary Martin at WCA:** This lecture will discuss the art of the Indian subcontinent, including texts, temples and the language of the divine on Friday, March 13 at 6:30 pm at Willits Center for the Arts.

**Acoustic Showcase at Shanachie:** An evening of local artists playing acoustic sets, with headliners Forrest Glycer and Malakai Schindel, and performances by Lhasa Summers & Luna Zaka and many others on Friday, March 13 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

## Saturday, March 14

**Vegetarian Potluck at KLLG Radio Station:** Bring a vegetarian dish to share on Saturday, March 14 from noon to 2 pm at 291 School Street, Willits.

**Music Gear Market at the Grange:** Buy, sell or exchange music gear on Saturday, March 14 from noon to 5 pm at the Little Lake Grange. Reserve a table for \$25 by calling Chris at 707-459-1099 or emailing cmcichacki@gmail.com.

**Willits Photography Club at WCA:** open to all skill levels and meets every 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 am to noon in the classroom at Willits Center for the Arts. (Enter through back door).

**St Patrick's Day Dinner at Veteran's Memorial Building:** This fundraiser for American Legion - Willits Post #174 will feature corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots and dessert and will be held on Saturday, March 14 from 5 to 7 pm at the 191 North Main Street, Willits. Cost is \$25 adults, \$12 for ages 5 to 12, free for ages under 5.

**Sip Some Soup Fundraiser at Willits Community Center:** Taste and vote on soups, enjoy fresh bread and jam from Emandal - A Farm on a River and participate in the silent auction while raising funds for Willits Daily Bread and Willits Shelter Action Group on Saturday, March 14 from 5 to 7 pm at the Willits Community Center. Tickets \$15 per adult, \$25 per couple and \$5 children 12 and under.

**'Life and Death: A Love Story' at WCT:** Written by and starring Sherry Glaser, this deeply personal one-woman show explores love, loss, and what it means to be alive on Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 pm at Willits Community Theatre. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the door or at wctperformingartscenter.org

**Rosewater at Shanachie:** Come enjoy two full sets of high energy Grateful Dead tunes by this tribute band on Saturday, March 14 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub. \$10 cover at the door.

## Sunday, March 15

**'Life and Death: A Love Story' at WCT:** Final performance on Sunday, March 15 at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre. More info, see Mar 14 listing.



COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

# 'The Doors'

**The Story:** This flick is the origin saga of the now-legendary, super-successful 1960s rock band The Doors. Simultaneously, it's the bio-pic of the band's notorious lead singer Jim Morrison, who got in serious legal trouble in Florida (our bottom-most state) for apparently flashing his privates at a rock concert, and also for inciting a riot of teenage Floridian girls. Both of which very much pissed off the local authorities.



Dan Essman  
Columnist

My Thoughts: I lived through the Sixties. I recognized a lot of the places. I liked the flick. And I'm an admirer of writer/director Oliver Stone, and this is an Oliver Stone movie. (Think Scarface, Natural Born Killers, Platoon, Born on the Fourth of July, JFK). Booze and drugs and nudity are prevalent and graphic in this flick. Some of which is fun, and some is hard to watch because it's too much booze and just sad and stupid. Nothing is sugar-coated.

**Parents:** No, not for children.  
*Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.*

## Ready to Reduce Wildfire Risk Together?

Host a **Community Work Party** and get hands-on support from the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council fuel crew to complete a community fuel reduction project.

YOU provide the neighbors. WE provide the tools, chopper truck, food, drinks, & expertise.

Funding is available for 10 work parties this year. Open to active Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils—or communities interested in starting one.

Apply here: [firesafemendocino.org/community-work-party](https://firesafemendocino.org/community-work-party)



## TOWN-WIDE ONGOING EVENTS

**Food Not Bombs at Rec Grove Park:** Receive a free meal, supplies and zines every first and third Friday of the month at 4 pm in Rec Grove Park at the picnic tables. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

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

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

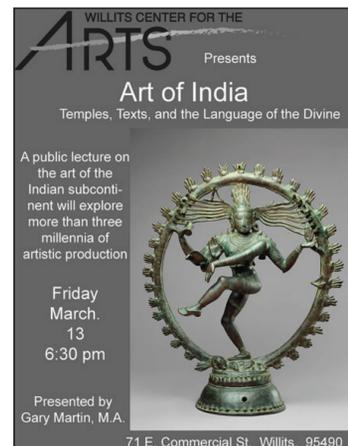
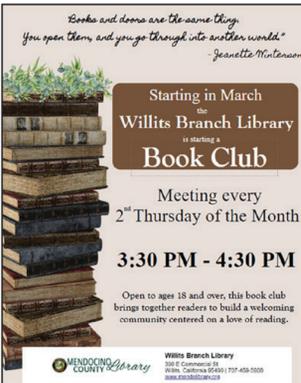
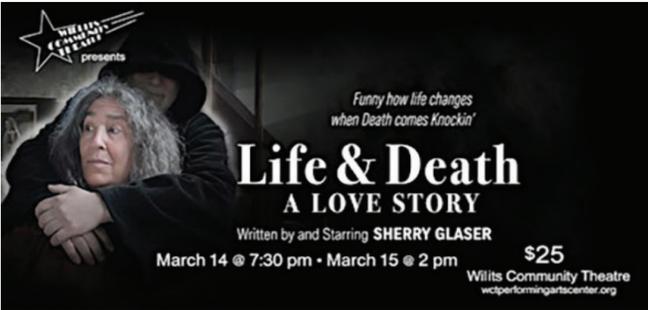
**LEGO Club:** Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 pm. "Bring your imagination and start building."

