

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thanks for the tanks

To the Editor:

I would like to thank Scott Cratty with the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council who secured for Mendocino County 450 of the 1,000 free 2,500-gallon water tanks awarded by the California Department of Water Resources. (See Page 7 of this edition of Willits Weekly for the Fire Safe Council's press release about the tanks.)

Thank you to Eva King (MCFSC) for supporting the efforts of Sherwood Firewise Communities volunteers in getting 36 of those tanks into our community. Thanks to Mike Adams, Garrett Gibson, Dan Cash, Joy Calónico, Omayia Ssemore, Stephanie Rubin, Mike Steffen, Reef Roberts, Steve Hansen, Lila Ryan, Krista Pickens, Keith Rutledge, and Will Minor for helping to make this project a success.

The volunteers at Sherwood Firewise Communities are working to make our community safer in case of wildfire. By maintaining membership as a Firewise USA community, many insurers (including the California FAIR plan) will give you a discount on homeowners insurance.

We have secured and administered over \$4.5 million for roadside fuel reduction along the Sherwood Road corridor. Sherwood Firewise Communities volunteers monitor emergency radio traffic and push out important alerts via text, phone call, and email through our SafetyNet program. We need your help and support. To learn more, visit www.sherwoodfirewise.org or contact us at info@sherwoodfirewise.org

Brian Ferri-Taylor,
Sherwood Firewise Communities

Thanks to Haschak, Williams and Mulheren

To the Editor:

My hats off to Supervisors Haschak, Williams and Mulheren: a visionary path forward with their leadership. Their recent vote in support of Assembly Bill 2494 redefines the management goals for Jackson Demonstration State Forest and all of our California State Demonstration Forests.

Sheila Jenkins, Willits

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 Baechtler Road.

Thursday, April 23: Ground Beef Tacos

Friday, April 24: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggies & Roll

Monday, April 27: Meatloaf w/Sides

Tuesday, April 28: Chicken Bacon Sandwich

Wednesday, April 29: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce

Thursday, April 30: Chicken & Dumplings

Friday, May 1: N/A

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.

Great Redwood Trail opens 4th segment in Ukiah

Submitted by Great Redwood Trail Agency

On Sunday, April 26, 2026 Ukiah community members will gather to celebrate the grand opening of their fourth segment of the Great Redwood Trail, the country's largest rail-trail project. When complete, the Great Redwood Trail will span San Francisco Bay to Humboldt Bay and beyond, offering non-motorized commuter and tourist experiences through some of Northern California's most beautiful landscapes.

"The City of Ukiah is proud to have played a leadership role in bringing this segment of the Great Redwood Trail to life," said Susan Sher, Mayor of the City of Ukiah. "We are deeply grateful to the California Natural Resources Agency and the California State Coastal Conservancy for their generous support, which helped make this project possible. This trail represents more than just a recreational amenity – it's an investment in connectivity, health, and economic vitality. We're excited about the opportunities it creates to link Ukiah with our neighboring communities, Mendocino College, and beyond, and to welcome residents and visitors alike to experience the beauty of our region."

This small-town trail represents the culmination of years of advocacy, design, construction, and volunteer spirit. State Senator Mike McGuire, who will keynote the ribbon-cutting ceremony, spearheaded this enormous effort from the very beginning, starting with the passage of the landmark "Great Redwood Trail Act" (SB 69) in 2021.

Community members are invited to gather to enjoy this 3.3 mile segment connecting the north to the south ends of town with a fun-run and family-friendly celebration. "It's been a long road to get here," reflects Ukiah Valley Trail Group's Director Neil Davis. "We want to celebrate this achievement together on a cheerful, sunny spring morning, on our new trail, clustered with lupine and poppy blossoms."

The Great Redwood Trail Grand Opening and Fun Run will take place at 1601 Airport Road, Ukiah; end of Airport Park Blvd. Free parking by generous invitation of Emerald Sun. 8 am: Register for Fun Run (optional suggested donation). 9 am: Fun Run (3 miles run or walk, all are welcome). 10 am - Ceremony & Ribbon Cutting

Guest Speakers: Mike McGuire, California State Senator for District 2 & CA Senate President Pro Tempore Emeritus; Maureen "Mo" Mulheren, County of Mendocino Supervisor, 2nd District & Board Member, Great Redwood Trail Agency; Susan Sher, City of Ukiah Mayor; and Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah Director of Public Works & City Engineer.

More info: <https://thegreatredwoodtrail.org/great-redwood-trail/>



From far left: Mary Burns, of Willits Indivisible, helps prepare the coffee and breakfast sweets for people to enjoy before going inside Noyo Theater to hear from Mike McGuire. Friends as well as supervisory candidates Eric Hart and Buffy Bourassa sit together at the town hall (on the left is Hart's wife, Tatum, and on the right is Melanie Rafanan). Third District Supervisor John Haschak and organizer Melinda Clarke share a moment prior to going inside Noyo Theater.



Mike McGuire, candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, joins the crowd to take several questions about his proposed policies.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Town Hall

Congressional candidate Mike McGuire talks to Willits citizens about his campaign and answers questions

On the morning of Saturday, April 18, the Mendocino County Democratic Party and Willits Indivisible hosted a town hall at Noyo Theater, at which an estimated 170 concerned, mostly liberal, Willits citizens gathered to hear State Senator Mike McGuire speak about his vision and passion and how he plans to proceed in Washington if elected to Congress.

McGuire is running to represent this new district, delineated in Proposition 50, an answer to the gerrymandered Texas districts. He is running for the House of Representatives in Washington, where he believes he can be as effective and creative as he was in the California senate.

Possessed of the vitality of the Energizer Bunny, McGuire told the crowd that he has been able to accomplish in his tenure in the state senate; he told them about his upbringing, and what he sees as his vision for the future, what he is ready to fight for.

"We need to come together more than ever to fight for the future of this nation," said McGuire, with emotion, pacing in front of the audience. "It's good to see the number of people who are here today, who are fired up and fed up and are going to take this democracy back.

"I believe that Democrats need to grow a damned spine and to bring the fight to Donald Trump," McGuire said, "especially right now, as our nation is hanging on by a thread, a nation that we have all fought so hard for. Yet when Donald Trump came into office, it feels like America is fighting against us and everything we have achieved over the past half century.

"Every couple of years, we say this is the most important election of our lifetime," said McGuire. "We look back 250 years to when this amazing, yet imperfect, nation had been established.

Read the rest of McGuire Over on page 11



location	Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)							weekly total	rainfall since 01Oct25
	Mon Apr 13	Tue Apr 14	Wed Apr 15	Thur Apr 16	Fri Apr 17	Sat Apr 18	Sun Apr 19		
Northbrook Way	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	52.63
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	53.68
Valley Rd	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.89
Canyon Rd	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.81
Pine Mountain	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47.54
South Main @ East Oak	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	52.06
average	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	47.60

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

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 Rain Box

The light shower that passed through the Little Lake Valley on April 15 added just 0.01" to the rainfall total. Accumulation since October 1, 2025 now stands at 47.60". While the tax day rainfall did not put much of a dent in our March deficit, there is hope on the horizon. The forecast calls for up to 2" of rain early in the week of April 20, which would make this April the wettest of the past 3 years.

— Tim Hanna, Willits Rain Box

REMEMBER:

Deadline is end of day Monday for each week's Thursday edition.

This includes submissions, editorial content, and ads, too!

Email is best: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits Weekly

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

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



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!

LOT OF BOOKS WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|
| ABSTRACT | CIRCULATION | KEYWORD |
| ALMANAC | CITATION | LOAN |
| ARCHIVES | COURSE | MOVIES |
| AUTHOR | DESK | PERIODICAL |
| BOOKS | EDITOR | REFERENCE |
| BROWSER | GLOSSARY | RENEW |
| CARD | INDEX | RESERVE |
| CATALOG | JOURNAL | STACKS |

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

- ### CLUES ACROSS
- Egyptian bull-god
 - Romanian monetary unit
 - Will Ferrell holiday film
 - 'It Ain't Half Hot Mum' actor
 - Error-related negativity
 - Volcanic crater
 - Boston Herald columnist Margery
 - True market value
 - Italian term for exchange rate
 - Informal loan clubs
 - Men's fashion accessory
 - Children's craft supply
 - Extra benefits
 - In an early way
 - A judge has one
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Tractor unit
 - Defunct supercomputer developer
 - Promotional materials
 - A forgetful state
 - One who beheads
 - Photographers
 - Small, rich sponge cake
 - Clergy's vestment
- ### CLUES DOWN
- Expressed pleasure
 - Abba __, Israeli politician
 - Zero
 - Ancient Greek word for 'earless'
 - Nigerian governmental area
 - Mild expression of surprise
 - Places to hang things
 - Keyboard key
 - Make a mistake
 - One-time president of Republic of Korea
 - Drier building degree
 - Expression of sorrow or pity
 - Large, stocky lizard
 - Romanian river
 - Communication
 - Stoats
 - Showcases
 - Bird of prey
 - King of Thebes
 - Cleaving tool
 - Large African antelope
 - Three are particularly notable
 - Meet one's needs
 - European river
 - Dictator
 - Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
 - The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - Consume food
 - Woman (French)
 - Scrap a surface
 - Green vegetable
 - Pacific Standard Time
 - Capital of Brazilian city
 - Paddle
 - Cause to become insane
 - Drier and flakier
 - Mimic
 - ESPN personality Kimes
 - One who moves slowly
 - Secret political clique
 - Behind the stern of a ship
 - Supernatural force
 - Sanctuary
 - Swiss river
 - Grayish white
 - Engrave by coating
 - North Carolina university
 - Midway between south and southeast

The rest of Covelo | From page 1

contacted numerous parties who were attempting to assist the female victim. Law enforcement personnel examined the female victim and determined she was unconscious and had numerous suspected gunshot wounds. Sheriff's deputies and Round Valley Tribal Police officers initiated Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on the female victim and requested emergency medical personnel respond to the address on South Airport Road.

