

# Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 582

Thursday, March 6, 2025

## Council chooses northeast corner for park pavilion

B.B. Kamaroff  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Plans for Bud Snyder Park (City Park) and the park pavilion were finally settled at the February 12 Willits City Council meeting.

Four council members unanimously approved constructing the pavilion in the northeast corner of the park. Mayor Larry Stranske recused himself because he owns property within 500 feet of the park, a legal conflict of interest.

The pavilion's location generated a lot of debate at prior public meetings and again at the February 12 meeting. The original plan

Read the rest of **Pavilion**  
Over on Page 9

## Judge dismisses case against Auditor Cubbison

By Mike Geniella,  
mendofever.com

Criminal charges were dismissed last week against Mendocino County Auditor Chamise Cubbison, who was, in fact, labeled a “whistleblower” by Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman.

Moorman's February 25 ruling ended a high-profile case that spanned two years, rocked county government, and provoked allegations that District Attorney David Eyster had targeted Cubbison, a fellow elected county official. After she challenged his office's spending.

Tuesday's decision was a stinging rebuke to Eyster and an emotional victory for Cubbison, co-defendant Paula June Kennedy – the county's former Payroll Manager – and the lawyers who represented them.

“The judge did the right thing,” said Chris Andrian, a noted Sonoma County defense attorney who represented Cubbison. Kennedy attorney Fred Ricco McCurry, a Mendocino County Public Defender, had pleaded with Judge Moorman to toss the case “in the interest of justice.”

Cubbison's civil attorneys said Tuesday evening that now that she is free of the criminal case, they will push for her return as the elected Mendocino County Auditor/Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector.

San Francisco attorney Therese Cannata said, “On behalf of Ms. Cubbison, we will be demanding

Read the rest of **Cubbison**  
Over on Page 9



Photo by  
Maureen  
Jennison

# We're Back!

### Willits Weekly reemerges as spring approaches

Like spring itself, Willits Weekly is excited to be awakening from our break, and we're really pleased to be bringing you this, our first edition of 2025.

Maureen Jennison  
Graphics & Photographress  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

While the time off was wonderful for relaxing, healing and regrouping, we know the community has been chomping at the bit – yes, yes, patiently, thank you!! – for our return, and we are here for it!

We have some exciting things on the horizon right away: Our popular Meet the Merchants booklet (yes, the one with all the photos of the people at local businesses, and more) will be coming out on March 20. Also expect the 2025 Soroptimist International of Willits Community Phone Directory in our paper in the beginning of April. We plan to continue our quarterly-ish Living Well sections, start our Real Estate sections back up on the second week of the month; (March 13 will be section edition #101!), and will be partnering with Willits Frontier Days to bring you their program in June this summer.

As always, Willits Weekly is able to sustain itself as a free paper due to subscriptions, donations, and of course, advertising. We would love to have this grateful and amazing community help us continue, by supporting our paper in any or all of the following ways:

**Subscriptions:** Street subscribers are folks who routinely pick up a paper around town themselves each week, but don't have a paid subscription delivered to their address. This is obviously the most cost-effective for us, as we don't have to pay for delivery or postage. You can pick up the paper on our Thursday publication day, too, as paid subscriptions aren't delivered until Fridays. Street subscribers can become Willits Weekly subscribers by making an annual payment, \$75 or \$100 for the year, which helps us meet expenses to keep the paper going.

**Willits Weekly** loves our paid subscribers, too! We offer home delivery for \$75 a year – the local newspaper delivery crew throws your copy into your driveway early Friday morning. Mail delivery is also available; at \$100 a year, through the U.S. Postal Service, delivered with your mail on Fridays. See the form below to become a Willits Weekly subscriber of any type!

**Donations:** Just as they sound.... Do you have some extra funds that you want to give to a good thing? While we're not an official non-profit, there's lots of sweat equity

and love of the craft that goes into each edition. and we can always put extra finances to good use. With more revenue, we can increase the number of pages in any edition, allowing for more stories each week, or doing more promotion for local events, organizations, and businesses. Willits Weekly has a tip jar at our table at the Willits Farmers Market each Thursday afternoon, and we thank everybody who contributes there, too.

**Advertising:** Our display advertisers are essential for us and hopefully for you, too. Not only do we try to keep our rates extremely affordable in comparison to other print advertising options, we also include some ad design services. We do post our free newspapers online at willitsweekly.com – just as they appear in the newspaper – so all print ads become online ads, too, all for one cost.

People WANT to read our publications, and our free circulation in many locations around town means it's easy to pick up a Willits Weekly every week or just to check it out. Eyes on ads increase considerably with a popular, free circulation publication. Our color printer is amazing, and we love having our hyper-local color feature stories surrounded by vibrant ads.

Another rad thing that anyone can do, and it costs absolutely nothing, is to tell the advertisers that you saw their ad in the pages of our paper. Not only does that mean that, yes, you saw their ad, but also that you saw their ad! They love to hear this, and it encourages them to keep advertising which, again, helps us all the way back around.

A special extra thank you to our every-week, no-fail, uber-consistent, ongoing, dependable, amazing businesses who serve as the base to build our paper on each week. There's been some weeks when it's just been you guys – and we REALLY appreciate your commitment to our community newspaper!

We love doing the paper, and will continue to do so as long as we reasonably can – but, as always, we need this amazing community's continued support to do so – and not just in love (which we totally appreciate!!), but in dollars, too! While we sometimes feel like a guaranteed community service, which we are in some regards, we are indeed a women-owned, locally owned, small, independent BUSINESS, too – and we're really proud of all that.

We look forward to another year of wonderful content, highlighting this amazing Willits community which we get to call ours.

## New Fire Hazard Severity Zones for Willits

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The City of Willits is hosting a Public Forum this Thursday, March 6, starting at 4 pm, on the new map of Fire Hazard Severity Zones for the City of Willits that was released February 24 by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Incorporated cities in California didn't have state-designated fire hazard severity zones before (maps released last year were for state responsibility areas outside cities), so there's nothing to compare to, but a casual look at the map shows many Willits properties will be in “moderate” fire danger

Read the rest of **Zones**  
Over on Page 7

## Brooktrails appoints Mary Ziady to empty seat

Barbara O'Reardon  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township Community Services District board meeting began with President Tina Tyler-O'Shea asking for board approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting of February 11, 2025.

Of note in the recorded minutes was “Consideration of Ordinance 167 Amending Ordinance 76 Section 1-503 by Changing the Utility Bill Due Date from the Twentieth (20th) of the Month to the Last Day of the Month.” General Manager Tamara Alaniz confirmed that this will provide customers another eight to 11 days to pay their bill. The board had voted unanimously to approve the ordinance.

The next item on the agenda was “Reports from Directors,” and Director Susan Mahoney had a report regarding her attendance at her first Local Agencies Formation Commission, aka LAFCO, meeting in Ukiah. She said: “We had a workshop about the Potter Valley Irrigation District Municipal Services review, and because it involves a complicated situation regarding the PG&E removal of the dams, it took up most of the allotted time for the meeting.... It's a bit of a sticky wicket.” so the meeting was set to continue with a second half on Monday, March 3.

Brooktrails Counsel Chris Neary informed the board that his office is working on a memorandum

Read the rest of **Ziady**  
Over on Page 9



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
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In the mail:  1 year - \$100  Additional donation included \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Willits Community Phone Book 2025

To the Editor:

Soroptimist International of Willits is in production of the 2025 Willits Community Phone Book. We need the community's help with the updates.

If you have changed your phone number, cancelled your landline, need to add a cell phone number, or if you know of anyone who has moved or their number needs to be deleted, please let us know.

\*\*Also ... if you are a new business or resident and wish to be listed, please send us your information.

Our email address is willitsphonebook@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Vicki Ham, SI/Willits Phonebook Committee

## Help us support our community's essential needs

To the Editor:

As we at Willits Community Services celebrate the success of our recent Valentine's Day Murder Mystery Dinner, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors, participants, and local businesses that made this possible. Your support has been instrumental in helping us raise critical funds for our community.

The event, held at the historic Little Lake Grange, was a success, and we are so thankful for the use of their building. We encourage our community to show their appreciation by supporting the Grange's efforts to raise funds for a new roof.

The demand on our organization has been more than ever, and we are now serving in excess of 220 households twice a week. This represents a nearly threefold increase in just a few months, indicating the growing need for your support.

To date, we have raised a little over \$40,000 towards our winter goal of \$100,000; however, with federal aid potentially being cut and grant money increasingly becoming scarce, we need to rely heavily on local support from individuals, local businesses, and community leaders to continue providing these vital services.

We urge our community to come together during these critical times to make a donation and create an awareness of the support that is needed. Any donation, big or small,

will bring us closer to our goal.

Your support will help us:

• Continue providing essential services to our community's most vulnerable members

• Keep our doors open and our services accessible to those who need it the most.

We also invite volunteers to join us in senior deliveries, fundraising, and warehouse assistance.