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

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

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

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





OBITUARY |

## Clifford Sorensen, Jr.

Clifford Carl Sorensen, Jr., January 13, 1949 to December 25, 2025:

Although your light is no longer here, you will shine brightly and live on in our hearts forever.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Brooktrails Community Center (located at 24850 Birch Street, Willits) on Saturday March 21, 2026 at 1 pm. Clifford always loved a "potluck dinner," so we ask that you not only bring your favorite stories of Clifford but your favorite dish as well.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider a donation in Clifford's name to the Willits Food Bank or Plowshares of Ukiah.

For Clifford's full Obituary please go to the Eversole Mortuary website.

OBITUARY |

## John 'Joe' Burke

John E. "Joe" Burke Jr. was born at Howard Hospital in Willits on March 7, 1947 and passed February 18, 2026. Joe attended Laytonville schools and graduated in 1966. Joe met Sue in 1969, and they married on February 27, 1972. Joe and Sue have three sons, Nathaniel, Cody and Blu. By previous marriage, Joe has a daughter, Chantal Burke (Coughlin) and son, Shane Burke.

Joe worked all his life in the timber industry. He worked for several local companies, including Harwood Mill, Musgrave Logging, Gullett Logging, and Okerstrom Logging. Joe started his own company, Burke & Son Logging.

Joe joined the Sheriff's Mounted Posse in the early '80s and remained until joining Laytonville Fire Department, and then he was certified as an EMT and would put on CPR classes and drove the ambulance.

Joe never missed a high school game as an EMT and loved being with the kids.

Joe had many passions, he loved fishing, and hunting with his brother Delmer in Idaho. Joe loved taking his antique car to shows. In early years he made beautiful burl clocks and tables. Joe was a hard worker and provider all his life despite numerous injuries and illness that never slowed him down.

Joe's mother and father, John E. Burke and Rosella (Burgess) Burke preceded Joe in death, as well as his sister, Norma Jean (Burke) Randal.

Joe is survived by Sue, his brother Delmer (Ann), his children Shane (Alesha), Nathaniel, Cody (Nancy), Blu and Chantal, along with several grandchildren: Emi Melsa from Minnesota, Nathan, Tyler, Marcus, Kyle, Kaden, Savannah, Courtney, Dayton, Natasha (Matt) and great-grandchildren: Miguel, Caleb and Lily, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be held on Friday, March 6 at 1 pm at the Good News Fellowship Church in Laytonville. There will be a memorial service at the Lion's Hall in Laytonville following the church services. Please bring a potluck dish to share for the memorial.

OBITUARY |

## Patrick Campbell, Sr.

Patrick Wayne Campbell Sr. passed away in the late evening Sunday, February 22, 2026, surrounded by his family.

Patrick was a member of the Sherwood Valley Rancheria and spent the majority of his life in Mendocino County. He spent two years in Vietnam serving in the Navy.

He met his wife, Patricia, at school in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and they were married 53 years. They have six children, Patrick Jr. (C. Jai), Nathan (Allison), Angel (Adam), Raymond (Megan), John (Megan), Kaytlin (Joe), and bonus daughter Carrie. They have 17 grandchildren, three bonus grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Patrick was preceded in death by his mother and father, five sisters, and two brothers.

## Confident Katsuta

Katsuta has earned the title of Very Good Boy. He was the first of our very scared 13 kitties to purr and enjoy butt and cheek scratches. He has the makings to be someone's best friend and just needs a little extra love. Fun Fact: he curls his tail up over his back like a cinnamon roll. It's super cute!



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](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com), on our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). Call 707-465-0123 for more information.

## Devoted Gigi

Gigi is a dog-friendly, active girl who does well with dogs but is wary of strangers at first. Once she bonds with her person, she does exhibit some separation anxiety, so a home where she can be with you most of the time is ideal. A rural home with breed experience is preferred and maybe a four-legged friend!

To learn more about Gigi, or to view other adoptable animals, visit [www.milofoundation.org](http://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.

## Inquisitive Buckshot

Buckshot is a fun-loving adult male dog that's looking for his forever home. He might be a little bit shy at first, but once he gets to know you, he'll be your loyal companion. Buckshot is a very curious dog, and he loves nothing more than to explore and investigate. He's always up for a game of fetch, and always willing to play. He's an intelligent and energetic dog, and needs a family who can keep up with him. If you're looking for a best friend who will be by your side through all of life's adventures, then look no further. Please come to the shelter and ask about Buckshot!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from 9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com). Call 707-463-4427 for more information.

**LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER CLINICS for dogs & cats!**

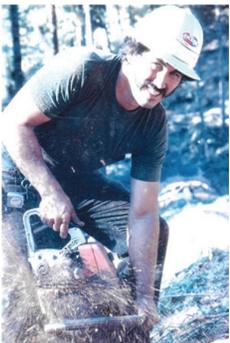
**Mendocino County Animal Care Services, Pet Fix Mendocino County, Animal Balance, and Dogwood Animal Rescue**, will host three high-volume SPAY & NEUTER clinics at the Ukiah Shelter in the coming months. The first clinic will be held on

**MARCH 6-8 AT THE UKIAH SHELTER • 298 PLANT ROAD**

**APPOINTMENT NECESSARY!** Appointments are \$182 at the time of booking. One animal per person. No dogs over 90 pounds or flat-faced dogs. Appointments are booked on a first-come first-served basis.