Law enforcement personnel continued to administer CPR until emergency medical personnel arrived and took over life-saving procedures for the victim. On April 19, 2026 at approximately 6:55 am, life-saving efforts were determined unsuccessful, and the female victim was pronounced deceased by a paramedic at the scene.

Based on the information gathered during the initial response, MCSO deputies initiated a homicide investigation and contacted the Sheriff's Office Investigations Bureau to respond. MCSO deputies responded to the scene and took over the homicide investigation of the death of the 38-year-old female victim.

Numerous interviews have been conducted, and search warrants have been authored and served related to the homicide investigation.

During the homicide investigation, MCSO detectives identified a 16-year-old male juvenile from Covelo as the suspect in the shooting. It was also determined that the male juvenile was previously in a dating relationship with a 15-year-old female juvenile from Covelo. There was a domestic violence incident involving the male juvenile and female juvenile which was unreported to law enforcement.

During the early morning hours of Sunday, April 19, 2026, the female juvenile was driving a vehicle in Covelo and was being chased by a vehicle being driven by the male juvenile suspect. The suspect followed the female juvenile to numerous locations in Covelo and was reportedly discharging a firearm out of the vehicle he was driving. The female juvenile eventually stopped the vehicle, and the male suspect approached and ordered her out of the vehicle at gunpoint. The female juvenile was physically assaulted by the male juvenile suspect and was in sustained fear for her safety. The female juvenile victim was able to drive away from the incident and reported the details to other family members.

Later in the morning hours of April 19, 2026, the female juvenile victim was on the phone with a family member, who was the 38-year-old female from Covelo. The female juvenile heard several gunshots in the background while on the phone, which was determined to be the shooting where the 38-year-old female was murdered.

By connecting the earlier domestic violence incident between the male and

female juveniles with the ongoing homicide investigation, MCSO detectives developed probable cause that the 16-year-old male juvenile was responsible for the shooting death of the 38-year-old female on a dirt road near Charlie Hurt Highway in Covelo.

MCSO detectives determined the 16-year-old male juvenile was responsible for numerous crimes earlier in the morning of April 19, 2026 involving the female juvenile during the domestic violence incident. An arrest warrant was sought and authorized for the male juvenile suspect for the following charges:

646.9 PC – Stalking; 422 PC – Criminal threats; and 243(e)(1) PC – Domestic battery.

Additional charges are being sought against the 16-year-old male through the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office related to the homicide investigation. Investigators received information indicating the male juvenile suspect left the Covelo area and was possibly in the Oroville area in Butte County. MCSO detectives coordinated with law enforcement in Butte County and the Oroville Police Department to attempt and apprehend the male juvenile pursuant to the arrest warrant. During the evening of April 18, 2026, investigators and Butte County law enforcement personnel searched numerous locations and interviewed possible witnesses in the Oroville area, but were unable to locate the male juvenile suspect.

On April 21, 2026 at approximately 11 am, Sheriff's Office detectives received information from the Oroville Police Department regarding the whereabouts of the male juvenile suspect. Oroville Police Officers located the male juvenile at a restaurant in Oroville. When attempting to arrest the male juvenile, he fled the location. After a foot pursuit, Oroville Police Department officers were able to apprehend the 16-year-old male juvenile without further incident.

The male juvenile suspect is being held at a juvenile detention facility in Butte County pursuant to the arrest warrant issued during this investigation. Investigators are facilitating the extradition of the male juvenile to Mendocino County where he will be booked at the Mendocino County Juvenile Hall.

Names of the involved juveniles will not be released as juvenile names and records are exempt from public disclosure.

A forensic autopsy has been scheduled for the 38-year-old female homicide victim, and additional information to include the decedent's name will be released as this investigation progresses.

Anyone with information related to this incident is requested to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office at 707-463-4086 (option 1). Information can also be provided anonymously by calling the non-emergency tip-line at 707-234-2100.



Above, from left: Jaime del Aguila, program director of Nuestra Alianza, and Sergio Perez, executive director of Nuestra Alianza, have fun dressing up in the photo booth. The dining room-auditorium at the Willits United Methodist Church is filled with people dining on some tasty Mexican food. Dayle Dear has his hands full with rice, beans, mole, and warm tortillas. At right: Buffey Bourassa, who is running for Third District supervisor, enjoys a meal with prospective constituents. At far right: Sergio Perez, executive director of Nuestra Alianza, just finished the tax assistance season and is now mostly concerned with helping immigration applicants. At right, below: Volunteer Linda Matz, of Cat's Meow, sells the 50 / 50 raffle tickets. At far right, below: Several colorful pieces of Mexican-themed clothing are available in the silent auction. At right, bottom: Photographer Michael Deer set up a booth on the stage where people could have their photo taken. At far right, bottom: Phyllis Aguilera and Kim Bancroft greet attendees at the door and accept donations for the Nuestra Alianza programs.

Nuestra Alianza Fundraiser

Community dinner and auction raises money for immigration legal fees of local residents

Friendship and Flavor was the theme of the evening last Saturday, April 18, at the Willits United Methodist Church. The event was a fundraiser for Nuestra Alianza de Willits, an organization formed to assist the local Latino population in retaining their lore and identity, along with providing legal and tax preparation help. The organization also provides help with food, provides a summer program for children (Plan Vocacional), and many other beneficial programs to both the Latino population and to others. The event was crowded and very genial. It was centered on the communal joy of feeding people, who sat at long tables and enjoyed meeting new and old friends.

The fare for the evening was strictly Latino, with pozole (a traditional soup with hominy and meat in a savory red sauce), chili relleno (a peeled chili pepper, stuffed with cheese and dipped in an egg batter), chicken mole (a spicy chili and chocolate sauce), and the traditional rice and beans, served with warm tamales. Drinks included horchata (a sweet drink made from ground grains, usually rice, combined with cinnamon), hibiscus, and fruit-infused water. Postres (desserts) included a Jell-O cup, rice pudding, cookies, chocolate puffs, and cookies. It is universal that people gather over food and this evening was no exception.

In order to raise money, donations of \$5 to \$25 were accepted at the door. There was an additional 50 / 50 raffle which attendees could try to win. One of the most fun activities to raise funds was the photo booth, created by local photographer Michael Deer, which included a Mexican street scene background and many different pieces of traditional clothing. For a donation, Deer would turn on the photo lights and take a picture of whoever wanted to get their photo taken with their own cell phone, or for \$5, they could have an instant Polaroid to take home.

There was also a silent auction with several desirable items: two meals from Hatake Farm Kitchen, a stay at a vacation rental in Fort Bragg, tickets to the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, tickets for the Skunk Train with a meal at The Whistle Stop, black T-shirts with "Estoy Contigo" ("I am with you") embroidered on them, several Mexican embroidered items, and a dog grooming session.

The proceeds from the night's event was to "pay for legal fees, for immigrants that want to apply for any kind of change in their status or renew their green cards or DACA [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals]," explained Sergio Perez, executive director of Nuestra Alianza.

Read the rest of Alianza | Over on page 13



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.

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photo•g•ra•phress

[uh-tog-ruh-friss]
 nonn: Maureen Jennison: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

CONGRATS to the GRADS

Mendocino College Class of 2026

We're providing two optional photography services to commemorate your amazing achievement

Order from either option - or feel free to do both!

Advance, Formal, Studio Headshots:
 Appointments are available at the Ukiah Campus: Tuesday, April 28 from 12 to 2 pm
 Do you want to have a professional, seated, formal headshot, lit with studio lighting, to commemorate your graduation? We can help! Images will be shot, printed, and delivered back to the college before the May 22 graduation ceremony. Wear formal attire (bring your own) or wear a dark blue graduation cap and gown (provided) for this professional portrait shot against a gold background.
 Order forms are included in this packet, and are to be brought to your appointment, filled out with exact-change payment attached - cash or check only, please!
 Questions: Anastasia Simpson-Logg at asimppon@mendocino.edu or photographer's contact info below.

Diploma Photo at Grad Ceremony:
 Photos will be taken at the graduation ceremony on Friday, May 22, 2026
 The photographer will make every attempt to ensure that each and every graduate will be photographed after they cross the stage at the graduation ceremony.
 Grads will pause briefly at the end of the stage, hold up their diploma, and smile at the camera for a quick photo.
 These photos will be available to order online only, after the event, and can be accessed by scanning the QR code here, or by visiting https://photographress.zenfolio.com/mendocollge.
 You can see examples, and order from previous years' graduation day ceremonies here, too!

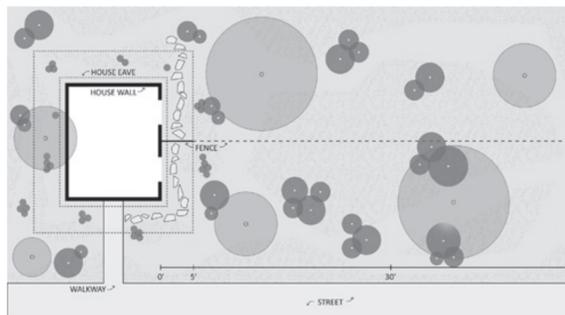
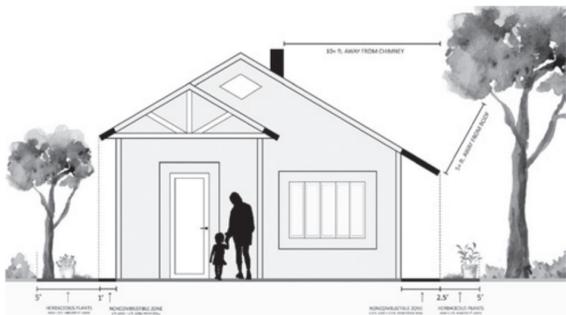
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Above, left: This front view represents how Zone 0 can be divided into a non-combustible "safety zone" immediately near the building, surrounded by a low-combustibility zone out to the remaining 5 feet. A vegetation-free zone would be required at 1 foot from the occupied structure or to the edge of the eaves (whichever is greater); 2 feet from windows, glass doors, and vents; and 5 feet around attached decks, stairs, and pergolas. This means that a 1-foot eave triggers at least a 1-foot safety zone, and a 2.5-foot eave triggers at least a 2.5-foot safety zone. Outside of this zone, to 5 feet, herbaceous plants are allowed up to 18 inches, lawn and other ground covers must be kept under 3 inches, and potted plants must be in noncombustible containers. This illustration shows two examples based on eave width and includes a aural, trimmed tree that provides shade, with lower branches removed to reduce fire risk. Note: Homeowners could have up to five years to phase this zone into their property. Above, right: This illustrated aerial view demonstrates how trees (larger lighter circles), smaller trees and shrubs (darker circles), plants, pavers, and a fence might be arranged under the April 2026 draft. Note that trees can be near homes if their branches are appropriately separated from the roof or chimney. Other details include an upgrade to the fence attachment, and some plants are present in Zone 0, but they are separated from vulnerable areas such as the base of the wall, under eaves, and near windows.