Thank you again to our donors, participants, and local businesses. Your support is the lifeline our community needs. Please consider making a donation today. Your kindness and generosity will make a tangible difference in the lives of our community members.

**Kim Tippit**, executive director, Willits Community Services & Food Bank

## Winter Shelter Motel Rooms Program

To the Editor:

Welcome back, Willits Weekly! Here is an update on the Willits Winter Shelter Motel Rooms Program:

140 rooms have been rented out during December 2024, January and February 2025. \$11,291.14 was paid to the Redwood Inn so far. We plan to continue through March and April, offering motel nights to unhoused adults and also to families, one or two nights per month. Some families get more nights as it's so difficult for children to be sleeping outside or in a substandard shelter during the winter months.

We send our folks over to the Food Bank, Daily Bread and Brown Bag Lunch programs to help them be sure to have food while they're staying in the rooms.

Our motel program receives financial oversight from WELL. We are anticipating running out of funds before the program is done helping people stay warm and dry. Your donations help us to finish the winter season.

Please help by sending your checks to WELL at PO Box 42, Willits CA 95490. The food sources for those in need are also stretched. Please support them. By helping to keep the most needy in our community as healthy as possible, we strengthen our town's general health. Thank you

**Ruthanne Volz**, coordinator, Willits Winter Shelter Motel Rooms Program

## THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT March 2025 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

The County, along with Veterans, Seniors, and many others, is concerned about threats to cut essential programs. When Congress passed their budget, it included \$880 billion cuts to Medicaid. This program is MediCal in California. 47% of the residents of Mendocino County (41,000 people) are MediCal eligible. These draconian cuts would have a huge impact on our communities and services provided.

The annual Women's History Gala Celebration was held on March 2. Three women were honored. One was Willits' Saprina Rodriguez for her many contributions to the city and county. Saprina's focus on youth issues, sports, and transportation were highlighted. Fiona Ma, State Treasurer, spoke about the impact of federal cuts on all of us. There were also performances of Chinese orchestra music and traditional Mexican dances.

Val Muchowski has been the organizer of these Women's History events (and many other activities) for 40 some years. She has been a mentor of mine from when we were public education advocates together. Val is an icon in Mendocino County and has always been an energetic, tenacious, passionate advocate of women's issues and community causes. Best wishes to her as she moves to Sacramento to be near family.

Chamise Cubbison is back at work as Auditor/ Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector. Judge Moorman dismissed the case. I cannot say anything else since there is ongoing litigation.

The Board voted 4-1 (I was the dissenting vote) to not continue pursuing an ordinance to regulate water that is sold for commercial purposes. The problem has been that people drill a well, sell the water to a water truck which heads out to the hills. Without proving that the extracted water will not impact the neighbors' wells, neighbors are at the whim of new wells for commercial sales with no oversight. Former Supervisor McCourty and I had worked with community members from around the County on this draft ordinance. There were issues with it but that is why it was a draft. It failed due to fears of costs and lack of ability to enforce. We will see what happens when the next drought arrives.

I will be at the Brickhouse on March 13 at 10 am for lively discussions. As always, you can communicate with me at haschak@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-972-4214.

## 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

**Thursday, March 6:** Pork Chops, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

**Friday, March 7:** Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Veggies, Garlic Bread

**Monday, March:** 10: Hot Dogs, Chili, Mac & Cheese

**Tuesday, March 11:** Baked Chicken, Stuffing, Veggies, Roll

**Wednesday, March 12:** Chili Mac, Veggies, Corn Bread

**Thursday, March 13:** Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Pickle

**Friday, March 14:** Ham & Scalloped Potatoes, Veggies, Roll

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

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

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

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

- Would you like the bookmobile to have a browsable seed library?
- Would you like to have a computer station onboard the bookmobile?

Surveys are available on the Bookmobile and online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/book\\_mobile](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/book_mobile). Meetings will take place at the Willits Branch Library on Friday, March 7 from 1 to 2 pm, and at the Coast Community Branch library on Friday, March 14 from 1 to 2 pm. If you are not able to attend the meetings in person, there will be an online option available.

Mendocino County Library looks forward to your participation in this important community event! For more information or for the online meeting link, please visit [www.mendolib.org](http://www.mendolib.org) or contact Librarian Nayo Sicard at 707-234-2861 or [sicardn@mendocinocounty.gov](mailto:sicardn@mendocinocounty.gov).



## Taste Budz Opening

Popular vegan restaurant moves from Ukiah to Willits; hot bar, sandwiches, salads, smoothies and more available

On March 1, 2025, the world's first (or so it's believed) drive-through vegan restaurant opened to the delight of vegans and vegetarians in the Willits area. The day began at 7 am, when the window opened for motorists who wished to have some coffee and vegan breakfast treats, smoothie bowls, smoothies and shakes.

Mathew Caine features Willits Weekly at [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). Taste Budz had been a mainstay of the vegan world in Ukiah since 2012. Six years ago it was purchased by local Willits farmer and entrepreneur Cody Akin. Akin decided, along with co-owner Carol Laster, to move the operation to Willits, where he could be closer to his farm.

"I was raised Seventh Day Adventist, so I'm vegan, no dairy, nothing from the hoof, no bottom feeders," explained Akin. "I grew up with that but no meat ever. I was born and raised in Ukiah and went to Ukiah High School. I live down there, but I've been farming here for seven years. I have a cannabis farm here. I sell to the local dispensaries from here to Los Angeles. My brand is Taste Budz as well.

"My mom and my dad were very entrepreneurial. I grew up at a car wash, a detail shop and multiple laundromats. To this day, we have commercial properties. Taste Budz was the first of my own businesses. Even though there is a larger market in Ukiah, I wanted to be up here. The building down there was deteriorating. This is a way bigger location and better. I feel like most of my clientele comes from Willits, about 60 percent. It's about teaching the locals about healthy vegan food."

Many people stopped by for lunch and dinner as well on opening day. The Blue Zones Project (who had designated Taste Budz in Ukiah as their first certified establishment) gave a presentation, and at night, Garret Moore hosted "Garraoke" (karaoke) from 6 to 11 pm.

"Our hot bar menu changes daily. It's all from my mom's home cooking. We also have sandwich and salad specialties. We'll have weekly deals. It's all vegan and organic. We still have some of the Caribbean jerks (which

were staples of the original owners) but less than before. We've expanded past the island food. Whatever you eat at home, there's no reason you can't eat that at restaurants."

Whether one practices veganism for health, environmental and humanitarian concerns, or just for the flavors, Taste Budz seems to be creating a stir amongst the community. Prior to the grand opening, the restaurant opened to the public.

Willits Weekly encountered a vegan meet-up group one afternoon. Organized by Susan Craig, the first three members expressed their love of the restaurant and for veganism in general. "The group is total vegan because I'm seeking my people, seeking my tribe," explained Craig. "I'm just seeking kindred spirits to live according to vegan principles, with veganism as a moral baseline. It's not a diet. It really is about a commitment to not exploit others, not exploit sentient beings, human and non-human."

Another member, Noelle Kueberth, said: "I love this place. I am so happy about it. We have such a difficult time finding the things we want, we need, and desire."

The hot vegan bar changes daily, with such selections as Teriyaki Tofu, Soy Chicken and Broccoli, Buffalo Tofu, Turmeric Mashed Potatoes, Dumplings, Peanut Butter Stew with Sweet Potato, Black Eyed Peas and Rice Garlic Eggplant, Garlic Kale, Zucchini Squash, Sweet Potato Fries, and many other delectable creations. In addition, several varieties of sandwiches, salads, and smoothies are available.

Taste Budz, located at 349 South Main Street (in the old Dahvi's Kitchen building), is open from 7 am for the drive-through window, with the main restaurant open 11 am to 5 pm Monday through Saturday, and noon to 10 pm on Sunday. More info can be found at [www.facebook.com/tastebudz707](http://www.facebook.com/tastebudz707).

"People can phone in orders to 707-463-2253. We'll have Door Dash and other services as well," said Akin.

Taste Budz is a welcome addition to Willits cuisine, and hopefully one that will be around for many years.



At far left: Taste Budz has the world's first (self-proclaimed) vegan drive-thru window, open at 7 am daily for coffee and breakfast treats. At left: A menu board displays the many choices that are offered in addition to the hot bar. Below: Taste Budz was the first establishment certified by the Mendocino County Blue Zones.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, from left: The hot bar is stocked with healthy options that change daily, with dishes such as tofu, stews, turmeric mashed potatoes, and more. The Taste Budz patio will be open for al fresco dining. Many of the choices from the hot bar can fit on one plate. Below: The Taste Budz crew gathers for photo at their new location on Main Street: from left, Eliza Rios, Cody Akin, Tiffany Stanislou, Richard Stanislou II and Richard Stanislou III.