**TO BOOK APPOINTMENT:** Call 707-463-4782 to book an appointment or to get on wait list.

**FUTURE CLINICS TO BE HELD: MAY 1-3 & JULY 31-AUGUST 2**



## LEGAL NOTICES

WW591

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

**Laurence Jett Jennings**

CASE NO.: 26PR00444

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **Laurence Jett Jennings**

**A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Jenna Stephens** in the Superior Court of California, County of: Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that: Jenna Stephens be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action). The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:**

DATE: 03/20/2026 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept.: E, located at: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner: Jenna Stephens  
1945 Piner Road Space 6  
Santa Rosa CA 95403

Publication Dates: February 26, March 5, 12, 2026

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

**EASTSIDE RANCH**

Personal and Commercial orders available

Contact Melissa at (707) 513-5705 | [eastsideranchwillits@gmail.com](mailto:eastsideranchwillits@gmail.com)

**Rotary Club of Willits** *People of Action*

Serving our Community Since 1948

[www.willitsrotary.org](http://www.willitsrotary.org)  
[WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com](mailto:WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com)



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

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW595

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

**CAROLYN VASSAR**

CASE NO.:26PR00459

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **CAROLYN VASSAR**

**A Petition for Probate has been filed by: BRETT VASSAR** in the Superior Court of California, County of: Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that: Jenna Stephens be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action). The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:**

DATE: 03/27/2026 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept.: E, located at: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner: Brett Vassar  
18800 Walker Rd.  
Willits, CA 95490

Publication Dates: March 5, 12, 19 2026

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW589

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

2026-F0068

The following person or persons are doing business as Corner Bit Excavation, 10700 Hearst Rd., Willits, CA 95490; 707-354-2013.

Registered owner: SGS Construction, Inc., 10700 Hearst Rd., Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a CA corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on February 12, 2026.

/s/ Ashley Smith, President

Publication Dates: February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026

WW593

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

2026-F0090

The following person or persons are doing business as Lovebar, 15851 Ridgeview Rd., Willits, CA 95490; 707-841-1897.

Registered owner: Christine Kosmides, 15851 Ridgeview Rd., Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on February 26, 2026.

/s/ Christine Kosmides

Publication Dates: March 5, 12, 19, 26 2026

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW594

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

**JACK EDWARD VASSAR**

CASE NO.:26PR00443

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **JACK EDWARD VASSAR**

**A Petition for Probate has been filed by: BRETT VASSAR** in the Superior Court of California, County of: Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that: Jenna Stephens be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action). The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:**

DATE: 03/27/2026 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept.: E, located at: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner: Brett Vassar  
18800 Walker Rd.  
Willits, CA 95490

Publication Dates: March 5, 12, 19 2026

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW587

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

2026-F0005

The following person or persons are doing business as Flying Dog House Photography, 96 S. Humboldt St., Willits, CA 95490; 707-459-4747.

Registered owner: Caroline Ashley Rehberger, 98 W. Commercial St., Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/10/2022.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on January 6, 2026.

/s/ Caroline Rehberger

Publication Dates: February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026

WW590

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

2026-F0067

The following person or persons are doing business as Babcock House Photography, 96 S. Humboldt St., Willits, CA 95490; 415-317-1379.

Registered owner: Brodman Photo LLC., 96 S. Humboldt St., Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/10/2022.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on February 11, 2026.

/s/ Rob Brodman, Managing MBR

Publication Dates: February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 2026

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



# Mendocino County's World Famous SKUNK TRAIN

Redwoods | Trains | Railbikes | Hikes | Glen Blair Bar



At far left: A beautiful Mendocino County sunset at the Willits Skunk Train Depot. At left: The Skunk Train is launching Railcoaster trips out of Willits May 16. Above: The Flynn Creek Circus and the Skunk Train will team up to offer a "storybook-level magical experience" out of the Willits Depot this September.

## Skunk Train announces major expansion out of Willits

### Submitted by Mendocino Railway

experience on the Skunk Train.

February 26, 2026 – The Skunk Train is launching a major expansion in Willits, introducing a new premier class service, the debut of railbikes on the inland corridor, and announcing the first-ever circus

With most of the railway's 2026 development focused in Willits, inland Mendocino County is taking center stage for the Skunk Train's newest and most ambitious experiences.

### 2026 Willits Launch Lineup:

- The Railcoaster – launching May 16
- The Noyo Presidential Class Experience – launching early summer
- Skunk Train and Flynn Creek Circus – running September 11 to 27; tickets available beginning April 1

"This 2026 season marks a meaningful evolution in our guest experience, with Willits at the center of our investment," said Robert Jason Pinoli, CEO and president of Mendocino Railway. "We know that for more than half of our riders, the Skunk Train is the primary reason they visit Mendocino County. We're excited to introduce several new incredible experiences that invite travelers to inland Mendocino County."

Drive times to the Skunk Train's Willits Depot are less than 90 minutes from Santa Rosa, just two hours from San Francisco, and under three hours from Sacramento.

### Introducing the Railcoaster

The first of the new offerings to launch in Willits is the Railcoaster, a thrilling railbike experience unlike any other. The route delivers a roller coaster-like sensation as riders dip, climb, and weave through some of the highest and most dramatic terrain on the Skunk Train's historic line, including a trip through the 1,100-foot Summit Tunnel. The Railcoaster features pedal-powered railbikes built with proprietary electric-assist technology, making the adventure accessible to a wide range of riders. Guests are not required to pedal continuously, allowing them to set their own pace.

The multi-hour tour travels 15 miles roundtrip into the remote redwoods of the Noyo River Canyon. A souvenir T-shirt and a picnic lunch are included with each ticket. The Railcoaster is slated to launch to the public on Saturday, May 16.

