





# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Help the Senior Center support the community

To the Editor:

By my estimation the Willits senior center provides 25,000 pieces of free firewood to seniors over 65, those with limited physical mobility, and those on fixed income each winter season. We usually start our firewood program the first week of November and try to keep it going until the end of March.

Facilitating this service takes the collective efforts of many people, mainly behind the scenes. I want to acknowledge the following people who, without their commitment to ensuring our woodshed is filled and restocked with firewood each year, we would not be able to offer this essential service.

THANK YOU, Ray Hebrard, a past senior center board member, and retired CalFire Unit Chief, I didn't learn until recently it was Ray's idea to start the firewood program many years ago. THANK YOU, CalFire Howard Station Battalion Chief Ray Rhoades, CalFire Unit Chief Luke Kendall, and all the CalFire men and women, past and present, for cutting, splitting, loading, unloading and delivering countless truckloads of firewood to the senior center year after year. Cal Fire provides a large majority of the firewood for this program.

THANK YOU to the following individuals for cutting, splitting, loading, unloading, donating, and personally delivering firewood to the senior center: Carl Thompson, Jerry Jordan, John Wagenet, David Ortiz, and Marie Ulvia have collectively provided hundreds of cords of firewood.

THANK YOU, Mike Griggs Sr., for donating firewood wood and pallets so we can keep the wood off the ground and dry. THANK YOU, Jerome, Ron, and James, for volunteering your time and loading the firewood into our seniors' vehicles each Monday and Thursday. THANK YOU, Redwood Forest Products, for donating the money and material which enabled us to build our woodshed.

The Harrah Senior Center is a 501 © 3 Non-Profit Charity, our primary purpose is to assist seniors throughout the greater Willits area. Our free firewood program is but one of the many services we provide.

Here is a list of services we provide: a financial representative payee service to protect seniors from financial abuse, a computer lab with onsite instructor, transportation, Life Changes and Physical Challenges support groups. Our nutritional services offered Monday - Friday include Meals on Wheels, a drive through pick up lunch option, and lunches served in our dining room.

Our Outreach Department helps seniors apply for housing, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, disability, CalFresh, and HEAP and REACH utility assistance programs. It's so hard to list all the services our outreach department provides. It's usually evaluated on a case-by-case basis with the starting premise, if we can help we will.

As a result of the collaborative efforts of the senior center and the Howard Foundation, which provides funding each year, we are able to offer a free medical equipment loan program. This benefits anyone recovering from surgery or injury. Available medical equipment includes, crutches, wheel chairs, front wheeled walkers, seated walkers, shower benches,

shower chairs, bedside commodes, toilet risers and knee scooters.

We also collaborate with Redwood Empire Foods to offer a monthly senior and community commodities distribution the second and fourth Thursday of every month at Laughlin Fields from 9 to 11 am. We host a monthly pancake breakfast the second Sunday of every month from 8 to 11 am, and our doors are open every Friday night at 4:30 pm for Bingo, starting at 5 pm and ending at 7 pm.

We are seeking donations to fund the aforementioned services. You can donate via our website [www.willitsseniorcenter.com](http://www.willitsseniorcenter.com) , or mail your donation to 1501 Baechtcl Road, Willits CA 95490.

Richard Baker, director,  
Harrah Senior Center

## Help the Food Bank's Winter Shelter Program

To the Editor:

The Willits Food Bank is running smoothly with employees, volunteers, and a growing Board of Directors that keep the office and warehouse functioning well. The board recently welcomed two new members, Gail Warner and Lisa Mace. We're thrilled to have them and look forward to enjoying their contributions of time, wisdom and whatever else they may bring to our non-profit. The Board said goodbye to Hildi Gerhart and Avery Edmunds who were active members in 2021 and 2022, and have moved to the East Coast to work nearer to their families.

The potential new food bank facility, located on Railroad Avenue, is still in the works. The site is the original Sparetime Garden Supply. We hope to see it develop into our new home in 2023. Those who have offered to help with labor and costs for the move and some additional improvements will be well-utilized in the coming months.

The Food Bank continues to serve many hungry or food-insecure individuals and families in the greater Willits area. We serve approximately 1,000 households per month, and our numbers have increased during the freezing winter.

The Redwood Inn is our Winter Shelter Motel Room Program contractor for this season. We run from December through mid-April. Recipients who are living without a home may get one to two nights per month inside a warm, dry, safe, comfortable motel room where they can shower, heat their food for meals, watch TV or read, and get a good night's sleep. The motel owners are kind and helpful to our unhoused folks.

Total cost for the 2022 Winter Shelter Program was \$22,000. This year's 2023 projected goal has been much less, done by keeping usage to one night per month, reaching a cost of \$8,009 by February 20. However, the current frigid nights with snow are forcing people to find shelter. Our cost for this week alone is approaching \$3,000; the cost will grow as dangerous icy temperatures continue.

We are asking for specific donations that are to be spent on this very high motel expense. We're ready to continue serving those who are suffering this winter. Please help the Food Bank to accomplish our goal.

Donations can be sent to or dropped off at WCS, 229 East San Francisco Street Willits, CA 95490, or call the Food Bank at 707-459-3333

Ruthanne Volz, executive director  
Willits Community Services  
and Food Bank

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

spin-outs this morning. Please slow down."

One accident was reported at 7 am at the south end of the bypass: a solo vehicle "came from southbound side and went to northbound side" and overturned, 30 feet off the roadway.

CHP also reported an accident around 10:30 am on Sherwood Road near Karkar's Deli, with a car hitting black ice, then hitting a tree. One passenger with moderate injuries was transported to Howard Hospital.

Brooktrails Fire Department chimed in at 11:11 am Wednesday: "There is still black ice present in shady areas of Sherwood Road. Please use caution and slow down!"

With forecasts predicting a low of 20 degrees for Willits Wednesday night, and well below freezing overnight for the next week, icy roads will be a factor in morning commutes and school runs for a while.

Snow levels varied widely in the greater Willits area as usual. Reports from town the first morning residents woke up to snow, on Thursday, February 23, were mostly about 3 to 5 inches, with considerably more reported up in the hills. By Tuesday, March 1 there were reports of a total

### KLLG Pledge Drive, March 18

KLLG Willits Hometown Radio is having a Pledge Drive on Saturday, March 18, from 11 am to 5 pm, live on air at 97.9 FM.

Guest musicians will be Greg Schindel, Wendy DeWitt and Nicole Aguilar ... and, who knows who else? So, tune in, or come visit us and support your local radio station.

We are in room 10 in the Grange, we love visitors, as we love our community that supports us, as we are a non-profit radio station that relies on donations to survive. Everyone at KLLG are volunteers, who are KLLG.

The Kozmic Blues Hour, created by DJ / Programmer Cheryl Abney, celebrates its anniversary on KLLG in February 2023.

The Grange is having a seed exchange on March 18, from noon to 4 pm, or until the seeds run out, so get there early!

– Cheryl Abney, DJ/programmer, KLLG 97.9FM

### Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtcl Road. Price is \$7.

**Thursday, March 2:** Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll

**Friday, March 3:** French Dip with Au Jus, Fries, Veggie

**Monday, March 6:** Sausage Mac & Cheese Casserole, Veggie, Roll

**Tuesday, March 7:** Hot Open Faced Beef Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie

**Wednesday, March 8:** BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Corn Bread, Veggie

**Thursday, March 9:** Garlic Shrimp w/White Wine Sauce, Veggie, Garlic Bread

**Friday, March 10:** Chicken Breast w/Hollandaise Sauce, Veggie, Roll

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

**Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am; March pancake breakfast is set for Sunday, March 12. Menu choices:**

1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & Gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$8; \$7 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides: 3 slices bacon, \$2; 3 sausage links, \$2.