## JOIN US FOR LUNCH

10 Wood Street / Willits, CA

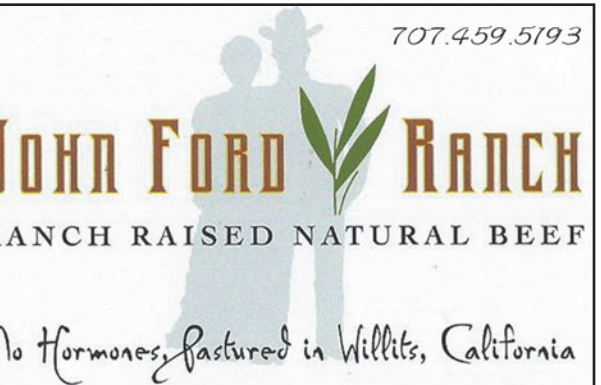


MONDAY - SATURDAY

10 AM - 3 PM

(707)459-1434

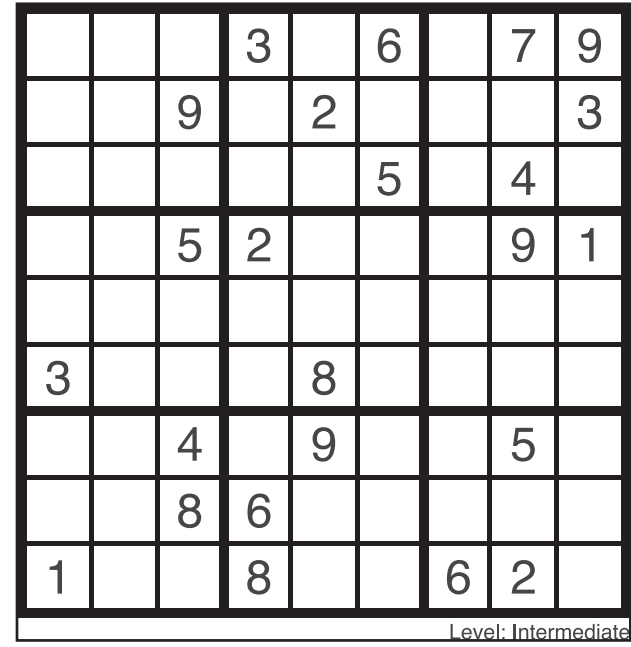
SCAN FOR FULL MENU





# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



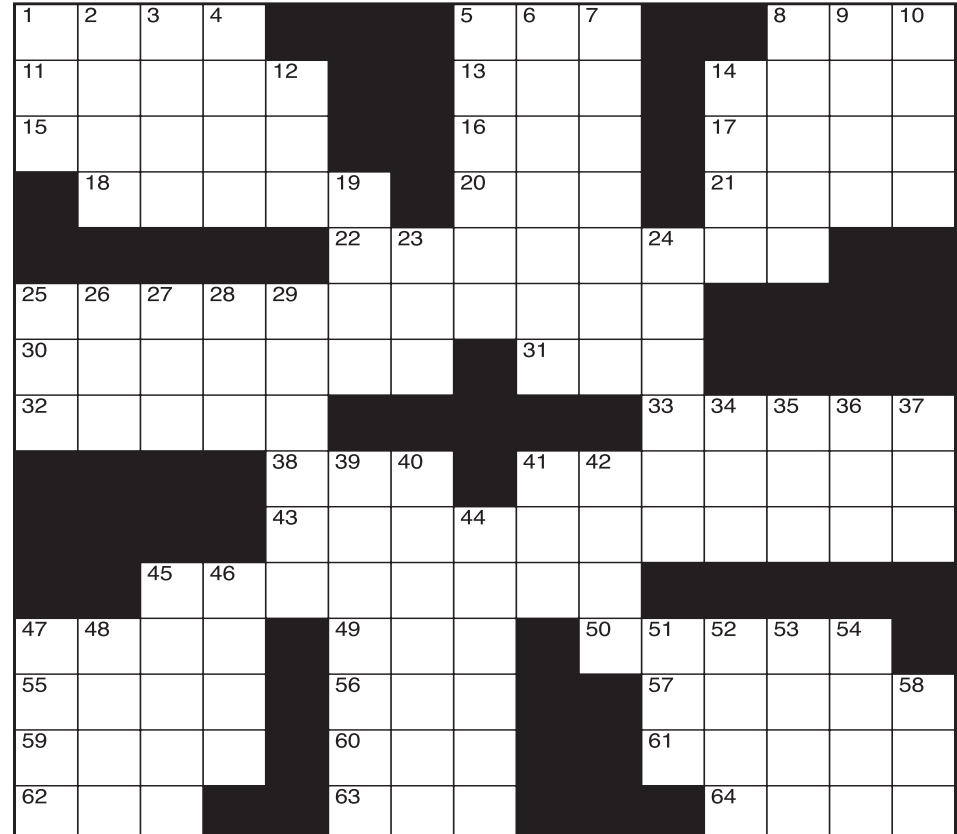
## HOW TO SUDOKU

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!

## BACK TO BUSINESS WORD SEARCH



Table with 4 columns and 10 rows of business-related terms.



- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Greek mythological figure, 5. Small amount, 8. Play a role, etc.

# POLICE LOG

January 1 to January 31 By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported 292 incidents in this 31-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests
January 1: 1:18 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of East Commercial Street...
January 2: 5:45 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street...

January 1: 11:13 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.
January 2: 2:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.
January 3: 9:37 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West Valley Street...

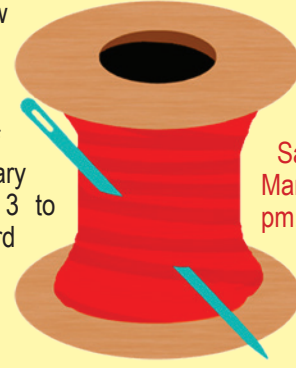
January 4: 4:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.
January 5: 7:17 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
January 6: 7:22 pm: Officer responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

January 7: No incidents to report.
January 8: 9:33 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Penn Street and East Valley Street.
January 9: 9:54 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 600 block of South Main Street.

# What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, March 6
Saturday, March 8

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors every Thursday from 3-5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange...
Seed Sorting Party at the Library: Help the Willits Branch Seed Library by sorting and packaging donated seeds.
Sit-N-Sew: Second Saturdays at the Willits Library, March 8 this month, from 1 to 5 pm.



City Forum on Updated Fire Severity Zones: The City of Willits Police Department hosts a Public Forum and Discussion on the updated Fire Hazard Severity Zones for the City of Willits, and how this will affect our community.
Bryan Bielanski at Shanachie: Nomad acoustic rock singer-songwriter based in Charlotte, North Carolina, who's been touring the U.S. and the world for the last 10 years, plays Shanachie Pub, Saturday, March 8 at 8 pm.

Wednesday, March 12
'History Makers!' at the Museum: Wednesdays at the Mendocino County Museum from 2 to 4:30 pm.
Bookmobile Survey Meeting at the Library: Mendocino County's Bookmobile needs to be replaced in the next year, after 12 years of use.

Friday, March 7
Bookmobile Survey Meeting at the Library: Mendocino County's Bookmobile needs to be replaced in the next year, after 12 years of use.
Ju-drum at Shanachie: Ju-drum, original Afrobeat-Reggae from the Heart of Nigeria to the stages of Humboldt County, with Seed-N-Soil, perform Reggae/Afrobeat at Shanachie Pub, Friday, March 7 at 8 pm.

Thursday, March 13
'A Bit and a Bite' at the Museum: Friends of the Mendocino County Museum present Artist Nancy McHone on the history of the murals at the Mendocino County Courthouse in Ukiah. Join us for light refreshments, history, conversation, and learn about volunteer opportunities.

Friday, March 14
'Char Talk' at the Library: Join the talk on pyrolysis and gasification by Peter Roediger, carboener. For those who have made or utilized bio char soil in the garden, metal forge or anywhere else, this is for you.
WCA Art Talk: Art historian Gary Martin gives the monthly free Art Talk, this month on "The Grand Egyptian Museum," the largest archeological museum dedicated to a single civilization.

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Ongoing Events Column
We've updated the Shanachie Pub and Willits Library ongoing events columns, thanks to publicity from those two esteemed Willits event presenters.
Willits Gem & Mineral Society Meeting, March 17
Join the Willits Gem & Mineral Society for a free monthly meeting, on Monday, March 17 this month.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events
Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, including Saturday, December 15, Kyle Madrigal and/or Gustavo Amaral will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main street.
Ongoing Events at the Willits Library: Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

ATW presents Wolfgang Ronnefeldt on dreams, March 20
Avenues to Wellness presents "Dreams: Uncovering Their Meaning in Your Life," a talk by Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, MA.
Sip Some Soup, March 22
Willits Daily Bread and the Willits Services Action Group host the annual charity event, Sip Some Soup, on Saturday, March 22 from 5 to 7 pm.