Once operational, the Railcoaster will run Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, spring through fall.

"This route is unlike anything else we offer," said Efstathios Pappas, general manager of the Skunk Train. "Mendocino Railway operates railbike experiences in Fort Bragg, West Sacramento, and Ventura County, and this experience stands apart from all of them. In fact, we believe it is unlike any other railbike experience in the world."

### The Noyo Presidential Class experience

Early summer marks the arrival of the Noyo, a newly introduced railcar experience delivering Presidential Class service, the Skunk Train's premier onboard offering. Designed as an intimate cocktail lounge, the Noyo embraces a bold mid-century modern aesthetic, offering a striking contrast to the Redwood, the Skunk Train's 1920s-inspired Presidential Class car based in Fort Bragg.

Why mid-century modern design? The mid-1940s to mid-1950s represented the height of elevated rail travel. The Noyo captures that era's elegance with a menu featuring classic cocktails and an aesthetic inspired by famed industrial designers Otto Kuhler and Henry Dreyfuss. Guests aboard the Noyo enjoy premium service, curated cocktails and food offerings, and a commemorative glass keepsake.

The railcar once served as a U.S. Army car under the Department of Transportation before being transformed into the Noyo. Like the Redwood, the Noyo Presidential Class experience was entirely envisioned, designed, and rebuilt by the Skunk Train

Read the rest of **Expansion** | Over on page 13

### BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### TK-Kindergarten Registration Now Open

To pre-register go to [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.com)  
Para registrar a su estudiante ve a [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.com)

Kindergarten - age 5 by September 1, 2026  
Transitional Kindergarten - age 4 by September 1, 2026  
Kinder - 5 años antes de Septiembre 1, 2026  
Tráncion de Kinder - 4 años de Septiembre 1, 2026

**TK/Kinder Round-Up April 15, 2026 from 8-3 pm @ Brookside**  
**Reunión de TK/Kinder el 15 de abril de 2026 de 8 a 3 p. m. @ Brookside**

Please bring the following documents to Brookside on April 15th:  
Por favor traiga los siguientes documentos a Brookside el 15 de abril:

- Birth Certificate/ Certificado de nacimiento
- Immunization Record/ Registro de vacunación
- Your child for a brief informal assessment/ Su hijo para una breve evaluación informal

If you have questions please call the Brookside office at (707) 459-5385 or visit our website at [www.willitsunified.com/brookside](http://www.willitsunified.com/brookside)  
Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame a la oficina de Brookside al (707) 459-5385 or visit nuestro sitio web [www.willitsunified.com/brookside](http://www.willitsunified.com/brookside)

### Bereavement Support Group

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

**FREE OF CHARGE** Beginning: Wednesday, March 18  
Time: 3:30-5:30pm **SPACE IS LIMITED**

Please Call to Register:  
Suzanne Picetti-Johnson (707) 456-9676

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

## Stay up to date on your health.

### Colorectal cancer screening helps protect your future—our team can help you get started.

Staying up to date with colorectal cancer screening is one of the best ways to protect your health. A colonoscopy provides a complete assessment—and MCHC Health Centers can help coordinate your referral.

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

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

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW597

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CLIFFORD B. PIERCE, aka Clifford B. Pierce Sr., Decedent

Case No. 26PR00446

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of CLIFFORD B. PIERCE, aka Clifford B. Pierce Sr.
2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: *Clifford B. Pierce Jr.* in the Superior Court of California County of: Mendocino
3. The Petition for Probate requests that CLIFFORD B. PIERCE JR. be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
4. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

5. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an Interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **Date: March 20, 2026 Time: 9:00 a.m Dept: E**

Address of Court: 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

7. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**

9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

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

Telephone: 707-459-5551

Publication Date: March 5, 2026

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW596

### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLITS AMENDING TITLE 17 OF THE WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD CHAPTER 17.89 ENTITLED "ENTERTAINMENT ZONES"

The City Council of the City of Willits shall convene at a duly noticed council meeting on March 11th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Willits City Hall Council Chambers, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, to consider the adoption of a new City ordinance amending Title 17 (Zoning) to add Chapter 17.89, "Entertainment Zones."

The following summary of the proposed ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code section 36933, which permits publication of a summary of a proposed ordinance at least five days before the Council meeting at which it is to be adopted. The full text of the proposed ordinance will be posted in the Office of the City Clerk for at least five (5) days prior to the City Council meeting of March 11th, 2026.

#### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NEW ORDINANCE:

The proposed ordinance contains findings and declarations including the following:

- Establishes Entertainment Zones to allow regulated public consumption of alcohol in designated public areas during City approved special events.
- City Council creates Entertainment Zones by resolution specifying boundaries, operating days/hours, permitted alcohol types, container rules, age-verification methods, and safety conditions.
- Zones are only active during City-authorized special events with an approved Zoning Permit and are subject to revocation.
- Requires public notice and a hearing before creating or modifying a Zone; no zoning or land use changes are required.
- Only ABC-licensed businesses within the Zone may sell alcohol for off-site consumption inside Zone boundaries.
- Alcohol must be served in approved non-glass, non-metal containers with event/City identification; consumption is limited to designated boundaries and hours.
- Each event must have a City-approved Management Plan covering security, cleanup, boundary markings, age verification, ABC compliance, and incident reporting.
- The Willits Police Department reviews proposed Zones and the City conducts operational reviews at least every two years.
- Violations may result in loss of deposits, ineligibility for future permits, or suspension/revocation of the Entertainment Zone.

Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Connor Stack at [cstack@cityofwillits.org](mailto:cstack@cityofwillits.org), or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490.