**Meals on Wheels:** The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Deb 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*

### Inland Mendocino Democratic Club, March 9

The Inland Mendocino Democratic Club invites all current and future Democrats to the monthly hybrid In-Person/Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 pm, at Slam Dunk Pizza, 720 North State Street, Ukiah.

Featuring a forum on homelessness policy in Ukiah, Willits and inland Mendocino County.

- What programs have been established to mitigate homelessness?
- What agencies are responsible for these programs?
- What are the costs and resources available to address homelessness?
- What are the timelines and measurable outcomes of these programs?
- Have those outcomes been realized - what is the success rate?

Panel: Third District Supervisor John Haschak, Ukiah City Councilmember Juan Orozco, Willits City Councilmember Madge Strong; and a representative from Continuum of Care.

Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82566353751> with Meeting ID 825 6635 3751 and Passcode 518110

## Willits Weekly

A Weekly & Monthly Journal of Community and Life in Willits

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

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Above, from left: Ellie, whose family owns Brewed Awakening, is the coffee expert. These devices provide a method to distribute the perfect amount of batter on the grill. Jared Schwebs and his daughter, Anya, work on fruit compote and eggs. At left: The FFA students enter the Grange to begin working on kitchen and serving duties. Below: The round tables lend themselves to discourse amongst new and old friends.



Photos by Mathew Caine

## Flapjack Fundraiser

### Willits FFA raises money for upcoming convention at Grange Pancake Breakfast

The officers of the Willits Future Farmers of America greeted the early breakfast participants with a recitation of their titles, their symbolic stances and positions, and their duties, from the stage of the Little Lake Grange. One by one they told the first customers, who were already busy consuming their Grange pancake breakfasts how they fit into the overall local arm of the organization. They were serious and on point as they told the crowd of their responsibilities.

The FFA treasurer made connections to his position and President George Washington: "I keep a record of receipts and disbursements, just as Washington kept his farm accounts, carefully and accurately. I encourage thrift among members and strive to build up our financial standing through savings and investments. George Washington was better able to serve his country because he was financially independent."

The historian stated: "I keep a record of the activities of the members and the chapter. I organize the chapter scrapbook which serves as a reference on chapter history. A good record of chapter accomplishments can be a credit to the chapter."

It was obvious from their demonstration that these directed and intellectually thirsty youngsters were in the agricultural field for the long haul, gaining as much knowledge as they can in their field and designing their futures to best utilize their passion and skills.

In order to support Willits FFA, the Little Lake Grange was donating the day to support their upcoming March trip to the statewide convention in Ontario where they would pick up skills and interface with influencers in their field.

"The conference is for the entire state of California," explained Kelley Case-Brackett, FFA teacher. "You actually have to send at least two students. There are different sessions they go to. They get awards. They do competitions. There's a career fair as well as a college expo so they can check out different colleges. They can learn to drive a tractor or go to a university.

"The career fair is there for those who don't want to go to college," said Case-Brackett, "they can learn about all the different industries in agriculture. They also have workshops put on by different colleges and organizations that teach them to be a better leader or how to do better community service or get more participation in their chapters. There is a huge range of things that they can possibly do at the fair. Some of the seminars are like 'Where does your food come from?' kind of subjects."

The group is also currently selling raffle tickets for a grand prize to be drawn on March 8 – a large YETI cooler filled with other prizes, donated by Willits Frontier Days, T&T Towing, 101 Trailer and RV, Spackman's, Willits Power & Hardware, Monkey Wrench, Cat's Meow, Imagination Station, J.D. Redhouse, and Coast Hardware.

Raffle tickets are available at J.D. Redhouse, where the prizes are displayed. Chances can also be purchased by FFA students. "You can call ahead and stop by the high school," said Case-

Read the rest of  
**Pancakes** | Over on page 11

## SPARETIME -GARDEN CENTER-

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299 East Commercial Street  
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Please feel free to visit our office for brochures, maps and additional information about the area

**(707) 459-7910**

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

# ‘Cocaine Bear’

**The Story:** Comedy horror human-butchery flick based on the real life saga of the infamous Pablo EskoBear. Red satchels filled with kilos of cocaine are dumped from an airplane over a Georgia state park. A mother bear finds the coke. Eats a kilo or two. Likes it. Goes on a berserker rampage.

**Not good for hikers. Not good for ruthless coke dealers (the late great Ray Liotta in his last film). Pretty hard on teenagers (Christian Convery and Brooklynn Prince).**

Equally hard on tough nurse mother (Keri Russell). Ditto for gun-toting, yet flirtatious park ranger (Margo Martindale). Bloody hell for innocent ambulance drivers (Kahyun Kim and Scott Seiss).

So much slaughter and gross dismemberments. All quite picturesque for popcorn-chomping film goers. The Bear herself is first rate, and if it were not CGI would deserve an Oscar nod.

**My Thoughts:** Already on my top 10 list for best movies of 2023. Shout out to director Elizabeth Banks and screenwriter Jimmy Warden for their lack of squeamishness. Sometimes gross dialogue and tasteless violence is a sign of refinement. Legs? Chomp ‘em off. Arms? Rip ‘em off. Brains? Splatter them all over the room and the actors. This is an apex predator flick, and (as a self-professed environmentalist) I loved every minute.

**Parents:** Despite the humor, it's too scary and too horrific in the butchery department for children.

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



## WCA's 'High off the Land' deadline is March 24

A Call to All Artists from the Willits Art Center: "Cannabis has a long and colorful history in Mendocino County, and it affects both residents and visitors in diverse ways. We are asking artists to visually interpret their own experiences with cannabis. How has it affected you or your environment? We are looking for work in any visual medium, both two and three-dimensional. We welcome and encourage both positive and negative responses. Those deciding on pieces for the show will be David Burton of the Grace Hudson Museum and Allysum Wier of the Arts Council of Mendocino. This show will open at the Willits Center for the Arts in May of 2023, Art Center Ukiah in June, and then Gualala Art Center in July, 2023. Proposals due March 24, 2023. For more information and registration go to: [gtn1950@gmail.com](mailto:gtn1950@gmail.com). WCA, 71 East Commercial Street.

# What's Happening Around Town

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S BACK!

### Thursday, March 2

**Willits Farmers Market:** The weekly Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm. Thursday, February 9, 3 to 5:30 pm.

### Monday, March 6

**Donkey Basketball FAA Fundraiser:** Hee-haw, hee-haw, Donkey Basketball is coming to Willits, a benefit for Willits Future Farmers of America: "Local residents prepare to ride real, live donkeys" in this showdown between Willits FFA students and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. Monday, March 6, at 7 pm, at the Willits High School gym, 299 North Main Street. Tickets at the door are: \$10 adults, \$8 students 7-12 grade, \$5 K-6 grade; advance tickets from Willits High School ag students are \$1 off. Donkeys provided by Donkey Sports, Inc. of Entiat, Washington.

### Wednesday, March 8

**Living Jukebox! at Brickhouse:** Richard "Tootrees" Jeske and Don Willis play songs you might know. From R&B to rock to country to jazz to folk, they have it covered! 12 to 2 pm, Wednesday March 8, at Brickhouse Coffee, corner of Commercial and Main.