American Legion Presents Duane Brown Memorial ST. PATRICK'S DAY FEAST
March 15, 2025
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Corned Beef & Cabbage
Murphy's (Spuds), Carrots, Etc...
Veteran's Memorial Building
191 North Main • Willits

Music Gear Market
Sat. March 15th
Little Lake Grange Willits CA.
10-3
Sponsored by Little Lake Grange 291 School St. Willits CA.

Courthouse in Ukiah. Join us for light refreshments, history, conversation, and learn about volunteer opportunities. Thursday, March 13 at 12:30 pm. 400 East Commercial Street. More info: at www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

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'Char Talk' at the Library: Join the talk on pyrolysis and gasification by Peter Roediger, carboener. For those who have made or utilized bio char soil in the garden, metal forge or anywhere else, this is for you.

WCA Art Talk: Art historian Gary Martin gives the monthly free Art Talk, this month on "The Grand Egyptian Museum," the largest archeological museum dedicated to a single civilization. Friday, March 14 at 6:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

POKER Night
3/15/2025 4pm
\$100 buy-in + add on
Dinner + 1 drink
Cards for Cooper
St. Patrick's Day Dinner: American Legion-Willits Post #174 presents the annual Duane Brown Memorial St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner.

Saturday, March 15
Music Gear Market at the Grange: Mendocino County Gear Swap has moved from Redwood Valley to the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, on Saturday, March 15, from 10 am to 3 pm. Buy, Sell or Trade.

Surface Tension by Mendocino Dance Project: This evening-length showcase of dynamic and athletic movement explores how we find each other and stay resilient amongst our currently challenging times. Presented by Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, March 15 at 7 pm. 37 West Van Lane. Artistic Director is Kara Starkweather; performing dancers are: Emily Anthony, Priya Birchard, Jessica Curl, Mackenzie Rain, and Natalie Thiel-Gebheim.

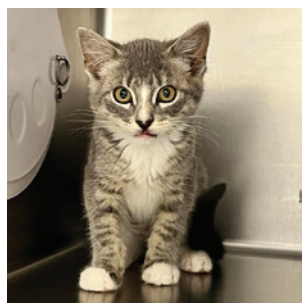
Forrest & Friends at Shanachie: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day weekend with local favorites Forrest & Friends, featuring Forrest Glycer and a full band of musical colleagues. Saturday, March 15, at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sip Some Soup
A joint fundraising event for Willits Daily Bread & Willits Shelter Action Group
Your favorite fundraiser is back! Come taste & judge soups, try homemade bread and jam from family bakers all donated from the event, and don't forget to check out the silent auction items!
March 22nd 2025 6pm - 7pm
Willits Community Center
111 East Commercial St. Willits, CA

Surface Tension
Mendocino Dance Project
Saturday, March 15, 2025, 7pm
Willits Community Theatre
37 West Van Lane, Willits
wctperformingartscenter.org • 707-234-4826 \$20

Music Gear Market
Sat. March 15th
Little Lake Grange Willits CA.
10-3
Sponsored by Little Lake Grange 291 School St. Willits CA.





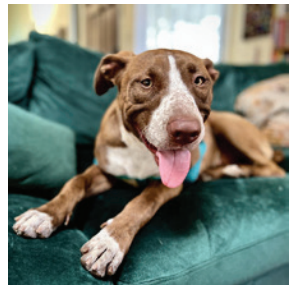
### Beautiful Rose

Rose is a shy young cat (just under 1 year old) and will need a little extra TLC from adopters to help her build some confidence and come out of her shell. Due to her shyness, we suggest an adult-only home, or a home with cat-savvy children. Rose may enjoy another social feline in her new home!

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

### Sweet Shelly

Shelly is a 2-year-old, 61-pound pointer mix who is an affectionate and sweet girl seeking a life of love, where she can star in your home movies and family photos. This beautiful girl is super smart, highly trainable, housetrained, great with other dogs, and oh-so-loyal. She has adorable freckles, a boopable nose, and an A+ body waggle every time she sees her people (we mean it, her entire lower half gets in on the waggle action)!



Shelly is a go-with-the-flow kind of gal, who can happily scamper along a hiking trail as well as be your weighted blanket on the couch. She is working hard on her leash manners and doubles her efforts for hot dogs or cheese. She gets along well with other dogs, seeking affection in a gentle, non-pushy manner.

She is looking for a family who can continue her training, and give her love and adventures. Shelly's ideal home would include another dog companion to help boost her confidence and a family committed to continuing her training. Bonus points for kids (she loves them!).

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



### Docile Garfunkel

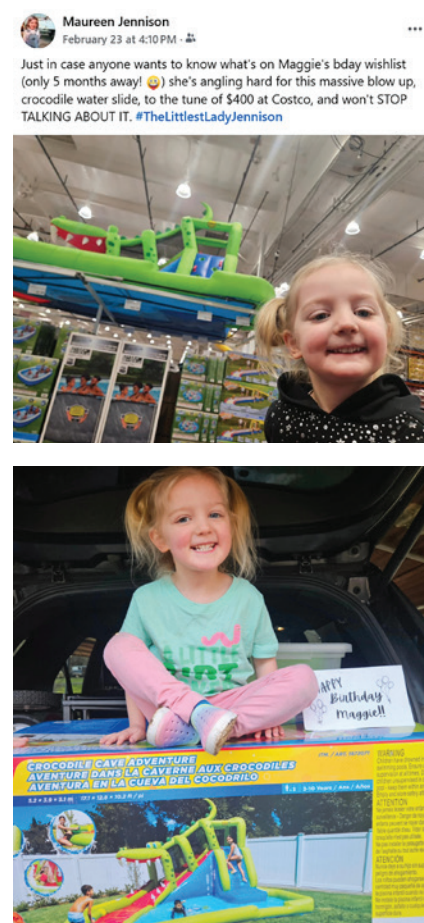
This cutie pie came to us from Mendocino County Animal Care Services along with his brother. His brother luckily found his home, but now it's Garfunkel's turn. Garfunkel is as sweet as can be, and is learning how to be a wonderful dog.

He has been living in a foster home. We have been told he's mellow but still has fun puppy energy. He plays well with other dogs, is learning how to walk on a leash, has done well with the cat, and sleeps all night in a crate (he will go right in when you tell him it's time for bed). Garfunkel thinks he's a lapdog at times, is very sweet and docile, and has done well with the kids in the home. Garfunkel is ready for his shot at his forever home. Is that with you?

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



Above, left: A hairier Maureen and husband, Matt, smile before the first February treatment. Above, center: Maggie was surprised by the community with this crazy crocodile slide. Above, right: Maureen's post-double-mastectomy surgery post on Facebook where regular-ish updates are being made about her cancer journey over the last 9 months.



# The saga continues to continue

Well.... Feels like many more than three months ago since my last official update to you all, and a lot has happened.

Highlights include: had surgery in January and living a boobless (for now) life has been quite the adjustment. Healing from surgery is going really well; I was already pacing the living room about 10 days after surgery, ready to get back to work right then. I mean hey, I could surely sit and type pretty easily without much arm movement, right?!

However, pathology that came back from surgery still showed some cancerous tissue present in what was removed, and also with one of the sampled seven lymph nodes still testing positive, my pre-planned, post-treatment regimen converted from after-care shots back to some IV-fed infusions.

The pathology results also now have the after-care plan including a batch of targeted radiation sessions, too. While the surgery did yield clean margins (a big yay!) they want to be sure nothing else is lurking elsewhere, and that they lessen the chances of any recurrence to the smallest amount possible.... Which is FINE by me. Anything to get this process done and over for good, please.

So, the next leg of this crazy journey includes 14 more, once-every-three-week infusions at UVMC. This time of a much less miserable-to-endure, part-chemo medicine called Kadcyla, which, I'm told, targets the HER2 marker of my particular, right-side specific cancer. Left side is good to go.

Sessions are shorter, had the first one on February

27, and last one will be slated for some time around Thanksgiving ... ugh. Hair loss is less likely, extremity tingling (neuropathy) and liver issues the things to look for, but watching labs closely, taking supplements to stave off the tingles, etc. Thus far, way less miserable. Hopefully that continues through the rest of the process.

Radiation will likely take place at the end of this month, only 15 sessions were recommended, half of the potential original count possibly assumed, but they're scheduled once-a-day for five days each week, so really that's basically only (?) three weeks, and it's done. Treatments are around 20 minutes or so, so not a huge time commitment each day, just must trek back and forth to Ukiah. Side effects are supposed to include irritated skin and fatigue and a host of other "very small percentage" possible issues, but overall sounds tolerable and hopefully highly effective. And, really, whatever is needed is fine, thank you modern medicine for the opportunity, and to doctors who know how to help.

I will also have another PET scan, a crazy whole-body look at things to make sure that the cancer hasn't spread elsewhere - the pre-surgery one I had last year was clear, and there's nothing but full expectations that this one will be just the same, but again, better to check and be sure.