Publication Date: March 5, 2026

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

team members in the historic Roundhouse in Fort Bragg.

Restoration of the Noyo Presidential Class car is being completed this spring, with a launch anticipated in early summer. Once relocated to Willits, the Noyo will appear on the public schedule several days per week and will also be available for private buyouts, offering a distinctive setting for celebrations and group events.

### Welcome the Flynn Creek Circus to the redwoods

Beyond spring and summer, the Skunk Train is preparing for a historic first. From September 11 through September 27, 2026, the Flynn Creek Circus (<http://flynncreekcircus.com/>) and the Skunk Train have teamed up to create a truly unusual experience: Guests will have the opportunity to attend the circus deep in Noyo River Canyon's redwood forest, only accessible by a ride aboard the Skunk Train.

Bringing world-class acrobats and aerialists to a secluded redwood forest setting, Flynn Creek Circus performances blend daring physical movement, storytelling, and artistry. Guests will ride the train to a hidden performance site where the forest itself becomes part of the show – creating an intimate, immersive, and surreal experience.

Concessions, beverages, and exclusive merchandise will be available for purchase on site.

"The Flynn Creek Circus artists are thrilled to be part of this collaboration. It brings back the spirit of the golden era of circus travel by rail in the best possible way," said Blaze Birge, owner of Flynn Creek Circus. "I can think of nothing more charming than riding the iconic Skunk Train through towering redwoods that open to reveal a vintage big top tent. It is a fairytale pairing of Mendocino County's best, promising a storybook-level magical experience."

The event will run primarily on weekends with select weekday evenings, transforming the redwoods into a stage and the train ride into part of the performance itself. Final performance schedules will be announced soon. Tickets are expected to go on sale to the public April 1 at [www.SkunkTrain.com](http://www.SkunkTrain.com).

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Brookside TK/ Kindergarten Registration

Brookside Elementary TK/Kindergarten registration is now open. To register go to [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.com). Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2026; TK: age 4 by Sept. 1, 2026. Ya está abierta la inscripción para el programa de TK/ Kinder de la Escuela Primaria Brookside. Para inscribirse, visite [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.com). Kinder: 5 años antes del 1 de septiembre de 2026. TK: 4 años antes del 1 de septiembre de 2026.

### Homemades & Alterations by Teresa

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

### Indoor Yard Sale

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

### RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

### Brown Bag Lunch Program

Every Saturday at 1 pm sack lunches are served by local churches, community organizations, and families at Bud Snider Park on East Commercial. Come at 1 pm to be assured a lunch!

### Love Willits Weekly?

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

### Do you need food?

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

### For Sale

\*Silver Coins \*lots of collectibles \*Various artwork and antique signs \*Uncirculated stamps \*Fly fishing gear w/500 flies. Please call John for inquiries: (458) 232-8098

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for two weeks. Email us your ad today to include your ad here next week!

## Have something to say?

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

### Tickets and more info at SkunkTrain.com

With a full lineup of new experiences debuting from Willits, there is something for every kind of traveler this season. Throughout 2026, the Skunk Train will also continue to offer redwood excursions from Fort Bragg, including three railbike experiences, Glen Blair Bar trains, the Redwood Presidential Class experience, naturalist-guided redwood hikes, and more. Guests are invited to explore what is ahead and plan their Northern California getaway at [www.skunktrain.com](http://www.skunktrain.com).

California Western Railroad / Skunk Train is a Class III common carrier public utility railroad located in the redwood forests of Northern California's Mendocino County. This heritage freight railroad, which has been operating since 1885, added passenger service after its founding, initially moved redwood logs from the rugged back country to Mendocino Coast sawmills, later transporting finished lumber out to the national railroad network.

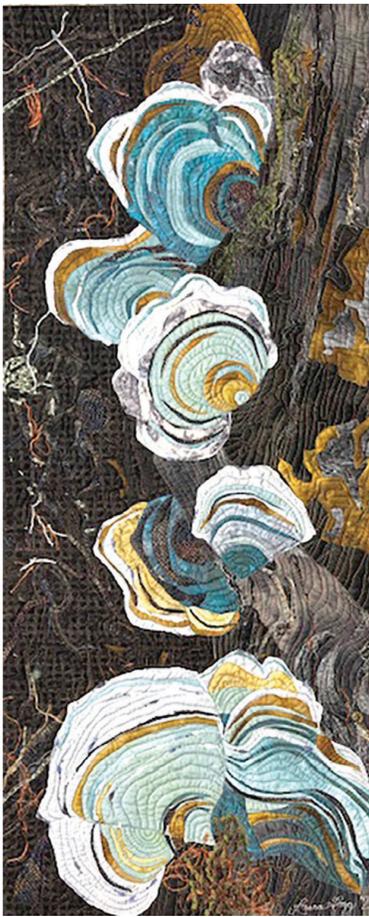
In 1925, the railroad became known as the "Skunk Train" and, since that time, has become a beloved institution touted as one of the "10 Best Rail Tours in the Country" (USA Today) and a "Top 10 Family Activity in California" (National Geographic Traveler). The Skunk Train's journey covers the same 40-mile route that its freight trains use, crossing over some 30 bridges, all while retaining its original charm – minus the historic pungent aroma that once preceded the train's arrival. Freight, passenger, and excursion trains operate year-round. For tickets and more information, visit [www.skunktrain.com](http://www.skunktrain.com) or call (707) 964-6371.

Below: "Turkey Tails," by art quilter Laura Fogg.

At right: One of Nancy Simpson's art quilts, featuring repurposed doilies and bold fabrics.