### Thursday, March 9

**"Talk with your Supervisor" forum at Brickhouse Coffee:** The monthly open discussion with Third District Supervisor John Haschak, on the second Thursday of the month, from 10 to 11 am. "Bring your ideas and solutions to making Mendocino County a better place for all" – Supervisor Haschak. March 9, 10 to 11 am. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.

### Friday, March 10

**WCA Art Talk:** This month's Willits Center for the Arts "Art Talk" is set for Friday, March 10 at 6:30 pm. The subject is "Roman Architecture." WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-1726 or [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org)

**Fox and Bones at Shanachie:** Scott Gilmore and Sarah Vitort of Fox and Bones are energetic offbeat folksters with a retro pop-rock bent. "A-grade songwriting chops create accessible, relatable, and often heart-rending folk-rock music." Friday, March 10 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

### Saturday, March 11

**Poets Steve Hellman and Mike A'Dair at WCT:** Veteran poets Steve Hellman and Mike A'Dair read their poetry and prose at the Starlight Lounge series at the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, March 11 at 7 pm. Mike A'Dair, a longtime resident of Willits and newspaper reporter from 1990 to 2020, "holds the title of the most obscure poet in America." He is the author of two books on the Shakespeare Authorship Question and a book of poems, "The Recrudescence of the Supernatural." Steven Hellman, who teaches creative writing at Mendocino College, has published "poetry, fiction, memoir, journalism, reviews and translations in numerous publications" since his work first appeared in print in 1972 ... and has performed as a spontaneous spoken word poet since the early 1980s." A small donation at the door will be appreciated, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. An open reading will follow. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

**Dellow at Shanachie:** California based songsmith Dellow, in the vein of Bob Dylan and Tom Waits carries the tradition of wrapping the naked truth in a blanket of melody and prose uniquely familiar to the shared personhood of human experience." Saturday, March 11 at 8 pm.

### Sunday, March 12

**Senior Center Pancake Breakfast:** Sunday, March 12 from 8 to 11 am.

**Menu choices:** 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & Gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$8; \$7 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides: 3 slices bacon, \$2; 3 sausage links, \$2.

**Mary Norbert Korte Celebration:** A celebration of life and a book debut, "Jumping into the American River," for the late Willits resident and

MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM PRESENTS

## CANNABIS IN MENDOCINO COUNTY: OUR STORY

A GUEST SPEAKER SERIES & COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

**CANNABIS AND TOURISM: MOVING THE ECONOMY FORWARD**  
Saturday March 4, 1:00-3:00 pm

Program entry free as part of First Saturday Free Admission Day

The Mendocino County Museum has invited staff from the Counter Culture Museum and Archives to share their experience documenting and collecting the history of Cannabis and Counterculture. Join us for three thought provoking forums about preserving the evolving history of cannabis in Mendocino County.

In the second lecture of our Guest Speaker series, industry leaders, tourism experts, and community members will discuss the role of cannabis in Mendocino County.

A complete list of programs and additional details can be found on the Mendocino County Museum website.

**GUEST PANELISTS**

John Haschack and District Supervisor Gary Martin Willits Center for the Arts	Nikki Lastreto Journalist & Industry Leader Traci Pellar Mendocino Producers Guild	Jamie Peters-Connolly Visit Mendocino Jude Williams Activist & Educator
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**MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM**  
500 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490 (707) 459-2766 | [museum@mendocinocounty.org](http://museum@mendocinocounty.org)  
[www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum) | Open W, Th, Fr, 10 am - 4 pm. Sa & Su 12 - 4 pm

**WILLITS RAIL TRAIL**

Join us for an **IN-PERSON Community Meeting on the Willits Rail Trail!**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Thursday, March 23rd, 2023  
Drop in 6:00-8:00 pm  
Willits Community Center (City Hall)  
711 E Commercial St, Willits, CA

This is a joint event between the City of Willits and the Great Redwood Trail Agency to discuss the Willits Rail Trail and the Open House Plan for the rail.

[www.cityofwillits.org/235/Rail-Trail-Project](http://www.cityofwillits.org/235/Rail-Trail-Project)

Scan the QR code to visit the Project Website and RSVP to the event.

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alga

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**Starts Friday, March 10: Scream VI and 65**

## COCAINE BEAR

(R) 1 hr 35 mins  
**Friday:** 5:45 & 8:15pm  
**Sat/Sun.:** 3:15, 5:45 & 8:15pm  
**Mon.-Thurs.:** 5:45 & 8:15pm

Movie Times for March 3 thru March 9

## JESUS REVOLUTION

(PG13) 2 hrs  
**Fri.:** 4:45 & 7:30pm  
**Sat/Sun.:** 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30pm  
**Mon.-Thurs.:** 4:45 & 7:30pm

Masks Optional

## ANT-MAN & THE WASP: QUANTUMANIA

(PG13) 2 hrs 5 mins  
**Friday:** 5:10 & 8:00pm  
**Sat/Sun.:** 2:20, 5:10 & 8:00pm  
**Mon.-Thurs.:** 5:10 & 8:00pm  
**OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners**

Tightwad Tuesday Title for March 7 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!



**Saturday, March 11**

**Poets Steve Hellman and Mike A'Dair at WCT:** Veteran poets Steve Hellman and Mike A'Dair read their poetry and prose at the Starlight Lounge series at the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, March 11 at 7 pm. Mike A'Dair, a longtime resident of Willits and newspaper reporter from 1990 to 2020, "holds the title of the most obscure poet in America." He is the author of two books on the Shakespeare Authorship Question and a book of poems, "The Recrudescence of the Supernatural." Steven Hellman, who teaches creative writing at Mendocino College, has published "poetry, fiction, memoir, journalism, reviews and translations in numerous publications" since his work first appeared in print in 1972 ... and has performed as a spontaneous spoken word poet since the early 1980s." A small donation at the door will be appreciated, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. An open reading will follow. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.



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poet Mary Norbert Korte. With friends Dan Roberts, Linda Noel, Bill Ray, Iris Cushing, Jason Weiss, the Cosmic Family Band, and more. Sunday, March 12 from 2 to 6 pm, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Potluck: Bring a dish and stories to share. Info: Chris at 459-1099.

**Moontricks at BACE:** "While touring for their newly released album, 'Currents,' Moontricks will stop off in Willits to play an intimate show at BACE on Sunday, March 12, 7 to 11 pm. "Based in the rustic Kootenay mountains of Western Canada, Nathan Gurley and Sean Rodman of nationally renowned electro-folk duo Moontricks draw inspiration from the ongoing cycles of the natural world." BACE, 109 North Main Street. Tickets at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/moontricks-in-willits-tickets-476841655227](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/moontricks-in-willits-tickets-476841655227)

### Ongoing Events

**Willits Garden Club monthly meeting:** Garden-related speakers and programs every month at 11:30 am on the second Tuesday at BACE on Sunday, March 12, 7 to 11 pm. "Based in the rustic Kootenay mountains of Western Canada, Nathan Gurley and Sean Rodman of nationally renowned electro-folk duo Moontricks draw inspiration from the ongoing cycles of the natural world." BACE, 109 North Main Street. Tickets at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/moontricks-in-willits-tickets-476841655227](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/moontricks-in-willits-tickets-476841655227)

**"Cannabis in Mendocino County: Our Story":** Exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum's Long Gallery, by Guest Curators Richard Jergenson and Annie Waters, who have shared displays and collections from their Counter Culture Museum and Archives. Plus guest speaker series. The exhibit is on display through March 19. Curators Jergenson and Waters will be available as docents for the public to engage in conversation on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Info: [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum)

**Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl:** "Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Game starts at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of two, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've got everything you need!" Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main Street.