The rest of **Zones** *From page 1*

The draft regulations were informed by extensive public input and reflect a flexible approach that empowers homeowners and local governments to take action.

"This area is the most critical zone for protecting a home, and neighborhoods, during a wildfire," said Board Chair Terry O'Brien. "We've taken a thoughtful, science-based approach to develop proposed standards that will meaningfully reduce risk while still being practical for homeowners."

A refined approach built on public input and fire safety

Over the past year, the board conducted extensive outreach, including nearly a dozen public workshops, numerous site visits, research and academic reviews, and on-the-ground engagement with homeowners, fire professionals, environmental groups, and local governments in their neighborhoods.

The process surfaced multiple perspectives from different regions of the state on how to address flammable materials located in Zone 0 – with particular attention to trees and other living vegetation commonly in the area surrounding the first 5 feet outside a home.

To help facilitate this discussion, the subcommittee took input and consolidated different approaches into a single recommendation. Now, the updated draft reflects a single option for subcommittee consideration, incorporating a range of viewpoints, statutory requirements, and considerations for implementation such as affordability, enforcement, and local flexibility.

"We've heard valuable input and feedback from all corners of the state and have worked hard to draft rule text that threads the needle across a very complex set of mandates, risks, and values," said board Executive Officer Tony Andersen. "This proposal reflects a critical next step in the board's process – grounded in science, shaped by communities, and focused on what will actually work on the ground."

What the new Zone 0 rules would require

The updated draft rule includes a phased-in implementation approach that prioritizes education and outreach over a five-year period. While Zone 0 requirements will apply to new construction upon adoption of the regulation, existing homes and structures can implement actions in phases

CAL FIRE seeks applicants for Jackson Forest advisory group

Submitted by CAL FIRE

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Jackson Demonstration State Forest invites public involvement in the management of JDSF through participation on its Jackson Advisory Group. The JAG advises CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on forest management at JDSF. CAL FIRE is seeking two JAG applicants to provide expertise in one or more of the following forest management categories identified in the JAG Charter:

- Licensed Timber Operator
- Botanist and/or Ecologist
- Physical Scientist (e.g. hydrology, geology, etc.)
- Forest Conservation
- Local Tribal Representative

Read the rest of **Applicants** *Over on page 13*

over time within different areas of Zone 0:

- PHASE 1 (Implemented within the first 3 years): Includes removing combustible items such as firewood, dead leaves and branches, mulch, and wood chips within 5 feet of the structure. Cleaning gutters, removing dead and dying plants, trimming trees according to regulations, and implementing or adjusting for allowable vegetation during this time period.
- PHASE 2 (Implemented within 5 years, with the exact timeline to be decided by local jurisdictions): Local jurisdictions will assign a timeline, within 5 years of the effective date of the regulations, for the creation of an under-eave safety zone, replacing combustible gates, and making any necessary adjustments to sheds and fencing.

The proposed regulations would apply to homes in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Areas (LRA).

At a high level, the rule involves two distinct areas within the first 5 feet of a structure (see images above for more information):

- A low-combustibility zone extending out from an area immediately next to the home, or the area under eaves, to the remaining portion of the five feet that comprises Zone 0—or roughly an area of four feet depending on a structure's eave size.
- A non-combustible immediate "safety zone" directly next to the home and under eaves. This zone width flexes with the width of the eave. For example, if the structure has one-foot eaves, the safety zone is one foot in width. If the structure has two-foot eaves, the safety zone is two feet in width.

This nested approach is designed to protect the most vulnerable parts of a structure – such as the base of the wall, windows, decks, and eaves – while still allowing for flexibility based on the attributes of the home or structure.

Vegetation and landscaping are allowed, with conditions

- No combustible materials (like bark mulch, dead leaves, wood chips, or firewood) are allowed within the 5 feet of Zone 0, including on roofs and in gutters. Dead and dying vegetation is not allowed and the

area should be regularly cleaned.

- Then, the "safety zone," or a vegetation-free buffer, is required: Within 1 foot of structures or out to the edge of the eave (or "drip line")

Where the eaves are shallow, and the safety zone may not apply: A safety zone of 1 foot is still required; Within two feet of windows, doors, and vents; Within five feet of attached decks and similar features

Well-maintained herbaceous plants and flowers are allowed outside these buffers within Zone 0, with the following conditions: Smaller non-woody plants, such as bulbs, poppies, petunias, and succulents are allowed in spaced groupings; Low ground covers, such as moss, beach strawberries, and creeping thyme are allowed per requirements; Grass or lawn is allowed but must be maintained per requirements; Potted plants in easily movable non-combustible containers are allowed.

Trees are allowed, with conditions

- Trees are allowed, but must be maintained: Branches should be 10 feet from chimneys per existing statute. Branches should also be trimmed 5 feet above roofs and trimmed so that they are not under eaves; Dead wood and lower branches or "ladder fuels" that could carry fire upward should be removed. Limbs should be removed from the bottom 6 feet for large trees, or from the lower third of the tree for smaller trees.

Fences, gates, and structures in Zone 0

- A 5-foot non-combustible section is required where fences attach to a home, to be completed in Phase 2. Examples could include replacing the combustible gate with a non-combustible metal gate.
- No new combustible fences or gates should be built within Zone 0, but repairs can be made to existing fences.
- Any sheds and outbuildings within Zone 0 must have non-combustible exterior roofs and walls.

Flexibility for local conditions

Recognizing California's diverse landscapes and communities, the proposal also allows local fire agencies to implement alternative approaches – provided they achieve equivalent fire safety outcomes. Using a range of decision-making

factors, communities can also choose more stringent standards based on their individual fire safety hazard or risk.

"This isn't a one-size-fits-all approach," board chair O'Brien added. "We're building in flexibility so local experts can tailor solutions unique to their individual communities while maintaining meaningful fire safety standards."

Timeline and phased implementation focused on education, not penalties

The board has emphasized that implementation will prioritize education and outreach – not penalties – once this regulation is approved. For new construction, compliance with this regulation is required upon adoption. Existing homes will then be phased in during two phases outlined above, with early adoption being recommended.

The goal is to give homeowners time, resources, and guidance to make changes effectively and affordably.

Continued public engagement, public assistance planning, and next steps

The board continues to actively seek public input on the draft regulations before being considered by the full Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The board is also tracking a range of legislative proposals, tax savings offers, grants, funding mechanisms, service organizations, and other resources and assistance committed to supporting communities and implementing this regulation.

"Extensive public feedback, professional expertise, and communities willing to roll up their sleeves have been essential to getting us to this point, and it will continue to shape where we land," said Andersen. "We encourage everyone – homeowners, local agencies, and community members – to stay engaged."

Once the Zone 0 Regulations Subcommittee decides to forward a recommendation, the draft regulation will then go before the full Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for consideration and approval.

For more information, visit <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/defensible-space-zones-0-1-and-2>

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is responsible for developing and overseeing forest policy and wildfire regulations in California, with a mission to protect the state's forests, watersheds, and communities.

Spicy Wrangler

Meet Wrangler (legal name pending), a compact rat terror ... errr, we mean terrier, with a bold personality and a firm belief that personal space is a myth.

Age: Somewhere between "still energetic" and "why is he like this."

Weight: 14 pounds (plus emotional baggage)

Special skills: Lightning-fast reflexes, blanket burrowing, detecting snacks from three rooms away, light nipping (OK, medium nipping ... fine, enthusiastic biting).

Wrangler is looking for a very specific forever home, ideally one with: No fingers, a good sense of humor, and experience negotiating with tiny dictators.

Training status: Knows "sit," "stay," and "please stop biting me" (chooses which to follow based on your vibes).

Good with kids? If the kids are emotionally resilient and fast.

Good with other pets? Defines "good" loosely.

Despite his quirks, Wrangler has a lot of love to give – and several warnings to issue. Beneath that spicy exterior, is a loyal companion to the ones he deems worthy, he will guard your home, your snacks, and keep visitors far, FAR away. He bonds deeply with "his person," defined as whoever currently has food. While he may greet strangers with what experts call "teeth-forward enthusiasm," he's really just expressing himself in the only way he knows how: menacingly.

Adopt Wrangler today. Or at least come meet him... from a safe distance.

His adoption fee is FULLY SPONSORED



by Olivia Grupp! (One of the six people who still believe in him.)

If you dare, contact us for more info at 707 485 0123 or info@hsmc.org.

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 (closed select Thursdays, check website for details). Check out all of our available

dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com. Call 707-485-0123 for more information.