At far right: A detail from Elizabeth Raybee's mosaic piece, "Baja Treats."

At right, below: One of artist Carolyn Bakewell's still life paintings.



## 'Seven Sisters' at the Willits Art Center opens March 7

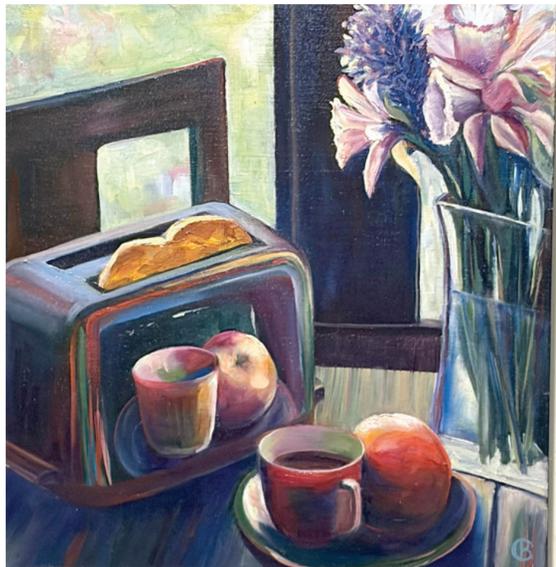
by Laura Fogg, for WCA

Seven women from Willits, Redwood Valley and Ukiah first shared the gallery space at the Willits Center for the Arts in 2017. From that very successful group debut, dubbed "The Seven Sisters," they forged a lasting and collaborative friendship which involves regular meetings, potluck meals, and lots of sharing and support related to both their individual art practices and their lives. Since the group was created they have staged three additional shows in Willits and Ukiah.

"Seven Sisters" artists Elizabeth Raybee, Esther Siegel, Nancy Simpson, Nan Trichler, Julie Beardsley, Carolyn Bakewell, and Laura Fogg have all been working to create new work that will offer a fresh and energetic experience for viewers. This new show at WCA, opening March 7, gives each artist free reign to do her own thing without constraints, while celebrating the richness of their longstanding connection through friendship and community.

Each artist maintains an active art practice independent of the Seven Sisters group, which will result in the inclusion of a large variety of media, techniques, themes and messages in their Willits show.

Elizabeth is a mosaic and jewelry artist who will be presenting a colorful variety of projects for commissioned installations. Esther has a reputation for running assemblage camps with her husband, Spencer Brewer, and is also known for her creative paper and book art. Nancy uses repurposed doilies and bold fabrics in her



large art quilts. Nan, a participant in the early development of the art quilt movement, now focuses on creating small quilts based on sacred geometry and random patterning.

Julie is a jack-of-all-trades who does elaborate beaded images, oil paintings, and metal jewelry. Carolyn is a painter and art teacher at Willits High School who also works in glass and tile mosaic. Laura is an art quilter who focuses on using her art to tell stories related to environmental and social justice.

Join Willits Center for the Arts for a festive opening celebration of "Seven Sisters" on Saturday, March 7 from 6 to 8 pm, with art, beverages, bar-bites, friends, and visitors. The show will run through Sunday, March 29, with galleries open Fridays through Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm. For more information go to [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org). Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street.

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

The free flights include many other free aviation benefits worth hundreds of dollars provided by EAA, including an airplane ground school course for preparation for the FAA Private Pilot written exam, reimbursement for the cost of the written exam, and a voucher for the first instructional flight with an FAA Certified Flight Instructor, and scholarship opportunities. Visit [www.eaa1027.org](http://www.eaa1027.org).

**Senior Center THRIFT STORE**

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

Lots of clothing and furniture available.

459-6826  
1501 BAECHEL ROAD • WILLITS

**WILLITS FAMILY DENTISTRY & IMPLANTS**

707-459-2163  
12 W. Valley St / Willits, CA 95490

Open Monday-Friday  
Accepting new patients of all ages.

**T and T TOWING**

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

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

GOT A PLACE FOR YOUR THINGS!

317 Robert Drive  
Willits, CA 95490

**12<sup>TH</sup> Month FREE!**  
WHEN 1 YEAR PAID IN ADVANCE

707-259-0159 or 707-459-4599

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

To be an artist is to believe in life.  
Henry Maere

Be the Antidote  
Be the Antidote - Willits  
[btheantidote@gmail.com](mailto:btheantidote@gmail.com)

**Cold Creek Compost Inc.**

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

**WHY USE COLD CREEK COMPOST?**

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

RECYCLING ORGANICS SINCE 1995

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



Above, left: The WHS Varsity Boys Basketball team at Basketball Senior Night, from left: Corey Rocky, Donny Alexander, Kaiden Oliver, Ryan Carter, and Jayden Schlegel.



Above, right: The WHS Varsity Girls Basketball team at Basketball Senior Night, from left: Jazmarie Henson, Arion Martin, Cecily Potter, Kate Winter, Ava Holmen, and Lyly Herman.

## COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

### Basketball players lauded at WHS Senior Night

Willits Wolverines Senior Night for Basketball was one for the books! Family, friends and fans packed the house in the legendary Steve Short Gymnasium. Decorations, baskets, and banners hung in honor of each senior, and for some local entertainment a crew of Willits High Senior students set up an ESPN announcement booth.

The coaches spoke heartfelt words about each of the seniors in the bittersweet moments of sending them off into life in the closing of their high school basketball era. When the final buzzer sounded on the season, it marked more than the end of games; it marked the closing chapter for the basketball players who helped shape the identity, culture, and direction of Willits Wolverine basketball.