**The Redwood Empire Food Bank:** Twice-monthly drive-thru food distribution in Willits, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, located in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields, 9:30 to 11:30 am. Groceries to go, senior basket (for low-income seniors 60 or older), and diapers.

**"Garraoke" at Diggers Bar:** Karaoke night the second and fourth Friday of every month, with host and DJ Garrett Moore. "From 8 pm to midnight, then get down until closing!" Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

**Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 pm:** The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: [bbruneau@bbruneau.com](mailto:bbruneau@bbruneau.com).

**Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym:** Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers a free karate program for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 pm. Beginner to intermediate group, youth 7 years old and above. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Mike Tobin SENSEI at 354-0565. Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street.



## Danish folk band Gangspil

to perform at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 pm

**By Steve Hellman, for WCT**

In their local debut performance, award-winning Danish folk band Gangspil will grace the Willits Community Theatre stage on Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 pm. For a lively and varied journey through Scandinavian folk traditions, Sonnich Lydom and Kristian Bugge perform old dance tunes and songs from every corner of their home country. From the rural islands to the metropolis of Copenhagen, they deliver the sounds and lyrics of wild polkas and jigs to lyrical waltzes, fiery reels and happy hopsas.

In 2016 Gangspil was awarded the equivalent of the Danish Grammy for Traditional Danish Folk Band of the Year. In the same year, Bugge was also awarded "Musician Instrumentalist of the Year."

With Lydom on fiddle and Bugge on diatonic accordion and harmonica, the band ventures into exotic "Sønderhoning" dance tunes from the famous island of Fanø and other long-forgotten Nordic tunes. They have performed widely throughout North America with more than 120 shows to date. Their double album "Gangspil 2" is presently available in CD from the Go' Danish Folk Music label.

The band's vocal performances are also spiced with humor and stories from their many years on the road. Bugge says, "We're really looking forward to visiting Willits and sharing our lively and soulful music."

For a rare treat from one of the leading Scandinavian folk bands, the Gangspil performance at the WCT playhouse is not to be missed. Tickets are \$20 and available online at [www.wctperformingartscenter.org](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org), or at the door until sold out.



## SHAMROCK SHOWDOWN FRIDAYS

**6PM - Midnight**

3 Winners each hour will shoot for the loot. Win Free Play for every basket made before time runs out!

**St. Pat's Day · March 17**

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at Creekside Café

**Bucks O' Luck Plinko**  
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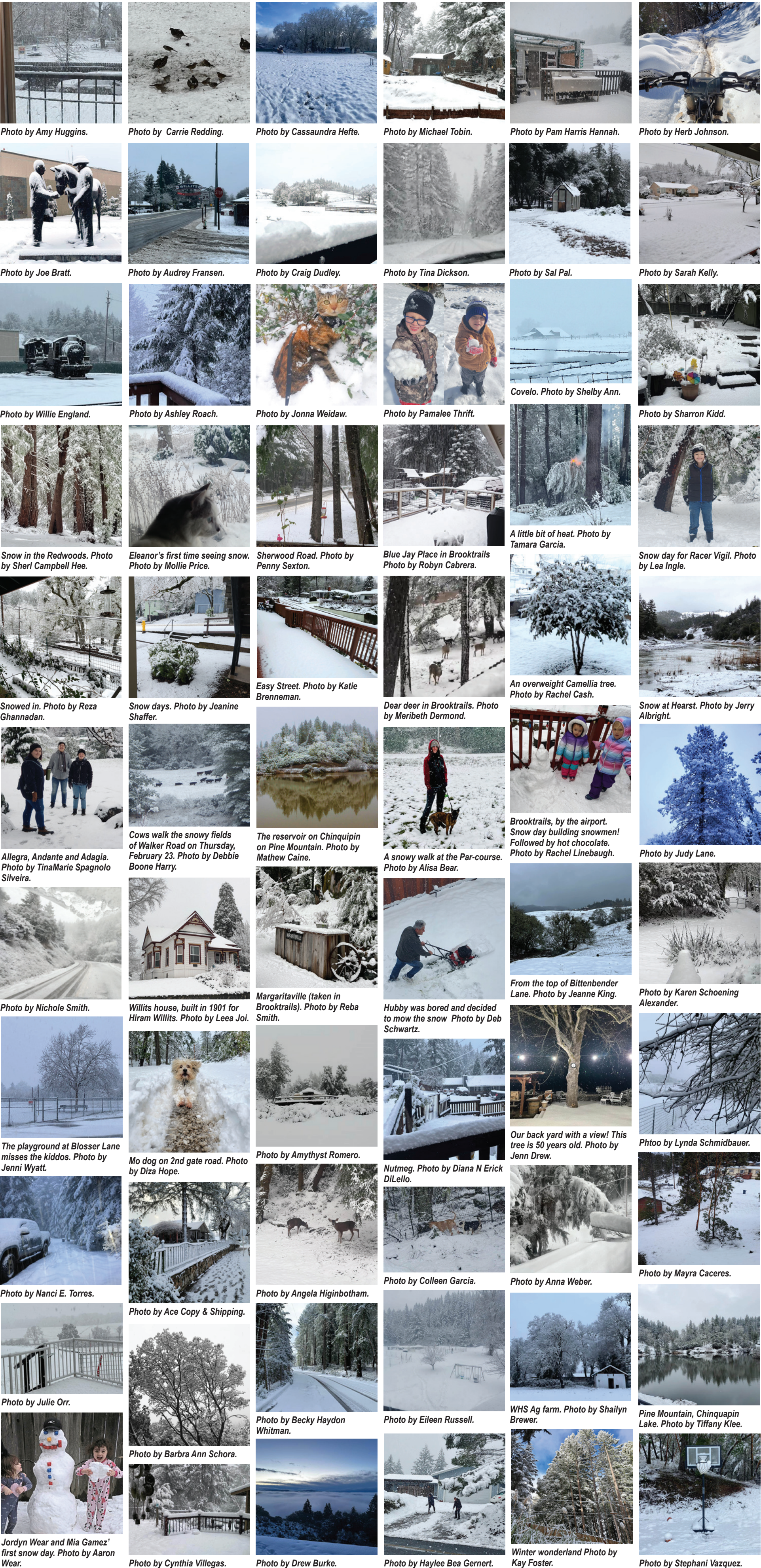
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Management reserves the right to cancel or modify any promotion at any time without notice.

For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.