Reconstruction will also happen sometime after all the other things are complete and healed, (2026?) and I get the "all clear" declaration and then, hopefully, I will be able to celebrate with that darn rum ball, too.

I also reestablished my primary care standing with Dr. Jodi Parungao (she's now practicing in Laytonville at the Long Valley Health Center, and is accepting new patients!), and she is so amazing. Happy to have her careful eye watching over my progress, recommending good next steps, working closely with the oncologist, and being the amazing, supportive, caring professional we've enjoyed seeing for the last four or so years.

Matt, Maggie, myself, and the rest of the crew are hanging in there - Matt couldn't be more supportive and amazing as a husband, partner and friend. I love you. Again, thank you so much to the USPS Willits office folks who are being so marvelous to let Matt do what he needs to help me; Saprina and Frannie and Danya for all the Maggie help and support; Josh, Judy and Yolanda for all the domestic assistance goodness;

**ELLIOTT EXCAVATION**  
707-841-7692  
800 Hwy. 20  
Willits, CA 95490  
Lic# 1041980

## Ladies, Take Charge of Your Health!



### Join us for PAP-A-PALOOZA

at Care For Her, Hillside, and protect yourself against cervical cancer with a Pap test!

Early detection can save lives - don't wait! Take advantage of these special events and make your health a priority.

**EVENT DATES: Saturday March 8th. We will have the Saturday clinic the second Saturday of each month for PAPs.**

Call now to schedule your appointment and protect yourself today. Together, we can fight cervical cancer!

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL:  
**(707) 468-1010**  
1-855-FOR-MCHC • [mchcinc.org](http://mchcinc.org)

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



The rest of Zones | From page 1

zones (in yellow), with a block of westside properties considered to be in a "high" fire danger zone (in orange) and some "very high" fire danger areas on the southeast edge of city limits.

Willits City Manager Brian Bender told councilmembers at the February 26 meeting that although the forum was set for 4 to 6 pm, they'd extend the meeting as needed, and he'd be there until 8 pm to answer any questions from residents, and give out copies of the map and fact sheets.

"The quick assessment," Bender said, "is that the fire hazard zones that were depicted for the City of Willits is not as bad as we initially expected, but there are some consequences that this community and this council is going to have to consider as we move forward with this program as depicted or described by CAL FIRE."

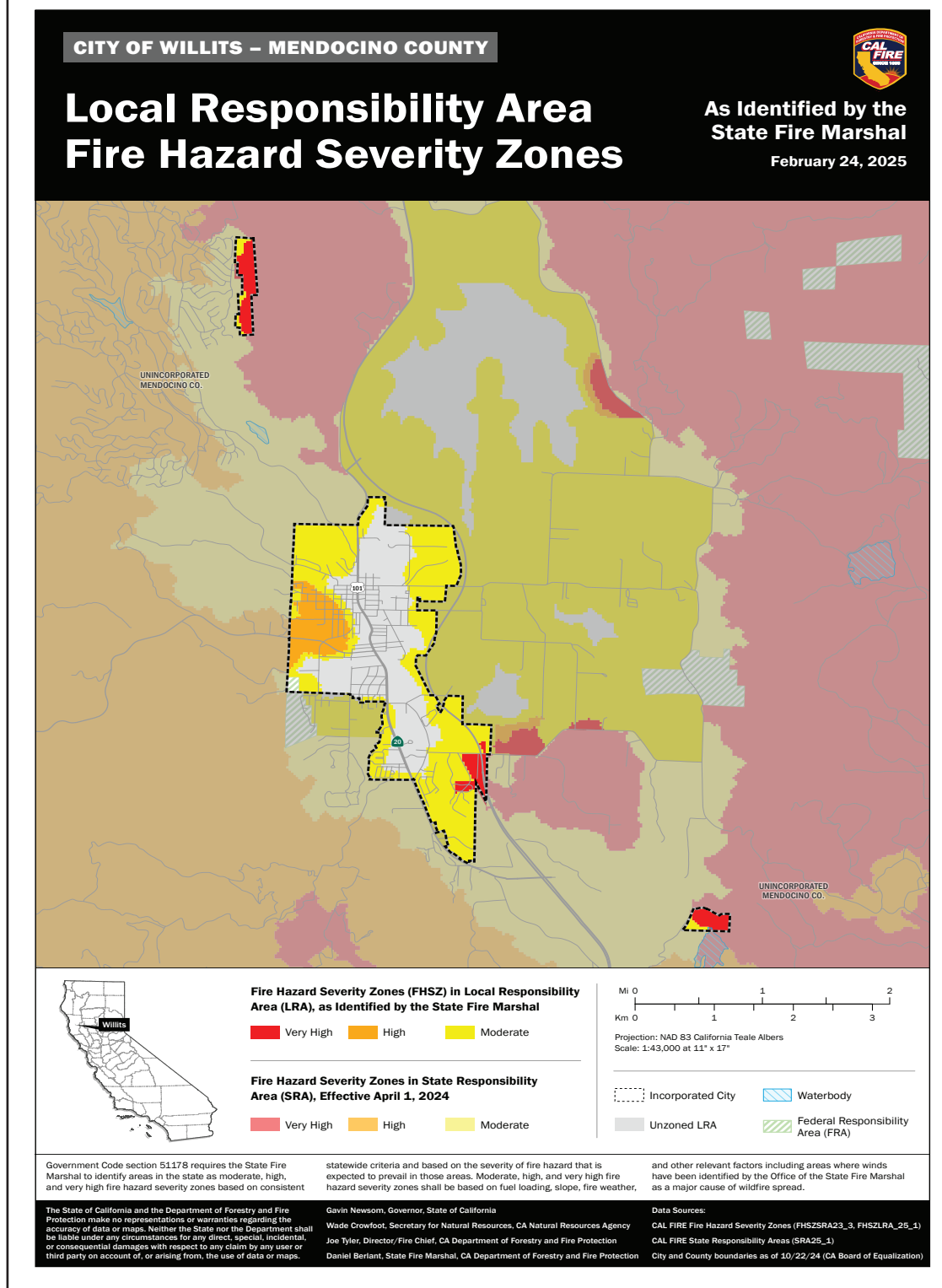
Councilmember Bruce Burton noted that many city addresses were in a yellow (moderate) zone. "The question really is," Burton said, "does that [yellow] designation have any trigger on building codes?"

"Right now," Bender answered, "the way CAL FIRE is explaining the situation is that the 'very high' zones, the red areas, in time the city is going to have to adopt some modifications to our existing Planning and Building codes to lessen that risk to development and properties."

Bender also said, although CAL FIRE asked the city to collect public comments on the new fire zones, public comments won't change the new maps. "We can disagree with these boundaries," he said, "CAL FIRE's not going to listen to us."

The forum will be held at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street.

You can also view the fire zones map at this link: [www.cityofwillits.org/DocumentCenter/View/2000/Local-Responsibility-Area-Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zones-Map?](http://www.cityofwillits.org/DocumentCenter/View/2000/Local-Responsibility-Area-Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zones-Map?)



### OBITUARY |

## Charles Lamprich

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Charles Richard Lamprich, aged 90, on November 8, 2024. Charles was born on June 4, 1934, in Fort Bragg, California.

Charles met the love of his life, Billie, when they were just 9 years old. Their paths crossed again in high school, and they began dating, eventually marrying in 1953. Together, they welcomed their son, Charles Christopher, in September 1957, followed by their daughter, Lisa, in 1964.

A devoted husband and father, Charles cherished his family and loved spending time outdoors. In his retirement, he enjoyed the company of his twin brother, Donald, as they spent their days cutting firewood and drinking beers.

Charles was preceded in death by his older brother, Bill, his twin brother, Donald, and his beloved wife, Billie Lamprich. He is survived by his son, Charles Christopher, and daughter-in-law, Marisela Lamprich; his daughter, Lisa, and son-in-law, Gary Breen; grandchildren Chris and April Lamprich, Donnie and Beth Lamprich, and Casey Ireland; as well as great-grandchildren Charley, Brodey, Rowdy, Wreyn, and Ryatt Lamprich.

He will be missed beyond measure.



### OBITUARY |

## Judi Montalvo

Judi Montalvo, a wife, a mother, and a friend, passed away peacefully on January 17, 2025. Her life was defined by love, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to her family.

Judi is survived by her loving husband, Jim Montalvo, and her cherished son Mark Hopkins.

She and Jim owned and operated Auto Mart for 37 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Don and Sandy Mork, whose influence shaped her into the incredible woman she was.

Judi will be remembered for her radiant spirit, her generous heart, the joy she brought to everyone who knew her. She leaves behind a legacy of love and treasured memories that will be forever held close.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

### OBITUARY |

## Bill White

William Flournoy White, "Bill," peacefully joined the great spirit late last year. He was active until the end, enjoying his writing circle at the college; writing poetry and memoirs, Sundays singing at the Methodist Church, almost daily shopping at Mariposa Market, and his many friends and activities in the Willits community.