Social Ossie

This handsome 3-year-old black shorthaired boy is a big cat with an even bigger heart. Ossie is very friendly, affectionate, and loves being around people. Despite his large size, he's a gentle, social guy who enjoys attention and isn't shy about asking for pets. Playful and outgoing, he's happy to engage in fun activities but also knows how to relax and enjoy quality time with his humans. With his sleek black coat and charming personality, he's sure to make a wonderful companion.

If you're looking for a loving, social cat who will fill your home with affection (and maybe take up a little extra space on the couch), this big guy could be the perfect fit.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from 9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make sure to pre-fill out the



adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for more information.

Cheerful Lexi

Lexi is an awesome dog! She is super friendly, and loyal, bonding quickly to her people. She loves to play a game of fetch, and looks to her people to learn, play, engage and have FUN! Lexi does well with her

commands such as "sit," "lie down," "take it," and "drop it." Because she is a high-energy dog, she would do best in an active household that has experience with large dogs (she weighs 55+ pounds). She is quite food-motivated, so having treats on you would be great, she also loves to learn. She is a great hiking, jogging or running partner! Lexi resides with a playmate at our Sanctuary, and they come out to go on runs with the side-by-side buggy, she LOVES IT! And there is nothing better than a romp at the creek or at least a dip in the trough / pool! Lexi is a playgirl and a tomboy; she loves affection, playing with people and dogs, loves toys, and being an important part of her people's lives!

Lexi loves being the center of attention, and so may be easiest as an only dog in the home, but for dog-savvy folks, who engage in training and creating boundaries where needed, she can co-house. She is currently taking a break at Milo Sanctuary and living with three other dogs – happily! She has a beautiful golden brindle coat and is a nice size, lean and athletic, perfect for wide open spaces and running.

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



Above: Mendocino County Fire Safe Council delivers a free water tank to a home in Willits. Photo by Eva King At left: Trailers deliver water tanks to the Mendocino City Community Services District, to be distributed to local residents for domestic water use. Below: The Fire Safe Council has delivered 65 water tanks to the Mendocino coast, to be distributed to local residents by the Mendocino City Community Services District and Mendocino Fire Protection District. The City of Mendocino made national news by running short on water during the drought in 2021.

Photos courtesy of MCCSD, by Superintendent Ryan Rhoades

State funding supplies 450 water tanks for free distribution in Mendocino County

By Sarah Reith for MCFSC

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council is allocating close to 200 free water tanks to more than a dozen firewise communities, neighborhood fire safe councils, and fire departments throughout the county. Roughly another 250 tanks will be distributed by other county organizations – Mendocino County is getting roughly 450 of the 1,000 tanks in the program statewide.

In 2022, the California Department of Water Resources was allocated \$10 million from the governor's 2022 budget to establish a water tank program as part of its Small Communities Drought Relief program. The one-time water tank portion of the program is ending at the close of this fiscal year. Alena Misaghi, a senior water resource engineer in Fresno and assistant program manager for the Small Community Drought Relief program, reported that about 1,000 tanks will be distributed across California as a result of the program, with roughly 450 of them going to Mendocino County.

There were no income requirements for the grant, but only public agencies such as cities and counties, tribes, water districts, and nonprofits were eligible to apply. A minimum of five 2,500-gallon tanks were delivered to each applicant, to be distributed to residents in their communities.

MCFSC spread the word as soon as the Mendocino

County Department of Transportation reached out with news of the opportunity. Soon, the Laytonville Grange, the Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria, and other organizations put in requests on behalf of local residents. On the coast, the Mendocino City Community Services District (for the village of Mendocino) and the Mendocino Fire Protection District collaborated to receive 65 tanks.

During the drought of 2021, the town of Mendocino was famously short on water. Nearby water districts restricted water sales to customers within their own boundaries. An initiative to truck water from Ukiah, which has abundant groundwater, made national and even international headlines.

MCCSD Superintendent Ryan Rhoades recalled telling the state at the time that he thought a water-storage program would be a much more cost-effective option. "I don't know if it was because of us," he said recently. "Probably not, but in 2022, DWR started a water tank program."

Early this year, he too received a notice from the Mendocino County DOT about the free tank opportunity for local residents. He has fielded requests from as far away as Willits, but said that people who live within his fire district



boundary will have first priority. He is maintaining a waiting list in case recipients who are already in line are unable to accept tanks for some reason. As of April 9, twenty of the tanks had already arrived at MCCSD's water-treatment plant. The new owners will be responsible for picking the tanks up and covering the cost of installation.

Misaghi reported that about 15 organizations in Mendocino County reached out to her, though not all of them finalized an agreement to receive tanks. She noted that the water must be used for domestic purposes, not for irrigation or landscaping. In all, about half of the tanks in the DWR program will find their home in the northern part of the state. "You guys are popular!" Misaghi remarked.

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

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

Thursday, April 23

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, for one last week of indoor farmers market, Thursday, April 23, from 3 to 5:30 pm, 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.

Friday, April 24

Donnie & Friends at Shanachie: featuring local harmonica (aka "Mississippi saxophone") player Donnie, joined by friends and fellow musicians possibly including Gary Bould, Jeff Martin, Rasta Sean and Tom G. among others, playing an improvisational variety of Chicago style Blues, Rock, Funk, Latin, and West African music. Friday, April 24 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, April 25

Flock Together Festival at Ridgewood Ranch: The thrills of ranch life take center stage as Headwaters Grazing's Flock Together Festival returns to the historic Ridgewood Ranch on Saturday, April 25 for a 10 am to 3 pm celebration of sheep, farming, and agrarian culture. Sheep shearing all day, with hands-on wool skirting; Ranch-to-table lunch; Sheep dog demonstrations; Fiber arts demonstrations and activities; and much more. All are welcome. Admission: \$5 entry (kids free), \$20 lunch (\$10 kids lunch). Discount if purchased in advance. For tickets: www.headwatersgrazing.com/flocktogether0

"Kitchen Witchery" at the Grange: First in the "Herbs Excel at Keeping You Well" Grange Garden Class series, Saturday, April 25 from 10 am to 12 pm. Grant funding means these classes are free. Taught by Annie Waters, the class covers some of the many easy and tasty ways you can add culinary herbs into your daily life for continual wellness and disease prevention. "We will ID and harvest these herbs in the Grange Garden and make a pesto green sauce. The class will cover tea blends for thriving in summer heat. You will also learn how to make a DIY cleaning solution from rosemary." Info: Annie at anniebeewaters@gmail.com



Little League Poker Tournament at Sparetime Distribution: Willits Redwood Little League holds a benefit Poker Tournament. Saturday, April 25 at Sparetime Distribution, 300 East Commercial Street. Poker starts at 5 pm. Registration starts at 4 pm. New Player lesson at 4:30 pm. \$100 poker buy-in includes tri-tip dinner with all the fixings, plus 1 drink ticket. No host beer and wine bar.



Friday, May 1

Art Under 20 at WCA: Art Under 20 show of emerging artists at the Willits Center for the Arts is created and hung by the students themselves under the direction of Willits High art teacher Carolyn Bakewell. Opening celebration is set for after school on Friday, May 1 from 3 to 7 pm, and the public is welcome. The exhibit will be on display until Sunday, May 31 during normal WCA gallery hours, Fridays through Sundays from 11 am until 5 pm. 71 East Commercial Street.

First Fridays Summer Concert Series: Get ready to rock the block as Gas Money kicks off the First Friday Summer Series of free outdoor concerts, on Commercial Street between Humboldt and Main. Willits Chamber of Commerce presents: "Let's start the summer right - shop local, listen loud, and help Willits thrive!" Friday, May 1 from 6 to 9 pm. Food and merchant vendors.

Pete Sawyer & The Left Hand Monkey Wrench Gang at the Grange: Doors open at 7 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street; show at 7:30 pm. Pete and the Gang offer a high-energy "all killer, no filler" Grateful Dead experience every time they take the stage. Grab your friends, show up, and be part of the fun! Tickets available at Flying Dog Pizza or the Grange Office. \$35/ \$30 in advance.

Saturday, May 2
WHS Senior Class Golf Fundraiser: Saturday, May 2 at the Brooktrails Golf Course. One of the last fundraisers for the Willits High School Class of 2026 before graduation. \$60 entry fee. Teams of 4 are invited to arrive at 8 am, and tee off at 9 am. Best Ball Scramble. "Support of any kind is very much appreciated."

Sunday, May 3
Mendo Cup at the Grange: the 2nd annual Mendo Cup is a friendly competition for licensed sungrown cannabis farmers in Mendocino County. Sunday, May 3 at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street, from 2:15 to 9 pm, features exhibits and farmer booths, great food, the awards ceremony after blind judging, and a chance to meet the farmers and sample their best flowers in the outdoor consumption lounge. Profits this year will be shared back with competing farmers.

Thursday, April 30
Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors for an early May Day celebration as market moves to City Park for the summer. Thursday, April 30, from 3 to 5:30 pm, 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.



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COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Nirvana: the Band the Show the Movie'

The Story: This flick has nothing to do with the famous grunge band of the same - except for the spelling - name. It is a highly independent episodic Canadian slapstick-comedy/time travel movie.

The flick chronicles the struggles of two young-ish male musicians, Matt and Jay, as they strategize how to get a gig at the (what seems to be, at least to them) very important Tivoli restaurant in Toronto. They figure that if they do something outrageous and attention-getting, then they'll get that gig. "Outrageous" is what they do.

And then, and quite surprisingly, it's revealed that they have a Time Machine! It's sort of patterned after "Back to the Future" but not an actual DeLorean. Matt's and Jay's four-wheeled contraption is a full-sized, live-in travel van. They drive their gigantic time-spanning vehicle back to the year 2008. (I've thought about it, and I'm still not sure why they chose that year, though there must have been a reason.)