LEGAL NOTICES

WW415 Fictitious Business Name Statement 2023-F0051 The following person is doing business as Greenstone Landscapes, 6301 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 95490. Registered owners: Johan and Erin Henckell, 6301 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 9549. This business is conducted by a married couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on July 30, 2008. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 27, 2023. /s/ Johan Henckell Publication dates: February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 2023

WW414 Fictitious Business Name Statement 2023-F0061 The following corporation is doing business as Rosco Transport, 7401 Lorene Road, Redwood Valley, CA 95470. Registered owner: Rosco Corporation, 7401 Lorene Road, Redwood Valley, CA 95470. This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 26, 2023. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 2, 2023. /s/ Ross Mayfield III, CEO Publication dates: February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 2023

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

WW418 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE A PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE, ADDING SECTION 12.10, TO PROVIDE FOR A PROCESS TO REVIEW AND APPROVE OR DENY ABANDONMENTS OF CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY The City has received periodic inquiries from the public about the potential to abandon various rights-of-way in the City. These inquiries often occur when there is a right-of-way, such as an alley, that appears to no longer be serving a public purpose. Property owners adjacent to the right-of-way may be interested in the abandonment of the public property, and a transfer of the former right-of-way to the private adjacent properties. California's Streets and Highways Code (Division 9, Part 3, Sections 8320 through 8325, inclusive) define the various right-of-way and public service easements that are within a jurisdiction's power to vacate. However, there has been no established procedure for citizens to request the abandonment of a right-of-way within the City of Willits. This proposed municipal code amendment would add Chapter 12.10—Right-of-way Abandonment to Title 12 – Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Places of the City's municipal code. Chapter 12.10 establishes the authority of Council to act on an abandonment request, prescribes the application process, and provides the findings Council must make to approve an abandonment request. The City has also created the appropriate application materials for prospective abandonments, including application forms and instructions, template utility company letters, and template notification letters. The City will require payment of a deposit by applicants to initiate abandonments, and staff's costs processing the applications will be billed against the deposits. The Willits City Council shall convene at a duly noticed council meeting on March 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial St., Willits, California, to consider, among other things, adoption of the aforementioned proposed ordinance. This summary of the proposed ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code, Section 36933. The full text of the proposed ordinance shall be posted in the office of the Willits City Clerk for at least five (5) days prior to the City Council meeting of March 8, 2023. /s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk Publication Date: March 2, 2023

Marc Komer Legal Document Assistant An Affordable Non-Attorney Service (707) 459-2775 245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits BY APPOINTMENT ONLY I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.



Mendocino County invites applications for:

Auditor/Appraiser \$67,828 - \$82,451

Corrections Deputy \$54,184 - \$65,873

Custodian \$37,544 - \$43,472

Department Analyst II \$65,416 - \$79,497

Deputy District Attorney I/II/III \$74,921 - \$120,411

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

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II \$62,628 - \$87,214

Eligibility Specialist II \$47,132 - \$57,324

Emergency Services Coordinator \$84,531 - \$102,752

Juvenile Corrections Officer \$50,710 - \$61,630

Juvenile Corrections Officer – Extra-Help \$24.38 hourly

Network Systems Analyst I \$74,443 - \$90,459

Program Specialist I/II \$50,897 - \$68,244

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

Senior Auditor/Appraiser \$74,942 - \$91,083

Senior Program Manager \$92,705 - \$112,694

Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D \$48,942 - \$92,206

Social Worker Assistant I/II \$40,206 - \$51,292

Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C \$70,387 - \$99,028

Supervising Deputy Probation Officer \$69,659 - \$84,656

Supervising Permit Technician \$63,689 - \$77,417

Vocational Assistant \$37,024 - \$38,875

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca EOE

WW417 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN on that Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Willits City Council will conduct a Public Hearing at the Willits City Council Chambers, located at 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California on the following matter: To conduct a bi-annual review of proposed changes and charges in City fees and to adopt a resolution establishing said fees and charges, effective April 1, 2023. Information concerning the proposed fees and charges may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk during normal business hours at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California. All interested persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter. s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk Publication Dates: February 23, March 2, 2023

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CLASSIFIEDS

Car for Sale 2001 Hyundai Elantra. Not pretty, but dependable. \$1,200. Clear title. 707-459-2724. Please leave a message.

Indoor Yard Sale Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). Saturday, March 11 – 8 am to 4 pm

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

John Ford Ranch Beef John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$375.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$160.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian at 459-5049.

Firewood for Sale Fir, \$250/Cord; Oak, \$350/Cord; Kindling. Free delivery near Willits. \$45 delivery near Ukiah. Call (707) 456-0270 or (707) 354-2244

For Rent Clean Studio Apt. for rent, upstairs unit, W/D Facility on hand; garbage paid. Close to downtown. \$750.00 per mo. Armo 707-459-9601.

For Rent Cabin for Rent on Eel River 15 miles NE of Willits. \$1200/mo + utilities. Wifi available. 1 bedroom+. Cats or small dog OK. References please. 707-228 6225.

Room for Rent Room for Rent. Must work, have references. No pets. No drugs. \$600 including utilities. Available now. 707-354-0287.

For Sale Manufactured Home For Sale. To be moved. 2022 manufactured home double-wide two-bedroom two-bath. 935 ft located in Willits. \$79,500. Call 559-999-5080.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent Space for RVs and Trailers \$25 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at http://www.oaknvine.net/tp

Have You Had a Spiritual Experience? Join us for a lively discussion on spiritual experiences with a starter topic on dreams. Come share or just listen! Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, Saturday, March 11, 2023, 10 to 11 am.

Willits Food Bank Open Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food in the Willits area. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the front office at 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits CA 95490 – knock or leave in the locked mailbox in front. Food distribution is available at the back door on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks! Email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com

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WILLITS CROSSWORD

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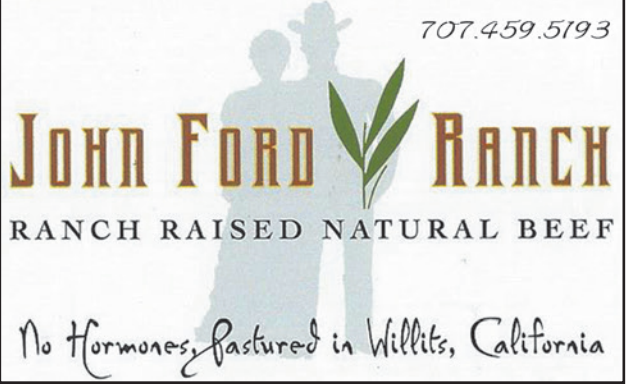




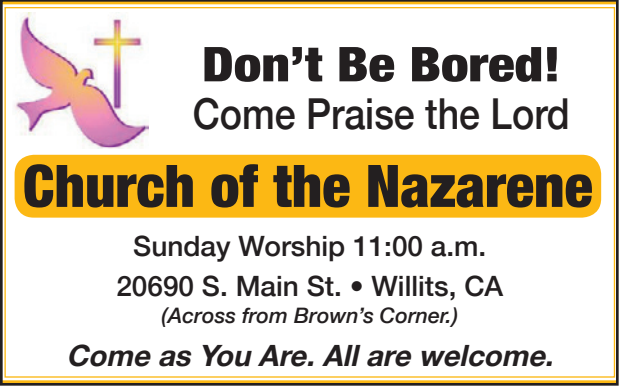
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## Congrats LLFD Division Chief Eric Alvarez

Congratulations to Little Lake Fire Department's Eric Alvarez for his recent promotion to Division Chief.

Eric has been part of the family since 2012 and was hired in 2017 as the Training Chief. In 2021, Eric added to his responsibilities of taking over the Fire Marshal position with the departure of the prior fire chief, and he continues to respond day and night to fire calls.

Thank you, Eric, for your dedication. We recognize all of the birthdays, anniversaries, and family gatherings you have missed due to fire calls, meetings, training, and out-of-town classes, and we appreciate it more than you will ever know! We also want to thank your family for giving you up!

– Posted by Willits Station 54



At top: New Little Lake Fire Department Division Chief Eric Alvarez, with his wife, Jodi, at left, and his daughters Kylie and Alyssa (who is also a member of Little Lake Fire), at right.

Above: LLFD Division Chief Eric Alvarez gets his new badge pinned on by his wife, Jodi.

## Orange Pumpkin

Pumpkin came to us on the skinnier side, so he is lapping up all the food we have to offer to get him back to a healthier weight. This beautiful boy just loves to be close to you, whether it is sitting on your lap, getting head scratches, or being held, this guy likes it all.