Bill began life in Houston, Texas, the son of William and Katherine White. He served in Korea, graduated from the University of Texas, built homes in Houston as a young man, lived and skied in Aspen, Colorado, owned two popular restaurants in Santa Barbara, California, remodeled a traditional home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, joined a volunteer building brigade in Nicaragua, built a cabin and tamed a wild horse in Ukiah, remodeled an old stone house and lived in Tuscany, Italy and, in his seventies, with the help of friends, built a unique straw bale home in Willits that incorporated a lifetime's passion for soulful and timeless human habitat. He was a Renaissance man: an idealist, an activist, a seeker, a designer, a skilled builder, and a poet who imagined a very good life into being.

Bill is survived by his wife of 35 years, Susan, his sons Craig, Brian and Alex, his daughter, Lucia, and stepdaughter, Emma, as well as his sister, Ann, first wife, Joan, and eight grandchildren.



### SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

#### Agape Bible Church

290 S. Lenora 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  
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.  
Pastor Kris Strickland  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

#### Church of Christ

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

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

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

#### Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

• A University for Soul  
• Spiritual Living Courses  
• Spiritual Discussions  
• ECK Light & Sound Services  
More information?  
Call 530-224-8703  
[www.eckankar.org](http://www.eckankar.org)

#### Grace Community Church

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

#### St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday-5:30 p.m.  
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English  
10:30 a.m. - Spanish  
Confessions on Saturday  
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.  
Or by appointment at  
707-459-2252  
<https://santhonywillits.org/>  
[santhonywillits@gmail.com](mailto:santhonywillits@gmail.com)  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

#### St. Francis Episcopal Church

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

#### St. John Lutheran Church

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

#### Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

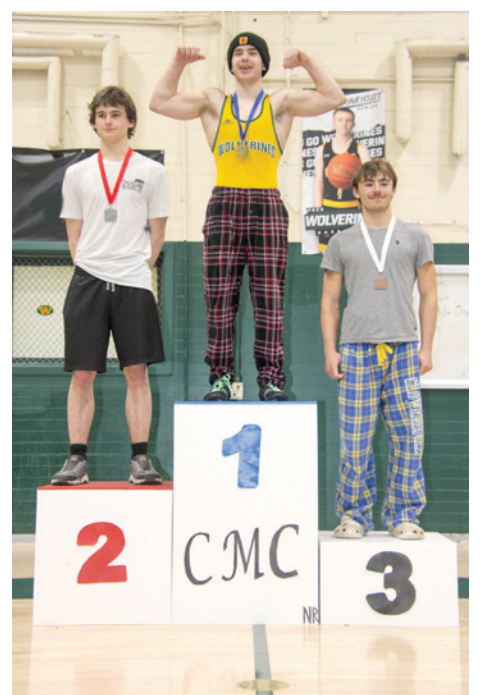
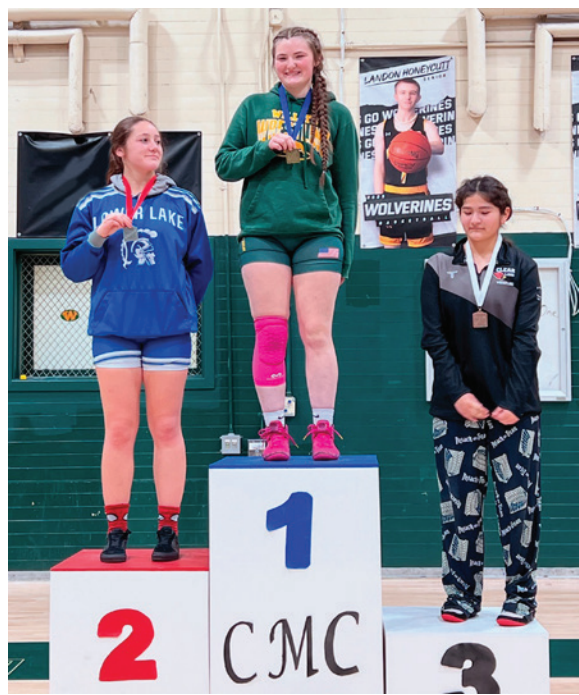
707-459-5714  
Friendly, open worship  
Saturdays  
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
Zoom Transmission Available.  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
399 W. Mendocino Ave.  
All are welcome!

#### Willits United Methodist Church

Labyrinth and Peace Garden  
A place to find comfort  
where all are welcome  
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild  
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am  
707-459-2855  
[wumc@outlook.com](mailto:wumc@outlook.com)  
[www.willitsumc.org](http://www.willitsumc.org)  
Facebook: facebook/willits umc

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





At far left: Ava Dockins-Kline proudly smiles on the podium after her tough first-place match for the second year in a row. At left: Gavin McFadden proudly poses on the podium after getting his first-place medal. Below: Ely Bowles looks for the pin on his Kelseyville opponent. At bottom: Ember Hetherington gets in a nice pin against Cloverdale.



At left: The boys team holds their first-place CMC trophy at home; from left, bottom row, Head Coach Brian Bowles, Zac Thompson, Zain Marshall, Raymond Campbell, Donald Glenn, Jayden Finley, Eli Rosado, Aiden Punihale-Figueroa, Pancrazio Bertolino, William Burrell and Coach Will Dunaway; top row, Gavin McFadden, Rickey Ramirez, Nikolai Ritchey, Kolten Davis, Brian Bowles.

Below: The girls wrestling team poses with their first-place CMC trophy for the first time, making history; from left, Delia Siderakis, Athena Marino-Defrates, Bella Glenn, Stormie Nowlin, Emma Hulsey, Alison Southard, Dannya Smith, Ember Hetherington, Emelia Owsiany, Ava Dockins-Kline, Lucero Vargas and Head Coach Dana Karkar; top row, Hanah Keller and Vada Morgan.



### COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

## Willits Wolverines Wrestling wraps up an immensely riveting and successful season

Willits Wolverines Wrestling held several different home duals and tournaments this season, including a home dual tournament for senior night that included hosting a very nice Italian dinner for the other teams, families and seniors on January 22. Willits competed against Upper Lake, Credo, and Ft. Bragg. Willits swept the duals with a win against all three teams!

Willits Wrestling entered the North Coast Sections Dual Team Championships held at Ukiah High School on February 8 with a pristine 10-0 record. They entered the competition, rising to the occasion of making last-minute adjustments due to illness. It was a fabulously entertaining day of wrestling. They wrestled intently, with a purpose.

After winning a dominant first round, they fell just short of winning first place against McKinleyville, bringing home a classy second-place banner as a team. Ely Bowles, Brian Bowles, Donald Glenn, Zain Marshall and PZ Bertolino were all undefeated in the dual championships!

This year's Coastal Mountain Conference Championships was held at our very own Steve Short Gymnasium on February 13. It was a packed, busy and intense atmosphere of competition from our league wrestlers. There were many compelling and consuming matches throughout the day. These driven athletes displayed a huge amount of fortitude. Headsstrong to take on anyone, the Willits Wolverines came out on top! We had five wrestlers who took the Gold as League Champions: Ava Dockins-Kline, Bella Glenn, Rickey Ramirez, Gavin McFadden and Pancrazio Bertolino. They also made history with both the boys and girls teams taking home the beautiful first-place trophy! Congratulations to both teams and all placers!

The second-place winners include: Eli Rosado, Lucero Vargas, Aiden Punihale-Figueroa, Jayden Finley, Emelia Owsiany, Alison Southard, Hanah Keller, Donald Glenn and Ely Bowles.

Zain Marshall and Brian Bowles both placed third. On to North Coast Sections they go!

The Wolverines made a rapid turnaround after the CMC Championships, piled into four vans, and traveled south to Albany and James Logan high schools to compete in the North Coast Sections Championships on February 21 and 22. It was a critically important day of wrestling on Friday to make it to the placement rounds on Saturday.

The two gyms were jam-packed and the battle lines were

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

## 'The Brutalist'

**The Story:** Pennsylvania, a few short years after World War 2, Laszlo Toth (Adrien Brody) is recently arrived in America. He is a famous Jewish architect and designer who survived



Dan Essman  
Columnist

the death camps. Harrison Van Buren (Guy Pearce) is a vain and wealthy and highly competitive business man. He hires Laszlo to design a huge community center. As time passes and the project moves forward, it becomes apparent that Van Buren recognizes and admires, but also resents Laszlo's creative genius. An ambivalence that is a slow-moving poison.

**My Thoughts:** "The Brutalist" should be seen on the big screen because it's a big movie. This is a male drama, in a man's world. One of the first things I noticed is that the men are quite affectionate with each other, aggressively physical, almost like they are wrestling. I compare that to the love interest, female lead Erzebet Toth (Felicity Jones), who is crippled and tenderly ensconced in a wheelchair. And also consider the Toth niece. She is pathologically shy of contact, and almost mute. The filmmaker has decreed, for some narrative reason, that the principal women are to be, quite obviously, "under-touched." (And peculiarly, camera-wise, there are some almost faceless prostitutes.)