#### Some comments from Head Coach Trey Henson on his players:

**Corey Rocky, the multisport leader:** Corey Rocky's journey speaks to versatility and leadership. As a freshman and sophomore, Corey competed on the wrestling mat while quarterbacking at the junior varsity level in football. By his junior and senior seasons, he stepped into the varsity quarterback role – one of the most demanding leadership positions in high school athletics.

Basketball came later in Corey's high school career. In 38 varsity games over two seasons, Corey contributed 116 career points and steady minutes. But his true value was never measured only in points. He was coachable. Respectable. Accountable. Corey understood leadership across different sports and environments. He accepted instruction and represented the program with humility. Programs are built on athletes like Corey – steady, reliable, and willing to compete wherever they are needed.

**Ryan Carter, passion and power:** Ryan Carter played with emotion – and he played with heart. Across 45 varsity games, Ryan totaled 160 career points while bringing physicality and energy every night. The first team all-league wide receiver in football, his athleticism translated across seasons. Ryan's fire sometimes burned hot, but it came from caring deeply about winning and competing.

I'll never forget the day and practice when he elevated and threw down a one-handed dunk that shook the gym. It wasn't just a highlight – it was a moment of growth and belief. Over time, Ryan learned how to channel that emotion into discipline. That's part of becoming a complete competitor.

**Kaiden Oliver, the record-breaker:** Kaiden Oliver leaves WHS as one of the most prolific scorers in school history. He scored 620 points as a senior and 370 as a junior – a total of 996 varsity points over two seasons. Add in 181 points during his sophomore year and 37 as a freshman, and his four-year high school career total stands at 1,214 points. His senior season was historic. Averaging 25 points per game, he earned first team all-league honors and delivered a school record 56 point performance that will be remembered for years.

Kayden lives the game of basketball. His work, preparation, and ability to take over the game shifted momentum and energized our community. And yet beyond the record books, life has recently reminded us that basketball is only part of the story. Our community has endured heartbreaking circumstances connected to his family. And moments like these wins and losses fade. Compassion leads our thoughts and prayers remain with those who are etched in Willits basketball history permanently.

**Donny Alexander, growth and direction:** Donny's senior season represented something powerful: completion. For the first time, he completed both a full football and basketball season. Across his varsity career, he contributed 158 points and showed flashes of high-level ability. Donny was open, honest, real.

Growth for him came through discipline and learning to embrace structure, lessons that will serve him well as he prepares to enter the United States Navy. The Navy demands accountability and resilience. Those challenges will refine him in ways that build lifelong strength. Coaching is about belief, even through bumps along the way. I never gave up on Donny. And I never will.

**Jayden Schlegel, the lion's heart:** Jayden played with fearless determination. In 41 varsity games, he scored 250 career points while averaging 6.1 points and 2.7 rebounds per game. He ranked among division four leaders in multiple categories and brought energy every night. There were games where shots didn't fall. There were moments the pace sped up.

But Jayden never quit. He battled inside. He fought for position. He believed in himself. Growth for Jayden came in balancing aggression with patience, trusting the office while still attacking opportunities. That growth showed this season. He played with the heart of a lion.

The rest of Garden [ From page 7

Cooked with pasta, they are a specialty of the Puglia region, and are served everywhere as an antipasto, cooked and marinated in oil and lemon. They are also a staple of Asian stir-fries and soups.

If you don't pick your brassica stalks and the flowers open, be sure to leave them until the flowers fade. They are a favorite food for predator insects and bees as they emerge from hibernation.

Several common weeds are also important food sources for beneficial insects this time of year. Annuals like miner's lettuce, chickweed, and bittercress all have little starlike white flowers, all grow quickly, and all make succulent leaves you can put into salads and sandwiches. Their small root systems and short lifespan keep them from being much of a problem in garden beds.

On the other hand, perennial weeds like veronica, henbit, buttercups, and sheep sorrel have runners that can take over quickly and prove hard to eliminate. They are best among grasses, under shrubs and trees, or in the rough edges of the garden, where they'll host the beneficials that will eat up your aphids next month.

Jamie Chevalier of Quail Seeds lives and gardens near Willits. Visit [www.quailseeds.com](http://www.quailseeds.com) for over 400 varieties of seed adapted to the Northern California climate, as well as extensive how-to information.

The rest of Noyo [ From page 3

surprising was the smell. The smell profile changes when you have beer and wine, recycling bins, and little spills here and there. It detracts from the popcorn ambiance."

The film, "Last Days of the Fillmore," was a nostalgic exploration of both the bands of the era and of entrepreneur Bill Graham, who was instrumental in creating a bi-coastal set of venues that catered to the psychedelic music genre and several other innovative groups who reflected the ambiance of the era. Wagenet was a part of the revolution with It's a Beautiful Day.

"When I was 16, I discovered the electric guitar, moved to San Francisco, and within a few years, managed to get lucky and get into a situation where we were on the world stage," explained Wagenet. "There are a lot of stories in this room. People have heard the bands and want to relive the adventure. That's what I'm bringing to Willits. I also wanted to demonstrate to other performing artists that they can rent this building, this room, which has all the AV equipment you could possibly imagine, and put on an event."

At the event, Wagenet reminisced about the ethos of the era: "Somebody uncorked the genie of imagination in the '60s and it just went out and went running wild. I was 17, just turned 18 when I left Willits and got in my car, put my amplifier and guitar, and a few household items in there. So, I went and I didn't have any idea what I was doing either, but neither did the thousands of other people that descended on the area. We were in search of something, and it was what we found in each other. These bands that formed, some of them actual music bands, and some of them were just tribes of people that had common interests. We tuned in, turned on, and dropped out."