The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Pumpkin or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendocinanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendocinanimalshelter.com).

## Spirited Willie

Willie is dog-friendly. He is dominant, however, and a little food-aggressive. He doesn't share with other dogs and takes a while to get comfortable with new people. He is energetic and playful, and would be a great hiking buddy (on-leash kind of guy!) Willie is protective of his people and is not by any stretch for a beginner; he is a dog for a very experienced home. Adults only.



To learn more about Willie or view other adoptable animals, visit [www.milofoundation.org](http://www.milofoundation.org) or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

## Petite Suzy Q

Meet our adorable Miss Suzy Q. This stunning gal is only a year old and the perfect size, weighing in at 30 pounds! She might take a day or two to get used to you, but when she does, she is the sweetest girl. Miss Suzy Q loves squeaky toys, booty scratches, and of course treats. Suzy Q has been lucky enough to go to foster homes a few times where we have learned she seems to be potty trained, does well with dogs, cats, horses, and chickens. Come meet this beautiful gal soon! She is waiting for you!



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: [www.mendohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com), our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).





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## The rest of Pancakes

Brackett. Additionally, tickets can be bought online at: [www.facebook.com/willitshighschool](http://www.facebook.com/willitshighschool) or [www.instagram.com/willits.fia](http://www.instagram.com/willits.fia). Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

The FFA is also participating in the annual Donkey Basketball game against the Mendocino County Sheriffs on March 6, 7:30 pm at the Willits High School Gym, in order to raise additional funds. The public is invited to experience this zany and fun event.

The Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast takes place once a month on the fourth Sunday, 8 to 11 am. Diners get a choice of sourdough, buttermilk, or gluten-free pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, coffee, and OJ. Adults pay \$10, children \$5. Seniors can get a slightly scaled-down breakfast for \$9 (one egg, one rasher of bacon). Extras include seasonal organic fruit \$2 to \$3, or freshly made fruit compote. A popular extra is the pure maple syrup.

"We are very proud to serve real Michigan maple syrup that has been raised on an Amish farm," explained Richard Jergenson. "I know that because I've visited that farm and I got to follow the first horse-drawn tap of the season. I saw him load the maple into the stainless-steel vats in his 'sugar shack.' It was basically a 40-to-one reduction. It took 40 gallons of the sap to make one gallon of the syrup."

The Grange Pancake Breakfast is an institution in Willits. Little Lake Valley denizens look forward to the once-a-month gathering, where they can enjoy a good healthy and hearty meal and have a chance to sit with their friends.

"One of the magical aspects of the Grange Pancake Breakfasts is that we have these round tables and you never know who you're going to meet. It could become a transformative moment," said Jergenson.

By the end of the morning, the volunteers of the Grange, with the assistance of the members of the FFA, served 236 breakfasts, with proceeds going to help the Willits FFA pay for their trip to the Southern California conference which will help them on their quest to learn as much as possible about farming, ranching, educational opportunities, and careers.

## The rest of Covelo

other crimes that had been discovered.

During their investigation, it is suspected that prior to the Keith's Market incident, Capskis had been walking south in the 79000 block of Highway 162, where deputies received reports of vandalized businesses, a possible arson at the Round Valley Health Clinic and multiple reported burglaries.

On February 25, 2023 at about 11 am, Capskis was located in Covelo and placed under arrest for the following crimes, including: robbery (212.2(C) PC), assault with a deadly weapon (245(A)(1) PC), criminal threats (422 PC), elder abuse (368(B)(1) PC, felony vandalism (594(B) (1) PC), and violation of felony probation (1203.2 PC) all related to the Keith's Market incident.

Capskis was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$50,000.00 bail. (Editor's Note: According to the Mendocino County Jail booking log, Capskis was released on February 28 at 4:35 pm.)

Deputies are continuing to conduct follow-up investigations into the other reported crimes and are working closely with the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority arson investigator in an attempt to determine the cause of the fire at the Round Valley Health Clinic.

A special thanks to the Round Valley Tribal Police Department for assisting in locating Capskis.

*Editor's Note: Updates from the Round Valley Health Clinic state there was minimal fire damage and moderate smoke damage to clinic facilities, as well as vandalism to the dental clinic. Between damage and the weather, the clinic has been closed except for medication pickup on Tuesday, but hoped to reopen Wednesday afternoon.*

## The rest of FEMA

Point Arena City Hall, 451 School Street Point Arena; hours of operation: 8 am to 6 pm daily

Specialists at the recovery center can clarify information you received from FEMA or other agencies; they can explain the rental assistance available to homeowners and renters; and they can fax your requested documents to a FEMA processing center and scan or copy new information or documents needed for case files.

Residents who had uninsured or underinsured damage and losses resulting from the severe storms and flooding are encouraged to apply to FEMA, although you do not need to visit a Disaster Recovery Center to apply.

Here are other ways to apply:

Go to DisasterAssistance.gov, use the FEMA mobile app or call the FEMA Helpline at 800- 621-3362. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. Helpline operators are available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for an interpreter who speaks your language.

For an accessible video on how to apply, go to youtube.com/watch?v=WZGpWl2RCNw

## The rest of History

Buffie Schmidt; and

THEREFORE, the Willits City Council does hereby join other communities in the nation in proclaiming the month of March to be Women's History Month and to recognize and celebrate the 39th Anniversary of the Women's History Gala Celebration on March 5, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the CITY OF WILLITS to be affixed this 22nd day of February 2023.

Greta Kanne, Mayor

City Council of the City of Willits

## The rest of Contract

to amend the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program budget was presented at the meeting by MCD Director Kristin Nevedal and included several changes, but the attempt to cut the \$6.8 million out of direct grant money definitely caused the biggest stir.

Nearly \$17.6 million of LJAGP grant funds were awarded by the state to Mendocino County in January 2022, and the program is intended to help applicants transition from provisional to annual state licenses, with a specific aim of helping them get through their California Environmental Quality Act requirements according to Nevedal.

The General Government Committee members, Third District Supervisor John Haschak and Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren, did not give a recommendation one way or the other on the item on Monday, but did decide to send the issue on to the full board for a discussion at the upcoming March 28 meeting.

They asked that county staff bring back a clearer picture of budget projections for the next couple years to help the supervisors figure out the best way to move forward, given what Nevedal described as a lack of revenue and increased need for staffing at the MCD to speed up processing of applications.

Negative reactions during public comments from the cannabis community were plentiful for the item, though some did also commend Haschak and Mulheren after it became clear they would not be recommending that the full board approve it.

The changes laid out by Nevedal and the MCD in their recommendation would cut LJAGP direct grant money from around \$10.4 million to \$3.6 million, would increase MCD "technical assistance" staffing money from around \$838,000 to \$3.6 million, and would increase money for contract planners and services from around \$1.6 million to nearly \$7.1 million. Both the MCD staffing and contractor funding would be through fiscal year 2023/24.

Nevedal said the increase in funding for MCD would potentially allow them to increase staffing from an original plan of 13 fulltime employees at the department up to 22 through June of 2024.

The increase in contract planner funding would allow them to hire 20 contract planners, up from an original plan of six.

Though with the full board passing the 4Leaf contract on Tuesday, Nevedal said they could already expect 20 contract planners that the company has available to be helping out very soon, albeit for a shorter period of time- likely not past the end of this year.

These 20 extra planners, combined with seven MCD planners on staff, would give them 27 total – a goal put forward by the department in order to get those in the county with state provisional licenses renewed on time, and to process other applicants more quickly as well.