My Thoughts: This flick is the full realization of an online series created by and written by and starring the two main actors Matt Johnson and Jay McCarroll. I called this flick a "gonzo" production, which means that it was shot on the public streets, aka "the real" world, and features the interchange between random people and the actors. How they did this and managed (more or less) in movie-world to maintain a story line is thus a quite lively, quite brilliant, and quite risky technique. I salute them. And at the same time, I got lost at some points in the narrative, and want to see the flick again. It's a really and truly exciting and really fun movie, not unlike a vitamin B-12 injection.

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



Dan Essman
Columnist

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www.WillitsKidsCorner.com

Madam King Presents WILLITS CINCO-ISH SUPERHERO CRAWL

Every town needs a hero... tonight it's you. Be a hero for Willits—show up, support local businesses, and show the love.

FAMILY FRIENDLY CRAWL 3:00 PM - The Buzzer's Boot
4:00 PM - The Friday Dog
5:00 PM - The Munchery
6:00 PM - The Northrup

21+ NIGHT CRAWL 8:00 PM - Shanachie Pub
9:30 PM - John Bar
11:00 PM - Brewer's Distillery

Free event • Just show up • Costumes encouraged

Ukiah Library Succulent Swap, April 25

Get your summer garden rolling with some free plants at the Ukiah Library's annual Succulent & Plant Swap! Saturday, April 25 from 1 to 3 pm. Bring in your extra plants, cuttings, and veggie starts to trade for new ones.

UKIAH BRANCH LIBRARY SUCCULENT SWAP

The Ukiah Seed Project is hosting a Succulent Swap, because friends don't let friends buy succulents! Bring all your extra plants to share and take a few new ones home. Veggie starts and other garden plants are welcome at this swap too.

Agas 12+
For more information
Call 707-465-4490

Saturday, April 25th 1:00pm-3:00 pm
UKIAH BRANCH LIBRARY
100 NORTH MAIN STREET
UKIAH, CA 95568
707-465-4490
WWW.MENDOCINOLIBRARY.ORG

LA SUCURSAL UKIAH DE LA BIBLIOTECA INTERCAMBIO SUCULENTO

El proyecto de semillas Yokayo está organizando un intercambio de suculentas porque los amigos nos permiten que sus amigos compren suculentas! Traiga todas sus plantas adicionales para compartir y llévese algunas nuevas a casa. Las plantas vegetales y otras plantas de jardín también son bienvenidas en este intercambio.

Agas 12+
Para más información
llame 707-465-4490
visite WWW.MENDOCINOLIBRARY.ORG

Sábado 25 de abril de 1:00 a 3:00
UKIAH BRANCH LIBRARY
100 NORTH MAIN STREET
UKIAH, CA 95568
707-465-4490
WWW.MENDOCINOLIBRARY.ORG

Spring Soirée
Friday, May 8th
Music by Mama Grows Funk
silent auction • raffle • dancing • food

Mendocino College Plant Sale, April 24-25

Come join us for the bi-annual Mendocino College Agriculture Department Plant Sale. We have hundreds of veggie starts, annual flowers, herbs, perennials, California natives, drought-resistant plants, bushes, trees and more! Friday, April 24 from 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, April 25, from 9 am to 3 pm. With surplus sale, Ceramic Club table, and other student tabling. The sale supports students who are studying horticulture and helps expand the gardens and landscape offerings.

Art Under 20

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS 2026

Willits High School • Willits Charter School • Potter Valley High School

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, MAY 1, 3:30-6:30
EXHIBIT RUNS THROUGH MAY 31
HOURS: FRIDAY-SUNDAY, 11AM-5PM
www.willitscenterforthearts.org

PAINT Night AND BENEFIT FOR Marley

Join us for a fun and meaningful evening of creativity and community!

SUNDAY, APRIL 26th
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
THE MUNCHERY

\$30 Ticket Includes:

- One non-alcoholic beverage
- A special treat
- All supplies included

Event Details:

- Guided painting with a live instructor
- No experience needed all artists welcome!
- Food and additional drinks available for purchase
- Support from amazing local donors: Including Crafthouse Baking, M&B Bakes, E.J. Ballons and More, Miss Rosal's Creative Art Studio, Candice Siva, and more!

Event being put on by Bechtel Grove PTO

All proceeds go to our 6th grader Marley and her family during her fight against osteosarcoma.

Friends of the MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM

SUCCULENTS & TEACUPS Fundraiser!

Enjoy this fun planting project, or purchase a ready-made creation!

Saturday May 2, 2026
12-4 P.M.
Mendocino County Museum
400 East Commercial Street

\$25.00 All Materials included

Contact FOTMCM@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

A MUSICAL FEAST for Mother's Day
Sunday May 10, 2026 - 4-6pm

A beautiful bouquet of classical & contemporary piano combos
With champagne, artisanal pastries, & community

Spencer Brewer, Paul Yarbrough, Elizabeth MacDougall, Ed Reinhart, Frankie J, Wenbo Yin

Tickets \$25 online --or-- \$30 at the door
71 East Commercial St. -- Willits -- www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Willits Little Lake Grange Presents Mother's Day Craft Fair

Saturday, May 9, 2026
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Little Lake Grange - Willits, CA

- Local Crafters & Artisans
- Handmade Goods & Unique Gifts
- Jewelry, Candles, Art & More
- One-of-a-Kind Treasures for Mom

Shop Local • Find the Perfect Gift for Mom too

291 SCHOOL ST., WILLITS, CA 95490

BELL SPRINGS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

SPRING PLANT SALE AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Saturday May 9th

Come and join us for our annual spring plant sale fundraiser! We will have an array of plant starts for you to choose from! Vegetables, flowers, herbs, perennials, bulbs, and more!
\$20 breakfast plates and homemade baked goods table!

Located at Bell Springs fire department
0680 Bell Springs Road
10am-1pm

Please bring cash for plant starts and breakfast ticket

Mendocino College Agriculture Department
SPRING PLANT SALE
 Friday, April 24th
 9 AM - 5 PM
 Saturday, April 25th
 9 AM - 3 PM

Now accepting credit/debit cards as preferred payment

Mendocino College Agriculture Department Spring Plant Sale

April 24, 25

Posted by Mendocino College

Come join us for the bi-annual Mendocino College Agriculture Department Plant Sale. The Spring sale is perfect for getting vegetable gardens going, expanding your range of pollinators, adding drought-resistant plants, bushes, and trees, and adding that splash of color or other native plants. We have hundreds of veggie starts, annual flowers, herbs, perennials, California natives, and more!

9 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, April 25, from 9 am to 3 pm. Saturday's event also features our annual surplus sale along with tabling from the ceramics club and other student clubs. The sale supports students who are studying horticulture and helps expand the gardens and landscape offerings.

Get your green thumb going with the Spring Plant Sale!

The sale takes place Friday, April 24 from 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, April 25, from 9 am to 3 pm. Saturday's event also features our annual surplus sale along with tabling from the ceramics club and other student clubs. The sale supports students who are studying horticulture and helps expand the gardens and landscape offerings. Get your green thumb going with the Spring Plant Sale! The sale takes place Friday, April 24 from 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, April 25, from 9 am to 3 pm. Saturday's event also features our annual surplus sale along with tabling from the ceramics club and other student clubs. The sale supports students who are studying horticulture and helps expand the gardens and landscape offerings. Get your green thumb going with the Spring Plant Sale!

Library
Spring Book Sale
 April 30th - May 3rd
 at the
Willits Branch Library
 Conference Room

Thur April 30th 5 pm to 7 pm
FOWL members only

Fri May 1st 10 am to 5 pm
 Sat May 2nd 10 am to 5 pm
 Sun May 3rd 10 am to 3 pm

Sunday all books only \$3 a bag!

Willits Library
 390 Commercial Street, Willits
 (Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library)

Your mental health matters. *Servicios de salud mental disponibles en español*

You have a lot to manage. You don't have to be alone with stress, anxiety or depression.

Working with a mental health professional can improve many areas of your life. MCHC has professionals who can help. **Get help today.**

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

CONTACT MCHC'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOR AN APPOINTMENT.
 (707) 468-1010 MCHCINC.ORG

PRIMARY CARE • WOMEN'S HEALTH • PEDIATRICS
 DENTISTRY • BEHAVIORAL HEALTH • SPECIALTY CARE

"Music has healing power. It has the ability to take people out of themselves for a few hours."
 - Elton John

Be The Antidote - Willits
 bethantidote@gmail.com

BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TK-Kindergarten Registration Now Open

To pre-register go to www.willitsunified.com
 Para registrar a su estudiante ve a 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
 Tránsito 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 questions please call the Brookside office at (707) 459-5385 or visit our website at 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

Eric HART
 FOR MENDOCINO SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 3

Thanks to all who showed up for Democracy at the Willits forum.

If you weren't able to make it, join us in Laytonville April 29 and in Covelo May 2.

ERICHARTFORSUPERVISOR.COM FACEBOOK.COM/ERICHARTFORSUPERVISOR

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW605

BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct a Public Hearing on the **Fiscal Year 2026-27 Financial Plan for Services (The Budget)**.

The Public Hearing will be held in person and remotely (hybrid meeting) at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Information on remote access to the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda at its publishing. At or prior to this time, any interested person, including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may appear personally or submit a written presentation on any matter relating to the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget.

When approved by the Board of Directors, the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget will be effective on July 1, 2026. A copy of the proposed budget is available for review during normal business hours at the Township Office, located at 24895 Birch Street in Brooktrails, or by request from btcsd@btcsd.org.

Dated: April 10, 2026

Tamara Alaniz, General Manager/
 Secretary to the Board of Directors
 Publication Date: April 23, 2026

WW604

BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct a Public Hearing on cost of living revisions to the **Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment**.

The Public Hearing will be held in person and remotely on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Information on remote access to the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda at its time of publishing. At this time and place, interested persons including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may mail comments or appear personally at the Public Hearing.

When approved by the Board of Directors, the Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment will increase by 3%, as approved by the voters, effective July 1, 2026. Information on the proposed revision is available for review during normal business hours at the Township Office, 24895 Birch Street, Willits, California 95490 or by request from btcsd@btcsd.org.