**Parents:** No children. Sex. Violence. Drugs. Dysfunctional family politics. Plus, the flick is a Hollywood epic. It runs 3 hours and 35 minutes, with a 15 minute intermission.

**Special Note:** The flick won 3 Oscars.

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

The rest of Sports | From page 8

drawn on each mat as they fought their way through each match. At the end of the day on Friday, Willits had two boys and six girls still in it, working to get to placement rounds: Ely Bowles, Donald Glenn, Ava Dockins-Kline, Alison Southard, Lucy Vargas, Emelia Owsiany, Bella Glenn and Hanah Keller.

The wrestling family gathered for a traditional night of good food and laughs while Head Coach Bowles played fun card games with the wrestlers, setting the tone for a supportive, lighthearted atmosphere throughout the intensity of competition.

After a night of good sleep, the final day arrived. These kids displayed impressive skills and determination in each and every match. Through the literal blood, sweat, tears, and an emotional ending for the seniors, Willits came out with four wrestlers making it to the podium with medals: sophomore Bella Glenn, junior Donald Glenn, junior Emelia Owsiany, and senior team captain Ava Dockins-Kline, who ended her phenomenal four-year high school wrestling career, placing her third time with state qualifier as a sophomore.

Senior team captain Ely Bowles made it through to the blood round (top 12), one match away from placing to finish an amazing four-year high school career. Senior Alison Southard had some notably exceptional matches, leading her to falling only one point short of placing, ending her outstanding high school wrestling career. Senior captain Lucy Vargas had an astounding set of tough matches, getting her far throughout her second day, ending her marvelous three-year wrestling career. Senior Jayden Finley also ended his two-year high school wrestling career with an impressive, hard-fought set of matches.

All of these kids wrestled extensively powerful battles to be proud of. They are all a spectacular group of athletes! We wish our departing seniors the very best this life has to offer. We can't wait to see you excel in life. You all left your legendary imprint on the mat in the WHS wrestling room, and you will be missed. We can't wait to see the remaining students compete again next year!

The Willits Wolverines Wrestling family all work very hard together to create a positive and impactful atmosphere for nurturing and taking care of each kid throughout the strenuous season. This entails very hard practices and long hours spent moving into gyms on the weekends for tournaments.

These young athletes train hard while maintaining their grades and meeting all the other taxing demands of teen-hood. They get up very early in the morning to travel. They leave every bit of their physical and mental prowess on that mat, match after match. It is truly inspiring to watch each personal journey through the rise and fall of it all. Their resilience and mindset really shine.

Wrestling sets these athletes up for success in life. There will be times where they work very hard for something and still fall short. But, because of wrestling, they will understand that failure is not the end, it's just a part of the journey. They endure the ups and downs, never giving up, and working continuously toward goals.

There is always another lesson to learn and ways to improve. There is always confidence to gain, not only through medals or trophies, but from perseverance through struggles. They will keep learning and evolving.

Every bit of time and effort is worth it to witness these stellar athletes grow and thrive in their sport, also as human beings. Head Coaches Brian Bowles, Will Dunaway, and Dana Karkar put in an insurmountable amount of time and effort into each and every one of these kids with a ton of heart and pride. This has changed the lives of many. It shows in each one of them. Congratulations on a strong, rewarding and victorious season, Willits Wrestling! You have made your community very proud! Now rest up to get ready to rumble next season! Let's go Wolverines!



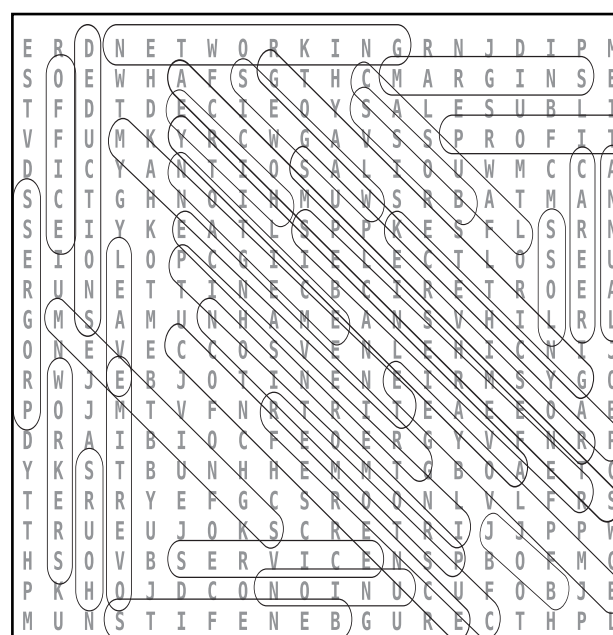
### Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Air Pollution Control Officer** \$115,731 - \$140,691
- Corrections Deputy** \$58,136 - \$70,678
- County Health Officer** \$185,224 - \$225,139
- Deputy Probation Officer I & II** \$55,577 - \$74,505
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner** \$84,323 - \$102,460
- Eligibility Specialist III** \$53,851 - \$65,457
- Principal Department Analyst** \$82,264 - \$100,006
- Senior Program Manager - Children's** \$107,182 - \$130,291
- Senior Program Specialist** \$62,504 - \$75,982
- Staff Assistant I** \$37,544 - \$41,392
- Staff Assistant III** \$43,388 - \$52,728
- Supervising Health Program Coordinator** \$75,920 - \$92,268
- Veteran's Services Representative** \$48,006 - \$58,344

For a complete list of current openings and to apply:  
[www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs)  
EOE

**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.*

**ARTISTS**  
**THE**  
**ANTIDOTE**  
"Life without art is stupid." - Mary Guibert



## CLASSIFIEDS

Ads here are \$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks! Email us your ad by the Monday deadline to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com) and get it included next week!

- Do you need food?**  
Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 1-4:30 - Bring an I.D. (707) 459-3333
- Room For Rent**  
Room for 1 person for rent. Must work and have references. No pets. No drugs. In town. \$650 / month. Info: 354-0287.
- John Ford Ranch Beef**  
John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.
- RV/Trailer Space for Rent**  
Space for RV's and Trailers - starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/rp>

The rest of WPD | From page 4

**January 21**  
9:08 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

6:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of South Main Street.

**January 22**  
8:22 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Spruce Street.

3:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

10:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

**January 23**  
9:42 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of Pine Street.

8:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

**January 24**  
7:37 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:50 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

3:56 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Oak Street and South Main Street and issued a citation.

**January 25**  
10:21 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

3:08 pm: MILLER, Jason Lee (43) of Redding was contacted in the 100 block of Barbara Lane. He was arrested on felony charges of petty theft with prior convictions and on misdemeanor charges of

petty theft and possession of drug paraphernalia.

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





At top, from left: The Administration Building serves as the main headquarters to the CCC Mendocino Center.

Kami Lenn looks at the room-length mural created by a local photographer.

A sign welcomes all to the California Conservation Corps Mendocino Center.

Above: Members of the Willits Rotary Club and faculty of the CCC pose for a group photo in the voluminous basketball court.

At right, from top: Deputy Director of Capital Outlay and Facilities Dan Milsap and District Director of Willits and Solano centers John Button conduct a tour of the new CCC campus for the Willits Rotary Club.

The voluminous warehouse has space for all the equipment used by the corpsmen and faculty.

A dormitory room is complete, all it needs is to be furnished.

The large kitchen has enough space and equipment to serve three meals per day to around 100 people.

Below: Christine Gonzales is impressed by the size of the basketball court in the Multi-Purpose Building.



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## The rest of Cubbison

From page 1  
immediate reinstatement." Cannata said Cubbison, suspended from her \$176,000 post without pay and benefits in October 2023, will also vigorously pursue her pending civil lawsuit against the county Board of Supervisors for denying her due process.

The court's dismissal of the criminal case increases Cubbison's potential for collecting significant civil damages from the county, including attorney fees, loss of wages and benefits, and professional reputation.

The financial stakes are high. DA prosecution and county costs defending against the civil litigation are already estimated to be three or four times the \$68,000 in disputed extra pay paid to Kennedy for work during the COVID pandemic that DA David Eyster claimed in October 2023 amounted to felony misappropriation of public funds.

Eyster increased the ante for taxpayers when, within four months of accusing Cubbison of criminal misconduct, he hired outside prosecutor Traci Carrillo of Santa Rosa at \$400 per hour to try the case. Civil attorneys defending the county Board of Supervisors already have billed about \$120,000 in fees and services.

Cubbison had to pay out of pocket to retain Andrian and his investigator, Chris Reynolds, to fight Eyster's criminal charges. Cubbison and her supporters believe DA Eyster targeted her for challenging him. Eyster initially blocked her interim appointment as Auditor in 2022 and then secretly promoted a plan of some county administrators and members of the Board of Supervisors to merge the county's two key finance offices in hopes of eventually creating a Department of Finance under board control.