She said the \$1.6 million contract, paid with LJAGP money, would go into effect immediately once signed and continue until the money was expended.

During her presentation at the GGC meeting, Nevedal laid out the reasons why she felt shifting the LJAGP funding from direct grants to the MCD was necessary.

"When we created the budget for the department there were no costs set aside or finances for county counsel services," she said. "So that is a new expense to the department that was not previously considered."

"Additionally we did not consider 22 fulltime staff persons for the department when we crafted this," she continued. "The timelines were much different at the time.... Again, I really had no idea how much time would go into the reviewing of applications because I didn't have a good idea of where the materials were at."

"And we also anticipated being able to start our application review in January of 2022 which was pushed out due to the corrections portal," she added. "Also we couldn't staff more than we managed to staff at the location we were at, at the time. So there's a number of pieces here

that just have created some real challenges."

Earlier at the meeting during the monthly MCD report, Nevedal said that each cannabis application generally takes around 200 hours of staff time to process, while each renewal takes about 100 hours.

"So 200 hours is what we anticipate being the longest period of time," said Nevedal, "but it's hard to know where applications lie in ready to process and not ready to process so to speak."

Nevedal said that the 200 hours included "significant back and forth between the planner assigned that application and the applicant," and often included guiding applicants in completing their Appendix G- the main environmental checklist in the county application. Though she acknowledged applicants sometimes choose to take on the Appendix G themselves or with the help of a consultant instead.

Scott Ward, a former county building official who now consults for cannabis applicants, thought that the MCD spending that long on each application was "ridiculous."

"200 hours per application works out to about 6 to 8 hours per page of a 25-page application, not including the Appendix G," he said, "That seems an extraordinarily long amount of time for a ministerial permit application.... It's way too long."

Supervisor Mulheren explained why she was skeptical about immediately recommending the drastic shift in the grant funding to the full board.

"I understand without a track record of quickly processing applications, this is a shocking conversation," she said. "Especially when it has been known or announced that there would be \$10 million in funds for direct grants. If you break down the needs for what applicants need, it could be \$12,000, it could be hundreds of thousands of dollars."

"I would like to see, first of all, the 4Leaf contract approved and to see both the consultants and our staff really get through some applications," she added. "I would like to see what kind of grant asks come in because we don't even know what to expect at this point, of how many people are going to be seeking these grants."

Mulheren also said she was aware of other possibilities of state funding which could help the county out with their cannabis program.

"There are a couple things that the state could potentially help us with," she said, "and part of that looks like, in my opinion, extending the timeline, but also helping us find funds for specifically the environmental part of the licensing process."

"But we haven't had those conversations with the state yet," she continued. "And so I understand the need and the urgency – but I'm also concerned that there might be an ability to find a different resource rather than make this amendment now."

The Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, which represents many local farmers, wrote a three-page memo strongly opposing the plan to amend the grant budget.

"For the last 15 months or more, local licensees have been told repeatedly that these critical funds would be made available to them directly to manage expensive and complicated CEQA compliance to transition from Provisional to Annual Licenses," the memo read. "To this point there is no real confidence that MCD can actually manage the required workload even if their funding were increased.... With only 6 annual [state] cultivation licenses in Mendocino today and the loss of continued equity funding for our county (which has around 250 Equity designated licensees), the loss of these committed funds for applicants would be another nail in the coffin for the operators struggling to remain in the program."

Tamara Kislak, a local farm owner and operator, said she appreciated the caution from Mulheren, but was "personally extremely offended" about the idea to shift the money out of direct grants.

"\$17 million were given from the state to the County of Mendocino to help us get through this process," she said. "Originally I was pretty shocked

that \$7 million of it was going to go to bureaucracy and stuff, but I fully understand that you need an efficient process to get this stuff done.

"It doesn't seem like the initial \$7 million was used to make that happen," she continued, "because it's been a year since this money's been sitting there, and this grant has not even come to applicants yet. Taking an additional \$6.8 million seems outrageous and offensive. I appreciate you holding off, but I would even urge you not to send it until you've been heard here again, because it seems like a waste of time."

There was some debate earlier at the meeting about the timeline of the rollout of the grant application window, since a budget document needed to apply had still not been made available online.

According to the county website, March 31 is now stated as the final day to apply for the grant, and applicants will be notified if they are approved in April.

Information and grant application forms are available at [www.mendocinocounty.org/departments/cannabis-department](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/departments/cannabis-department) under the "cannabis grants" link.

## Cannabis tax relief

Supervisors Haschak and Mulheren also sent the cannabis tax relief plan on to the full board of supervisors, though that item received a recommendation to approve from both.

If eventually approved by the board, the plan would put in place a 50% reduction in cannabis business tax for the years 2023 and 2024, implement an amnesty program for cannabis tax penalties and interest from the years 2019 through 2022, and offer a payment plan for those still owing taxes from 2019 to 2022.

Mulheren, who will be working with county staff to help come up with the best way to implement the plan, said that a 50% reduction in the county's cannabis tax would make it the lowest in the state for those two years.

Currently the county tax rate for cannabis cultivation is 2.5% of gross receipts, along with a minimum tax that ranges from \$1,250 to \$5000 per year.

"This is a temporary two-year reduction," said Mulheren. "After two years we should have a much better line of sight on how many people's licenses are approved, how many people we expect to be in the program, and be able to budget more accurately for future years."

Haschak explained why he was in support of the cannabis tax relief.

"This process that you're laying out here would reduce taxes going forward on people in these hard-hit times," said Haschak. "It would create a payment plan, and the payment plan would allow people to get back into being taxpayers."

"Because right now, my understanding is some people are just so overwhelmed from past taxes not being paid, and then they have to pay the penalties and interest and that's an increased burden," he added. "So they've kind of just thrown up their hands and given up. And so this would allow them to kind of, if they still want to, stay in the legal market."

Both Haschak and Mulheren talked about how those who are delinquent on taxes are currently "deprioritized" in the county cannabis program – meaning they are "ineligible for application review" until they fix the problem.

"They are still in the program, they're just deprioritized," said Mulheren. "And I think that when you look at the expenses of what it costs to be in the state cannabis program and the local program, it is incredibly expensive. And especially in the current market, people are very behind on the ability to pay for their state licensing and their taxes."

"This is just an effort to offer people an opportunity to reprioritize, stay in the program," she continued. "The penalties and interest are a lot, so an amnesty program would help quite a few people. And then for them to be able to take some more time to catch up on their taxes in this current market would also be helpful, so I'm just hoping that we're able to move forward on this."





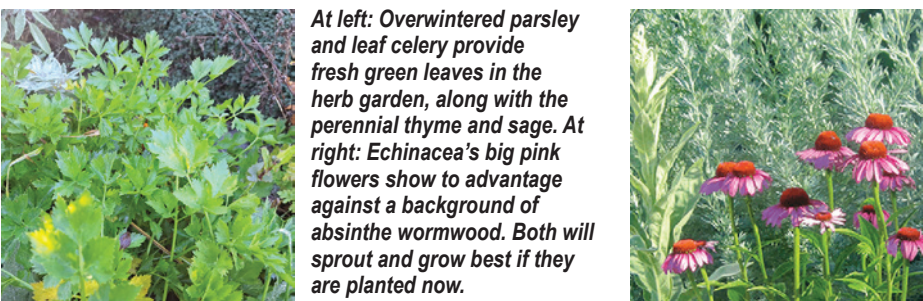
Above, from left: Lettuce is easy to start now for harvest in a little over a month, and the range of colors and types is huge. These seedlings are well on their way. Meadowsweet is one of the many herbs whose seeds need cold-conditioning before they will sprout. Both the leaves and the flowers have a wonderful scent of honey and almonds. Start breadseed poppies now, while the weather is cold. You can even sprinkle the seeds on snow-covered ground. They also need light to germinate, so don't cover them, just sprinkle on a tiny bit of soil, sand, or straw to hold them in place. There is a wide variety of poppies at quailseeds.com

Below, from left: Miner's lettuce will sprout and grow in the coldest soil. Sow now for spring salads, smoothies, and soups. Milkweeds, which are necessary to the life cycle of monarch butterflies, need a period in cold soil before sprouting. Italian Heirloom tomato has it all – early, high-yielding, and with great flavor both raw and cooked.