Dated: April 10, 2026

Tamara Alaniz, General Manager/
 Secretary to the Board of Directors
 Publication Date: April 23, 2026

WW602

Fictitious Business Name Statement
 2026-F0121

The following person or persons are doing business as **Moon Lady, 100 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490; 707-272-2772. Mailing address: 1571 S. Main St., Willits CA 95490.**

Registered owner: Three Girls LLC, 1571 S. Main St., Willits CA 95490, state of incorporation: California.

This business is conducted by a limited liability company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on March 18, 2026.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on March 19, 2026.
 /s/ Hannah K. Bouthillier, Managing Officer
 Publication Dates: April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

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

E	G	P	E	R	M	U	L	T	U	A	A	R	X	E	D	N	I	K	
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CLASSIFIEDS

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

Homemade 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, May 9 from 8 am to 4 pm

Contractor Retirement Sale
 Construction tools, cabinet tools, miscellaneous and construction materials. Friday 4/24 and 4/25 from 9:00 AM till 2:00 PM at 21220 Locust St. Willits, or by appointment, call 707-477-8246.

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 Rent
 Spacious studio apartment with kitchen and bath for one person, in nature, walking distance to town. \$1000 per month plus wood or electricity for heating. Pet considered. Call (707) 459-2101

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for two weeks. Email us your ad today!

'Soul Travel: Doorway to Higher Awareness'
 Join us for an open spiritual discussion, Tuesday, May 5th, 11:00 to noon, Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St. Questions? Please call Joy, (707) 367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of CA & NV. (This program is neither sponsored by nor affiliated with the Mendocino County Library.)

Yard Sale
 Friday, May 1st & Saturday, May 2nd. 8 am to 2 pm. 1550 Padula Drive, Willits CA. Priced to sell. Cash or Venmo. Rain or shine. Everything must GO.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW606

NOTICE OF SALE OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY AT PUBLIC AUCTION

1. Notice is hereby given, pursuant to California Civil Code section 1988, that the undersigned, Craig Raymond, will sell at public auction the personal property described below that has remained unclaimed and in the possession of the undersigned for approximately six months.

2. The owner of the personal property is Ryan Weinert. The articles of property to be sold are described as follows: Two LED light trailers for nighttime work, both with ten solar panels each; one with a Kubota G-L11000 diesel generator; one Honda EB11000 gas generator; a set of scaffolding for elevated work; ten foldable plastic tables; various small tools; miscellaneous supplies; thirty plastic storage bins; one barbeque.

3. The public auction will be held at 41100 N. Hwy 101, Laytonville, CA 95454, Mendocino County, California, at twelve noon, on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. At that time, the property will be sold to the highest bidder to pay expenses incurred for advertising and sale of the property.

4. The terms and conditions of the auction are as follows: cash purchase, minimum bid of \$1,000. Landlord reserves the right to make a credit bid at the sale.

5. The above-described property is presently located at 41100 N. Hwy. 101, Laytonville, CA 95454, Mendocino County, California.

Call or text for further information and to verify that the sale is still going forward: 707-486-0869.
 Dated: April 20, 2026

/s/ Craig Raymond
 Publication Dates: April 23, 30 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

Rotary Club of Willits *People of Action*
 Serving our Community Since 1948
www.willitsrotary.org
WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com

The rest of **McGuire** From page 3

It's never been more true. We are facing the most important election of our lifetime, coming up this November. It is up to us, the warriors in this room, the patriots in this room, to take back our streets and be able to get this Mango Menace out of the White House. Here is what I believe. I think Donald Trump is a fascist. I think Donald Trump is corrupt. I think he is a charlatan and a narcissist. It's up to all of us to go out there to fight for our rule of law, to fight for our Constitution, our civil rights, to codify Roe versus Wade. It is time for accountability. Democrats, Independents, enlightened Republicans, we have to protect our voting rights in this country. We have to be able to repeal the tax cuts for billionaires in this country. We have to fight the ruling class and make sure we have an economy that works for all, not just the wealthy few and the corporations."

Many people, those who know him and have worked with him and have seen what he has accomplished, believe in State Senator Pro Tem Mike McGuire.

"I support McGuire because I'm a longtime staffer," stated Trevor Mockel, a past aide to McGuire. "I enjoyed working with him. I feel that he will be effective. He's one of the most effective senators we have, and I think he will continue that in the congress.

The rest of **Plants** From page 10

Plant Sale tips

1. BYOW - bring your own wagon! We have some carts and wheelbarrows available for you, but there's never enough to go around!
2. BYOB - bring your own box(s)!
3. The early bird gets the worm - our popular varieties might be sold out if you come at 2 pm on Saturday. If you want something specific, come earlier!
4. Need advice? Ask us! We'll have staff members around the nursery and greenhouses to help you with all your gardening questions!



Above, left: A photo of the crowd at the Willits Grange for the candidates forum. Photo courtesy Supervisor Madeline Cline.

At top: The moderator for the Third District supervisors forum at the Grange on Sunday was Sherrie Ebyam. Above: Candidate for Third District supervisor, Buffy Wright Bourassa. From far left: Candidate for Third District supervisor, Russell Green. Candidate for Third District supervisor, Eric Hart. Candidate for Third District supervisor, Clay Romero.

Below: The four candidates at the April 19 Third District supervisors forum, from left: Eric Hart, Russell Green, Clay Romero, and Buffy Wright Bourassa.

3rd District supervisor candidates answer fire safety questions

Posted by the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

Thanks to the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council who organized this series of questions focused on fire safety issues for the candidates running for Third District supervisor.

Question 1: In 2022, Mendocino County voters approved the Measure P sales tax. Prior to putting that measure on the ballot, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted Resolution BOS 22-159, stating their intent "to use any new revenues from the proposed sales tax to fund fire protection and prevention, with 90% of the new revenue to be spent on direct aid to those agencies providing fire protection services and 10% to assist in fire prevention, resiliency and readiness efforts." BOS 22-159 also adopted a specific formula for allocating those funds, developed by the Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts. Are you committed to allocating 100% of Measure P sales tax revenues in the specific manner described in Resolution BOS 22-159? If not, please explain why not, and explain what alternate allocations you would support for the use of those funds.

Districts have determined the method of allocation. This is acceptable.

Question 2: Measure P sunsets in 2033. Do you support efforts to renew the 1/4 cent sales tax for fire protection and prevention?

and RV sites
• Proposition 172 - 6.62% of Prop 172 revenues

• Ambulance support funding - \$198,000 a year for Anderson Valley, Laytonville and Covelo ambulance services.

Buffy Bourassa

Yes, I would support efforts to renew the sales tax for fire protection and prevention. Wildfire risk is an ongoing reality in Mendocino County, and our communities rely on strong fire protection and prevention systems. Stable and predictable funding is essential for fire agencies to plan, recruit personnel, maintain equipment, and invest in mitigation.

At the same time, I believe it is important to clearly communicate to voters how the funds are being used and the impact they are having in our communities. Maintaining public trust will be critical to the long-term sustainability of any funding measure

Buffy Bourassa

Yes. I support allocating Measure P funds in the manner outlined in BOS Resolution 22-159. The intent of Measure P was clearly communicated to voters to strengthen fire protection and prevention across Mendocino County. When the public approves a measure with a specific purpose, it is important that the County follow through on that commitment.

Direct funding to fire agencies is essential to maintaining staffing, equipment, training, and emergency readiness. I also support the portion dedicated to prevention and resiliency efforts, because investing in prevention ultimately protects lives, property, and public resources. As Supervisor, I would support maintaining transparency and accountability in how those funds are distributed and ensure that local fire agencies continue to have a strong voice in how those resources are used.

Russell Green

I'll be straightforward - I don't support new taxes or renewing special taxes. Every tax is money taken from people who earned it, and I think we should be very careful about how casually we ask for more. The question itself reveals the real problem: why does fire protection - one of the most basic functions of local government - require a special tax at all? The county already collects substantial revenue through property taxes, sales taxes, and other sources. Fire protection should be funded from that existing revenue as a top priority, not treated as an afterthought that requires its own dedicated tax.

Between now and 2033, my goal as supervisor would be to fix the county's spending priorities so that fire services are funded reliably without needing a special measure. If the board can't figure out how to fund fire protection from the tens of millions it already collects, the answer isn't more taxes - it's better leadership.

Eric Hart

Yes, as long as there is a threat to public safety from fire we should support funding the needed work to mitigate the threat.

Clay Romero

No. This is too far in the future to plan for a continuance of a temporary tax. I anticipate that there will be an economic resurgence in Mendocino County that will make any additional taxing measures unnecessary.

Question 3: In addition to Measure P, local fire agencies are granted county support from a mix of discretionary sources including:

• Measure D/E (TOT) - 10% transient occupancy tax on private campgrounds

Russell Green

The voters approved Measure P with a specific understanding of where that money would go, and the Board needs to honor that commitment. I'm not someone who takes taxation lightly - every dollar taken from a working person or business is a dollar they earned and should have a say in how it's spent. Measure P exists because the Board failed to direct existing revenues toward fire protection, so voters had to do it for them. Since that money is already being collected, the absolute least we can do is make sure every dollar goes exactly where it was promised.

Eric Hart

Yes, unless the involved parties (Fire Chiefs Assn, MCAFD, MCFSC) request a different distribution agreed upon amongst themselves.

Clay Romero

Yes. The people voted for it and the Mendocino County Association of Fire

Covelo man arrested for robbery, burglary

By Sgt. J. Woida, for MCSO

On April 17, 2026 at approximately 2:43 am, deputies from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a residence in the 76000 block of Henderson Lane in Covelo, for a possible kidnapping.

The reporting party initially described that Raymond Bowes, a 28-year-old male from Covelo, arrived at the residence and forcibly took a female subject from the location.