It seemed almost everyone who attended had a story about their time. "We used to sneak in all the time," said Bill Gardner of the Fillmore, the famous San Francisco music venue. "We would get there in the afternoon. When they started bringing amps out, we would grab the amps and walk in. We'd be there for a while. We'd go in the auditorium, grab a broom and start sweeping. Bill Graham said, 'I don't know those guys are, but when they stop working, kick them out.'"

So many stories and fond memories were in the room that night, memories that never seem to fade, even after all these decades.

"The senior group has been together since their freshman year," Coach Trey stated. "Most gave four full years to this program. We struggled at times with execution and attention to detail. That responsibility begins with the head coach and extends throughout the locker room. Accountability goes both ways, but here is what matters: The culture changed. The belief grew. The foundation strengthened."

#### Wolverines Girls Basketball

Our Willits Wolverines girls basketball teams had a fantastic season. Our varsity and JV girls went undefeated in league play, earning their first outright title since 2012. Our varsity girls were led by a core group of seniors. Many of the girls started in the summer, going to tournaments and summer league games.

"It has been an absolute blessing to coach these girls!" said Head Coach Brandon Norbury. "Thank you, seniors! You are appreciated! I want to thank each and every senior and wish you the very best on your future endeavors."

#### Some comments from Head Coach Brandon Norbury on his players:

**Ava Dockins-Kline:** We appreciate your determination and commitment to your team. Although you were injured too much of the season, you still showed up to practice and helped your team both on and off the court.

**Lyly Herman:** You bring great energy to our team and momentum with your sharpshooting from the three-point line.

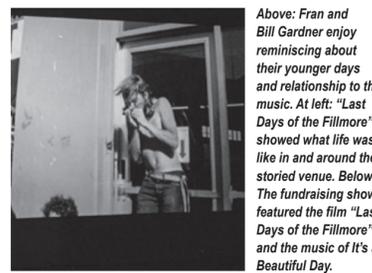
**Kate Winter:** You have a great work ethic and an even better attitude! Your willingness to do whatever it takes to help your team has been truly remarkable.

**Cecily Potter:** You are incredibly talented, and you have a great competitive spirit.

**Jazzy Henson:** Defensive pressure and heart of gold has fueled our team this entire season.

**Arion Martin:** You are physically gifted! Hustle and grit brought the intensity that our team needed throughout the season.

WHS Wolverines, your community is so proud of you, and we wish you the best as you go out into the world, WHS seniors! We can't wait to see what you do in life. Your greatness on and off the court will always be remembered at WHS. Wolverines pride forever!



Above: Fran and Bill Gardner enjoy reminiscing about their younger days and relationship to the music. At left: "Last Days of the Fillmore" showed what life was like in and around the storied venue. Below: The fundraising show featured the film "Last Days of the Fillmore" and the music of It's a Beautiful Day.

Photos by Mathew Caine

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

5 LUCKY WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN VIRTUALLY FROM 8PM TO 10PM ON MAY 30. PRIZES INCLUDE:

**GRAND PRIZE:  
\$10,000 CASH**

2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE: \$2,000 CASH  
3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE: \$500 CASH  
& \$500 FREE PLAY

4<sup>TH</sup> PRIZE: \$300 FREE PLAY  
5<sup>TH</sup> PRIZE: \$300 FREE PLAY



100 KAWI PLACE,  
WILLITS, CA 95490  
(707) 459-7330  
[HTTPS://WWW.SVRCASINO.COM/](https://www.svrcasino.com/)

The rest of **Romero** | From page 2

county employees. This medical membership program operates independently of insurance companies, ensuring affordability and coverage of standard services. This program facilitates prompt payment to providers within five business days. This plan will result in substantial cost savings for both employees and the county.

I anticipate county operations proceeding smoothly and am confident in my ability to facilitate this transition. I favor merit and exceptional customer service. Long-term stability is preferable to risky, short-term solutions. The success of the people is paramount, as their success directly contributes to the county's overall success.

A very important issue is to Save Lake Pillsbury and the Potter Valley Project. Keeping this valuable resource safe is vital to our economy, the environment, fire safety, and water stability. Our agricultural neighbors are counting on us to make the right choice.

The Jackson Demonstration State Forest has worked well for 70 years and must not be altered. It is a unique living laboratory for learning sustainable forestry practices and provides a physical product that supports our local economy. It has good recreational qualities, too.

I know that people will disagree on all kinds of issues, but we are neighbors first. When people love their children more than they hate each other, then we have a common future to work toward. A united Mendocino County has within its grasp the essential qualities to achieve good things. This is why I'm running for Third District supervisor. Let's reach beyond our grasp.

I ask for your vote.

To learn more, visit Clay Romero's page on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/clay.romero](http://www.facebook.com/clay.romero)



## PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!

# SUNDAY, MARCH 29

## From 12 to 3 pm at J.D. Redhouse

Digital images by Maureen Jennison are just \$5 each!

No appointments, just come by and get in line!

The snuggly, live bunnies are back too!



More **state-of-the-art robotic surgeries.**  
Faster recovery times.



### The unmatched precision of da Vinci 5 robotic technology

We've equipped our expert surgeons with new 5th-generation da Vinci robotic technology. The most advanced surgical technology in the world, it helps your body heal faster than ever before. So now you can get compassionate care, close to home, with faster recovery times — to help you enjoy everything you were made for.



Learn more at  
[AdventistHealth.org/MendoRobotics](http://AdventistHealth.org/MendoRobotics)