At top, from left: Calendula is an edible flower that attracts pollinators and herbalists. It's easy to start now because it needs to sprout in cool soil. The choice of hot peppers is wide and varied, but all peppers need warm conditions to sprout and grow. Cold will stunt their growth. Use heat mats, and don't transplant outside until summer. An early planting of peas will not bear pods much earlier than April plantings, but will give you tender leafy tips to clip for salad quite soon, especially under cover. Above, from left: Nothing grows faster than mizuna, the easiest early salad green. It is the dark-green, jagged, baby leaf found in spring mix. A good thing to start indoors now is early cabbage, to transplant outside in April. This Primo cabbage will be ready in time for salads, cooked dishes, and Baja-style tacos in midsummer. Spinach is best planted early, as it doesn't like hot weather. This is "Monster of Viroflay," a delicious French heirloom.

Below, left: You can start tomatoes now, as long as you plan on transplanting to larger pots before they go into the garden. This is local favorite Brazilian Beauty, a sweet and early salad tomato available only from Quail Seeds. Below, right: Arugula is easy to sprout now, and very fast-growing. Salad varieties like Astro are juicy and can get quite large. You can grow small plants to clip for salad in a sunny window.



At left: Overwintered parsley and leaf celery provide fresh green leaves in the herb garden, along with the perennial thyme and sage. At right: Echinacea's big pink flowers show to advantage against a background of absinthe wormwood. Both will sprout and grow best if they are planted now.

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

## March: Think like a seed

March is time to start the first peas, lettuce, Asian greens, broccoli, and so on. This early, you'll want to get things started in pots under cover. But in little pots, things can go wrong fast. Understanding and feeling your little plants' needs will do more to keep them thriving than all the lists and rules in the world.

**Jamie Chevalier**  
Columnist

Here's what happens when you plant a seed: Inside each seed is a tiny living plant, called "the germ." It's alive, but asleep. It's protected by a hard seed coat, and provided with food in the form of hard starch. This embryonic plant is dormant (French for "sleeping") until water, warmth, and light wake it up. The seed absorbs water from the soil, swells, bursts the seed coat, and starts to grow.

As soon as the germ wakes up, it makes a root. It senses which way is up, and extends the root downwards. Only after the root is established does it make a stem and start to grow upward. The starchy part of the seed sits on top of the new stem and turns green when it reaches the light. This is the cotyledon. It looks like a leaf, but it's actually what's left of the seed. It feeds the plant until the true leaves emerge.

**Water:** Seeds need water to break dormancy, soften the seed coat, and hydrate the inside of the seed. Moist, not soggy, soil gives seeds and young plants what they need to grow.

Instead of a hard seed coat, some vegetable seeds have natural chemicals on the outside that prevent sprouting. These germination inhibitors ensure the seed doesn't sprout too soon, when there isn't enough water for a plant to grow. The umbel family – carrots, parsnips, parsley, cilantro, fennel, and dill – all have inhibitors. Beets, chard, and spinach have milder inhibitors. These seeds will all sprout much faster if you soak them for 2 to 4 hours, rinse them well under the tap (in a strainer!), and plant them while still wet. Carrots and parsnips especially benefit from this treatment.

**Air:** Plants need air, like we do. Seeds that sit more than a few hours in water will rot and die. If the soil is soggy, water fills all the spaces between soil particles and the roots die from suffocation. Root rot, wilting, and damping off (plants fall over at soil level) are symptoms of too much water / not enough air. After seeds have sprouted, let the surface dry a bit between waterings. Moving air is best – plants, like us, get weak if they don't move.

**Warmth:** Willits has had colder springs the past few years. You may need to ensure more heat for your seedlings than you did in the past. Heat mats can speed up germination considerably. You can also add heat by using a hot frame, which is a compost pile (or wet wood chips) covered with soil and enclosed to hold in heat.

Moist soil will be about 10 degrees colder than the air, so even indoors, a heat mat helps. Lettuce, peas, and carrots need soil at least 50 degrees. Cabbage, broccoli, kale, and tomatoes want soil nearer 70 degrees. Note that even some vegetables that can survive frost as plants, still need warmish soil for germination.

**Light:** Vegetables and flowers need brighter light than home lighting provides. But you don't need special grow lights. A cheap plug-in "shop light" with fluorescent or LED tubes is great. Keep it 6 to 8 inches above the seedlings. Stretched-out plants are too far away. Bleached or shriveled leaves are too close. A sunny window sill can work, but it can also desiccate tiny plants before you know it. If using a south window, use larger pots that stay moist longer.

**Soil:** While plants need air, they also need the firm embrace of the soil around them. Firming the soil after planting ensures that water can get to the seeds from below by capillary action. It holds the seeds in place so they can orient themselves and send roots downward. A major cause of seed failure is when seeds shift position each time they're watered, so they exhaust their food supply before they can root effectively. Living soil contains millions of lifeforms, many of which form partnerships with young plants to help feed and nurture them in return for some of the energy plants get from the sun.

**Balance:** If you understand these needs, you develop a feel for when your seedlings have too little of a vital element, or too much of a good thing. This is a green thumb – the human mind in sympathy with the living plant.

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

## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

### Agape Bible Church

290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Where love is first  
and the Bible is central.  
Sunday Services:  
10:00 a.m. - Worship  
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
[www.agapebiblechurch.com](http://www.agapebiblechurch.com)

### Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-5456  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Burton Jernigan  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

### Church of Christ

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

### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive  
Willits, CA 95490  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
Sacrament Meeting  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

- Sound of Soul events
- Membership Discourses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?  
Call 530-224-8703  
[www.eckankar.org](http://www.eckankar.org)

### Grace Community Church

Celebrating Life In Christ  
25 Hazel Street, Willits  
Modified Worship Service  
10 a.m.  
Other ministries suspended  
for now.  
For appointments call:  
(707) 459-3106

### St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Confessions by appointment:  
459-2252  
Sunday Mass inside:  
9:00 a.m. English  
10:30 a.m. Spanish  
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Covid guidelines apply.  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

### St. Francis Episcopal Church

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

### St. John Lutheran Church

Church Service:  
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
ALL ARE WELCOME

### Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714  
Friendly, open worship  
Saturdays  
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
Zoom Transmission Available.  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting - 6:00 p.m.  
399 W. Mendocino Ave.  
All are welcome!

### Willits United Methodist Church

Labyrinth and Peace Garden  
A place to find comfort  
where all are welcome  
Pastor Rosemary Landry  
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
707-459-2855  
[wumc@willitsonline.com](mailto:wumc@willitsonline.com)  
[www.willitsumc.org](http://www.willitsumc.org)  
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