Upon arrival, MCSO deputies contacted the reporting party and determined they had not personally witnessed the reported incident. During their continued investigation, MCSO deputies contacted a 27-year-old male from Covelo who was identified as the victim of this incident.

The victim reported that Bowes entered his residence, physically assaulted him, and stole personal property. A 21-year-old female who was originally inside the residence with the victim, left with Bowes. MCSO deputies observed the male victim had injuries consistent with the reported assault and located corroborating evidence at the scene.

Based on the investigation, MCSO deputies established probable cause to believe that Bowes was responsible for the assault and theft while also being released from custody on bail for an unrelated felony case.

Deputies continued their investigative efforts through the early morning and daytime hours of April 17, 2026. MCSO deputies located the 21-year-old female, who had initially been reported as being kidnapped, at a residence on Biggar Lane in Covelo. The female confirmed that the kidnapping report was inaccurate and stated she was not injured.

Deputies also located Bowes at the same residence. Bowes provided a statement that was inconsistent with information obtained from other witnesses and the physical evidence gathered during this investigation. MCSO deputies further observed that Bowes had injuries on his person consistent with being the primary aggressor in a physical altercation.

Bowes was arrested for 211 PC - Robbery; 460(a) PC - Burglary; and 12022.1 PC - Felony offense committed while released on bail. Bowes was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he is being held in lieu of \$125,000 bail.

Anyone with information related to this incident is requested to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office at 707-463-4086 (option 1). Information can also be provided anonymously by calling the non-emergency tip-line at 707-234-2100.

The rest of Alianza | From page 5

"We are collaborating with an organization that provides free consultations, from the Bay Area and also Sonoma and Napa," said Perez. "IIBA [Immigration Institute of the Bay Area] has an office in Petaluma and Oakland. We are also working with VIDAS [Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services] from Santa Rosa. We operate in collaboration with them. We have done four clinics so far, where we offer from 15 to 20 applications to provide these free services. We just had a clinic last week in the Methodist Church. We had 17 appointments and free consultations. Those appointments, most of them were asylum-seekers, trying for their work permits, also, people renewing their green cards, and applications for citizenship.

"We are bringing services to Mendocino, because there are no services here in providing information and consultations with lawyers in our community," explained Perez. "Unfortunately a lot of people take advantage of people in need and scam them. We have heard of fake lawyers who contact people on Facebook and unfortunately, a few families from our area have been fooled and have paid as much as \$5,000 or \$6,000, and then the scammers disappear from Facebook." The organization also has a Rapid Response Network, 707-200-8091, to help people in letting others know when ICE might be in their neighborhood.

According to Perez, Nuestra Alianza helped over 530 people with their taxes this year and will be offering this service to the community until May 31. "Anybody can come," said Perez. "It's best to have an appointment, so they can call us at 707-456-9418, just to make sure that we have a volunteer that is able to help.

For more information about Nuestra Alianza, visit: <https://nuestraalianzadewillits.org>, call 707-456-9418, or visit their "Nuestra Alianza de Willits" Facebook page. Their office is located at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Suite 1.

The rest of Forum | From page 1

Eel River to the Russian River during high flows, and expand storage on the Russian River side.... Do you support this direction, how would you approach downstream water needs, environmental concerns, and regional cooperation moving forward?

Question 4: What strategies would you use to support housing development while preserving open space in agriculture? Question 5: In order to preserve an adequate inventory of housing units for Mendocino residents, should there be a limit on short-term rental permits, including permits specifically issued to corporations? Question 5: Is there enough grant finding for wildfire and disaster resilience? What actions and alternatives would you pursue to ensure public safety? Question 6 (from the audience): Do you believe the 2020 and 2024 federal elections were fair and accurate? What is your party affiliation? How will you handle ICE when it comes to Mendocino County?

Question 7: What is your favorite

or most valuable natural asset in Mendocino County, and how would you propose to protect it? Question 8: Recent investments and planning efforts have aimed to diversify the local economy following the decline of the cannabis industry and the impact of the 101 bypass. What strategies would you pursue to diversify and support economic development in our district and the county? Question 9 (from the audience): What is your stand on Jackson Demonstration State Forest regarding future logging, recreation, and tribal co-management? Question 10: Would you consider eliminating the CEO position for our county. Would you consider substituting an income tax for a sales tax?

The Mendocino County League of Women's Voters has a video of their livestream of Sunday's forum at the Grange up to watch now: Visit www.facebook.com/61566533933252/videos/1196878432386071

Willits Community TV will post an edited video of the forum this week at their YouTube

page at www.youtube.com/@WillitsCommunityTV/videos

Willits Weekly will print as many of each candidates' answers to the 10 questions in next week's April 30 edition. For this week, see Page 13 for some of the candidates' answers to the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council fire safety questions.

Another upcoming supervisors' candidate forum, sponsored by the Laytonville Area Municipal Advisory Council, is set for Wednesday, April 29 at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue in Laytonville, at 5:30 pm. The session will be moderated by Alison Pernell, and is planned to last about three hours with equal time for each candidate's brief position statements, and then Q&A with District Three area residents. Those interested in submitting questions for consideration, should email them in advance to 2026.lville.supe.forum@gmail.com.



Photos by Mathew Caine

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Show 7:30 - 8:30 / \$35 / \$30 advance - Kids \$10
Tickets at the Grange of Flying Dog Pizza

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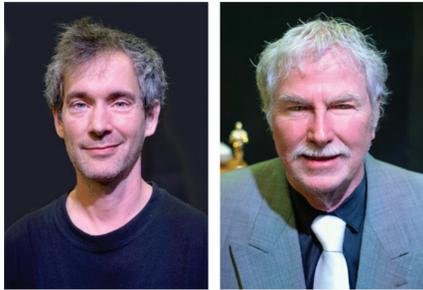
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Above, left: Zoe Robertson as Brenda the hopeful new starlet. Above, right: Sarah France as the wily leading lady Collette. Below, left: Jeremy Daw as the impressionable writer Victor. Below, right: Dayle Deer as Bradley the producer.



THE WILLITS COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS

Written by
JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY
Directed by
MATHEW CAINE

MAY 1 - 17, 2026

FOUR DOGS AND A BONE

SHOWTIMES: Fridays & Saturdays at 7:00 pm, Sundays at 2:00 pm

Playwright John Patrick Shanley's 'hilariously savage' Hollywood satire opens May 1 at WCT

By Steve Hellman

Playwright John Patrick Shanley dives into the messy, cutthroat world of Hollywood filmmaking in his hilariously savage "Four Dogs and a Bone," showing at Willits Community Theatre May 1 through 17. Best known for his 1987 Cher vehicle "Moonstruck," Shanley brings his trademark bold and unapologetic wit to this fast-paced satire of a harried producer who wheedles and threatens, a seductive airhead starlet with the ruthless moves, a cynical, savvy, ageing leading lady, and a naïve writer who longs to look out for number one.

Directed by Mathew Caine, the show portrays the power struggle with a brutal honesty, with shifting loyalties and constant manipulation making for a non-stop fun-fest. The language is raw, the insults personal, and nothing is off-limits in this shock-fest of control.

Caine says of the production, "Ever since I saw this show in Los Angeles with Martin Short, Brendan Fraser, Parker Posey, and Elizabeth Perkins, I've wanted to create my own production of this brilliantly written and insightful dive into the soul-eating cutthroat movie business." He adds that beneath the humor is an exploration into the universal truths of the arts, defiled and twisted to create larger margins for the investors and the money people.

Starring in the production are Dayle Deer as Bradley the producer, Zoe Robertson as Brenda the hopeful new starlet, Jeremy Daw as the impressionable writer Victor, and Sarah France as the wily leading lady Collette.

For an experience of full-bore twinge and comic relief, the production opens May 1 with shows Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$25 and available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door. Due to the adult themes and sexual content, patrons under 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Show sponsors are NC Financial, KZYX-Z Radio, KLLG Radio, Penserra Group, Big Fish Construction, The Community Foundation of Mendocino County, and Jerry Drew Painting

Mendocino Land Trust celebrates 50 years of service to Mendocino County

Submitted by MLT

Mendocino Land Trust celebrates 50 years of service in Mendocino County with a stunning short film, community events, and an Anniversary Celebration!

Since 1976, Mendocino Land Trust has conserved over 40,000 acres of land in Mendocino County. MLT has opened five coastal preserves to the public, built 20 miles of trails, and restored habitats for vulnerable and endangered species. MLT has also worked with private landowners to place conservation easements on their land to safeguard legacy farms, ranches, and vineyards from development for generations to come.

To commemorate this milestone, MLT has produced a short film, "Conservation Forever," featuring a look at some of our current land protection, public access,

and habitat restoration projects alongside stunning coastal and inland vistas. You can watch "Conservation Forever" at the Mendocino Film Festival as part of the short-film programs, "Keeping It Wild" and "Reel Mendo," and on the MLT website and YouTube channel.

The Mendocino Film Festival runs from May 28 to 31.

To thank the Mendocino community for 50 years of support, MLT will be hosting a 50th Anniversary Celebration in Mendocino Village on Saturday, June 20. Everyone is welcome!

"Conservation Forever: 50 Years of Mendocino Land Trust, a retrospective exhibit, will be open at the Kelley House Museum from April 2 through June 1.



The rest of Tanks | From page 7

Water tanks are also popular. The MCFSC runs an annual Micro-Grant program that funds small neighborhood fire-resiliency projects, and one of the most common items that communities request is water tanks. "We've had a lot of practice allocating these water tanks," said Eva King, MCFSC's Community Outreach coordinator.

All that practice came in handy when it was time to start delivering the tanks. "Especially in Mendocino County, with these rural communities, you're looking at a lot of long dirt driveways, a lot of tight turns, and a lot of overgrown vegetation," King noted. "A lot of the same complications, actually, that fire engines have when they're trying to respond to fires."

That is part of the reason the MCFSC leans so heavily on neighborhood fire safe councils, who have the local knowledge to pinpoint who needs what. "We have such a massive county, with so many different communities," King explained. "That's where we rely on our neighborhood fire safe council leaders to reach out to their own communities to make sure that when these types of opportunities arise, they are able to disseminate that information, make sure it gets out to their neighborhoods, make sure that people are able to apply for these types of grants, and that they have access to opportunities like free water tanks or other community resources. In Mendocino County, it's one of the most impactful ways to get the word out."

Hearing about opportunities like this is a great reason to be connected with a neighborhood fire safe council or firewise community, and MCFSC has over 80 affiliated groups throughout the county. Visit www.firesafemendocino.org/nfsc to find one in your area.

CITY OF WILLITS SWIMMING POOL
JUNE 8TH - AUGUST 14TH
2026 SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER)	6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER)	6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER)
8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS	8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS	8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS
10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON	9AM-10AM AQUA AEROBICS	10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON
12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM	10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON	12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM
3:45PM-5:15PM OTTERS	12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM	3:45PM-5:15PM OTTERS
5:30PM-6:30PM SWIM LESSON	3:45PM-5:15PM OTTERS	5:30PM-6:30PM SWIM LESSON
6:30PM-7:30PM AQUA AEROBICS	5:30PM-6:30PM SWIM LESSON	6:30PM-7:30PM AQUA AEROBICS
	5:30PM-7:00PM LAP SWIM	

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAYS
6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18&OVER)	6AM-12PM LAP SWIM	10AM-11AM LAP SWIM
8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS	10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON	11AM-4PM PUBLIC SWIM
9AM-10AM AQUA AEROBICS	12PM - 3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM	
10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON	3:45PM-5:15PM OTTERS	
12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM	5:30PM-6:30PM SWIM LESSON	
3:45PM-5:15PM OTTERS	6:30PM-7:30PM AQUA AEROBICS	
5:30PM-6:30PM SWIM LESSON		
5:30PM-7:00PM LAP SWIM (18&OVER)		

SUNDAYS
CLOSED

ADMISSION PRICE
PUBLIC SWIM \$5
LAP SWIM \$5
LAP SWIM PASS (20 ENTRIES) \$80
AQUA AEROBICS \$7 (SENIOR \$6)
AQUA AEROBICS PASS (20 ENTRIES) \$125
SWIM LESSON \$50
(DISCOUNT OF \$5.00 PER SIBLING)
(UP TO 4 SWIMMERS)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (707) 459-5778

TOWN-WIDE ONGOING EVENTS

History Makers Family Activity at the Museum: Join us every Wednesday in April for a drop-in Family Activity anytime between 2 and 4:30 pm. April 29: Pipe Cleaner Snakes.

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

Trivia Night at Northspur Brewing Co: Put your knowledge to the test on the first and third Wednesday of the month starting at 6:30 pm at Northspur Brewing Co., 101 North Main Street.

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; now open Sundays, 12 to 4 pm. Closed 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.

Create it, Make it, Break it! 3:30 to 5 pm, 1st & 3rd Fridays: Join the S.T.E.M. club to explore creativity and reasoning through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Each meeting will present new ideas and challenges! For ages 9-14.

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CITY OF WILLITS SWIM LESSONS

REGISTRATION - FOR SWIM LESSON, SESSION 1, WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE WILLITS POOL, ON THE FOLLOWING DATE:
SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH FROM 8AM-11AM
THE FEE FOR EACH SESSION IS \$50.00 AND THERE IS A SIBLING DISCOUNT OF \$5.00 (UP TO 4 SWIMMERS).

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-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE DESIGNATED SESSION.
-OPENINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS.
-NO MAKE-UPS OR REFUNDS FOR MISSED DAYS
-ALL SWIM LESSONS ARE ONE-ON-ONE AND ARE TAILORED TO CHILD'S NEEDS

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (3) 30 Minute Lessons	Thursday & Friday (2) 45 Minute Lessons 5 & Over
Session 1 June 8-10	Session 1 June 11 & 12
Session 2 June 15-17	Session 2 June 18 & 19
Session 3 June 22-24	Session 3 June 25 & 26
Session 4 June 29- July 1	Session 4 July 9 & 10
Session 5 July 6-8	Session 5 July 16 & 17
Session 6 July 13-15	Session 6 July 23 & 24
Session 7 July 20-22	Session 7 July 30 & 31
Session 8 July 27-29	Session 8 Aug 6 & 7
Session 9 Aug 3-5	Session 9 Aug 13 & 14
Session 10 Aug 10-12	

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (707) 459-5778

a slide presentation and talk about her journey to becoming an author.

Yim grew up in Malaysia, and at age 5, she moved to Singapore, and then in junior high school, moved to Hong Kong before coming to California to attend college at Dominican University, where she then decided to stay and raise a family including three children (her eldest daughter is currently studying to become a teacher at Grace Hudson School in Ukiah.)

It was around age 11, however, that she was inspired by one of her teachers to start writing.

“Every writer starts as a reader and a story lover,” said Lim. “And that was true for me, too.”

Yim decided to take some of the stories she loved, and make up new endings, details or themes around the existing idea, as she did with “Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas,” where the ideas and details behind “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” were reworked and changed to create her own version of the story.

There’s also her book, “The Rock Maiden,” where Lim created a different story around the legend of the real-life natural stone formation she loved.

Encouraging these young students to help create a job out of their interests was hopefully an interesting perspective to the kids. Like to draw? Become an illustrator! Like to write, become an author!

Yim also walked students through the

process of how a book gets made; “Ideas can come from anywhere!” said Yim. “For my book ‘Luna and the Case of the Missing Moon Cakes,’ I knew I liked mooncakes, and I liked mysteries, so I made up a fun story including both. Once the idea is there, you have to write it down, and then it goes through several revisions with an editor before being sent to the illustrator and art director to include the graphics.”

Several physical paper examples of the process, manuscripts with notes in the margins, black-and-white, then color, versions of single and story board illustrations were presented, as well as the eight-page print layout the commercial printer uses to then make and bind the final book.

Copies of her completed books were also displayed around the room, Sherwood School already owned several copies of some books, but Yim also donated copies of some books the school didn’t already own, and signed them all.

After being shown the process, the Q&A portion of the event followed, which as usually is true with a group of kids age 5 to 10ish was a hoot. Students wrote and prepared questions ahead of time, but some questions, and just general comments, were delivered off the cuff.

“Which is your favorite book?” “Usually the last one that comes out.”

“What’s your favorite continent?” “North America, I love it here!”

“I’m in the Cub Scouts” “That sounds like fun!”

“What’s it like being an author?” “It’s a fun career, I love creating stories from my imagination, and seeing what the illustrator comes up with, and how it all comes together. I also love doing these school visits.”

“Do you have any pets?” “We have an Alaskan husky named Juno, and a ‘fat cat we call ‘Moo.’”

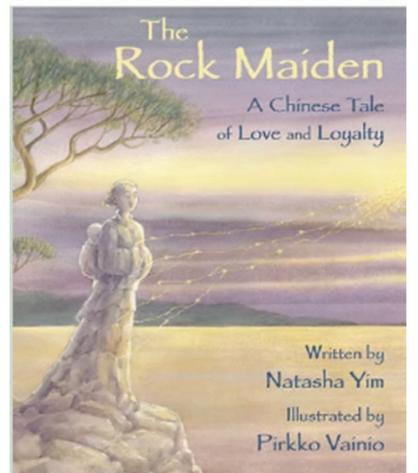
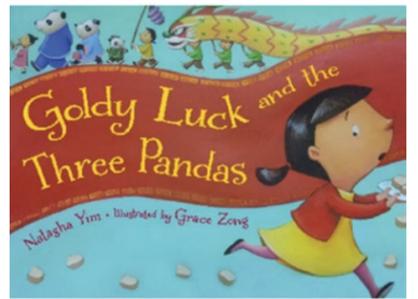
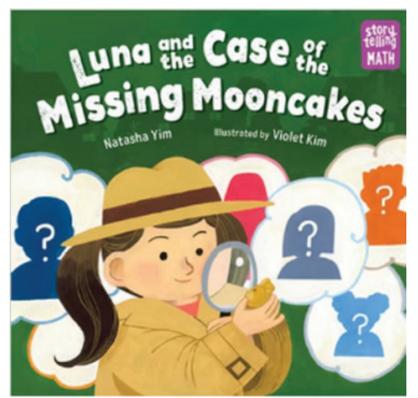
“What’s your next book?” “My next book, ‘Luna Picks a Lucky Dumpling,’ is coming out in May, and the school has already preordered the book for you all.”

“My birthday is in May!” “Well happy almost birthday!”

After the conclusion of the Q&A session, students were treated to a wiggle break where everyone got up and shook about their bodies before settling down to hear Yim read “Luna’s Yum Yum Dim Sum.”

“We were so happy to host Natasha here at Sherwood School,” said Principal Annapurna Steffen. “The Mendocino County Office of Education awards grant money to schools for these talks, and we applied and were awarded! We are excited to hear about Yim’s journey and how she can inspire these young students as writers and authors, and think about publishing their own works someday.”

To see additional titles, as well as order copies of her books, visit Yim’s website at www.natashayim.com



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Sun: 2:45, 7:15
Wed/Thur: 3:45, 7:15
IN DELUXE THEATRE
Fri: 3:45, 7:15
Sat: 2:45, 7:15
Sun: 1:15, 4:00
Wed/Thur: 4:00
Closed Monday/Tuesday

FIGHT CLUB (4K REMASTER)
ON THE BIG SCREEN (R) 2H 19min
Fri: 6:45
Sat: 6:45, 9:15
IN DELUXE THEATRE
Sun: 6:45, Wed/Thur: 6:45
Thrifty Thursday: \$8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.

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