Eyster seized the moment when the disputed internal pay issue surfaced about Kennedy collecting \$68,000 in extra pay during the COVID pandemic. The DA turned his team of investigators on the case after the county Sheriff's Office submitted its reports. In October 2023, the DA filed felony

## The rest of Pavilion

From page 1  
was to locate the pavilion in the grassy center of the park. This location was finally rejected in favor of the corner location, which is underutilized and would not break up the central grassy area of the park that gets the most use.

The corner location will require less concrete to access the pavilion. And the corner location was preferred by the farmers market: the manager of the Willits Farmers Market, Michael Foley, who did not attend the meeting, sent an email to this reporter: "I did not want it in the middle of the park."

The pavilion will be a 40 foot x 60 foot steel structure with a concrete foundation. Community Development Director Dusty Duley explained that the rigid requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, liability issues, and maintenance costs left the city with no viable alternatives for the foundation other than concrete. The pavilion will have muted lighting at night to discourage transients from camping there.

The pavilion will be used by the Willits Farmers Market, which will be returning to the park once the construction is completed. The pavilion will also be available to the public for parties and events. The city plans to put picnic tables in the pavilion that will

charges against Cubbison and Kennedy, accusing them of misappropriating public funds.

For Cubbison, Tuesday's dismissal was also vindication for being blamed by county supervisors for the tangled state of county finances, mainly without merit.

Cubbison risked a criminal record after she refused Eyster's original offer to only to face a misdemeanor charge if she resigned from her post.

From the beginning, the Cubbison case was complicated by Eyster's contentious relationship with the auditor and two others who served before her. Cubbison ran afoul of Eyster after she challenged DA office spending, including for staff dinners he labeled "training sessions."

For 17 months, more questions than answers were raised as the case moved sluggishly through the courts.

How the original investigation was handled by Sheriff Lt. Andrew Porter, a 30-year law enforcement veteran, was scrutinized during the preliminary hearing. Porter acknowledged during his testimony that he had access to county emails and other documentation when he started to probe the Kennedy extra pay. However, he still did not act to preserve them.

Within months, it was discovered that the county archival system had collapsed, throwing case documentation efforts into disarray. Eventually, many documents were retrieved, but no one, including a court-appointed master, could determine how much relevant material might be missing.

In recent days, documentation issues took another turn when it was learned that top county officials and former Auditor Lloyd Weer had been provided regular bi-monthly reports since 2019 showing Kennedy had been open about using a miscellaneous county pay code to add extra money to her paycheck.

During testimony at the preliminary hearing, Weer, CEO Antle, and others said they were unaware of the payments. Still, the internal payroll documents produced by the DA's office at the last minute showed otherwise.

Moorman was critical of what she learned

as witnesses were cross-examined during the preliminary hearing. Ultimately, the judge said she believed Cubbison and Kennedy had been transparent and had not engaged in illegal activities over the pay issue.

"If anybody had read the reports, it was clear what she [Kennedy] was doing. She was transparent about serious pay issues that no one at the county management level had resolved," said Moorman.

Moorman also believed Cubbison did not know the details of a likely extra pay arrangement between Kennedy and Weer before she took charge of the office when Weer retired early.

According to Moorman, Cubbison acted as a "whistleblower" when she informed the County Counsel's Office of Kennedy's threatened legal action if her chronic pay issues were not resolved.

Moorman said about Cubbison: "She did the right thing. She did not try to cover anything up."

Moorman blamed evidentiary problems on Lt. Porter, who she felt had acted unprofessionally regarding the white-collar crimes issues involved.

"He failed to preserve email evidence when he had access to it before the system collapsed," said Moorman. "The system collapse wasn't his fault, but his failure to preserve evidence when he had access was," said Moorman.

The judge also found that the investigator didn't follow up on questionable issues relating to retired Weer and Kennedy.

Moorman was scornful of Weer's role in the case and his denial on the witness stand that he might have mistakenly let Kennedy think she had permission to use an obscure county pay code to reimburse herself, a salaried employee, for the chronic hours she was putting in.

"I don't believe him," declared Moorman. The judge cited Weer's evasive answers as a prosecution witness and his "defensive demeanor."

Moorman expressed dismay about the "willful ignorance" shown by county officials who testified during the preliminary hearing that they knew nothing about the 470

## The rest of Ziady

From page 1  
of understanding for Mendocino Firewise Council. He said: "We will have an agreement for you at the next meeting. We will have a series of agreements because there are two other grants. This agreement that we are working on now is the most important because it will provide defensible space throughout Brooktrails this summer. It's all funded, and we probably will see a big change in Brooktrails in terms of fire safety."

General Manager Alaniz announced the upcoming Board Planning Meeting on Saturday, March 8, from 9:30 am to noon. The Annual Budget Meeting will occur after the Planning Meeting at a later date. The board then unanimously approved the Consent Calendar Accounts Payable in the amount of \$135,527.42.

Next up: Agenda Items for Discussion and Possible Action – Consideration of Resolution 2025-02 through Selection of One Applicant to be Appointed-in-Lieu of Election to Fill a Vacant Director Seat with a Term Ending in December 2026 from the Following Individuals: (In order of receipt) a) Michelle Duarte, b) Mary Ziady, and c) Helen Simms.

Tyler-O'Shea began by saying that there was a special process involved in the selection of a new board member.

Alaniz explained: "We have three individuals and all three are here this evening. They've submitted their letters of interest to the district for consideration. President Tyler-O'Shea and I worked out some questions" and proposed that each candidate be interviewed separately.

"Each applicant will have an opportunity to give a two to three minute presentation and the Board of Directors will ask the candidate the prepared questions," Alaniz said. "After the interviews are completed all of the candidates can be present as the board has their discussion and works through the nomination process. One individual will be nominated and if that nomination is seconded there will be a call for a roll call vote to determine if that person will be seated in lieu of election."

Alaniz further noted: "Staff member and Registered Notary Lisa Gillespie is here, and we have everything prepared for Lisa to administer the oath to the eventual appointee, and there will be a notarized certificate that will then be passed on to the county."

First candidate, Michelle Duarte, currently on the staff of Blue Zones, LLC addressed the board, stating: "I have a background in problem-solving, organizational skills, strong communication and relationship-building that will allow me to make meaningful contributions to the board. I am passionate about advocating

county code Kennedy was accused of using to pay herself. The code is typically used within departments to cover miscellaneous expenses up to \$1,000 without approval from the Board of Supervisors.

Moorman said the exculpatory evidence turned over by District Attorney Chief Investigator Andrew Alvarado during the final days of the hearing only underscored in her mind how "transparent" the defendants had been about events leading up to Eyster's decision to file felony charges.

The documents showed that county payroll reports detailing Kennedy's extra pay had been distributed twice monthly to top county officials, including Weer and CEO Darcie Antle and her staff over three years, yet no one questioned why.

"It was all there if anyone had bothered to look," said Moorman.

Moorman's decision to dismiss the criminal case brought relief to the faces of Cubbison, Kennedy, and their lawyers. The two exonerated employees showed signs of relief as they hugged their attorneys following Moorman's statement that their criminal case was dismissed.

McCurry earlier pleaded with Moorman on Kennedy's behalf.

"There is no evidence of any criminal intent. There is only evidence that this employee worked herself into a state of exhaustion," said McCurry.

McCurry added, "The taxpayers still owe her for work done under very difficult circumstances."

Cubbison lawyer Andrian said the prosecution evidence was questionable and, in most instances, unable to be documented beyond any reasonable doubt.

Prosecutor Traci Carrillo said she respected Moorman's decision "based on how the evidence came out and the various issues that presented themselves."

"This is exactly the type of case that sometimes needs to simply play out and be challenged at a preliminary hearing in a transparent manner [versus a grand jury proceeding] to further evaluate the totality of the evidence," said Carrillo.

for the well-being of the community and creating positive change. I am confident that my expertise would be an asset to the Brooktrails Township Board."

Second candidate, Mary Ziady, addressed the board and said: "I have lived in Brooktrails for over 20 years. I was a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner for Mendocino Community Health Clinic. I am now retired.

"I've served on the board in the past," Ziady continued. "I was involved in the improvements for water storage in Lake Emily and the development of the Greenbelt Plan. My interests include maintaining the community's water and sewage systems, providing for the best fire prevention and fire department possible, and adapting to future water needs. I hope to see this community continue to prepare for the future. I served three terms on the Board of Directors beginning in the late '80s, early 1990s. My last term ended in 2011."

The third candidate, Helen Simms, spoke to the board, stating, "I returned to Brooktrails in 2021. I previously lived here from 1986-91." She also noted that her son, Tom Simms, is on the Brooktrails Township staff.

"I worked for 35 years in operations and administrative management in the legal and securities industries," Simms said. "For the last half of my employment life, I was a private contractor providing corporate assistance, administrative operations, training, mentoring, and office and facility development for private companies."

Each candidate was asked the slate of prepared questions which involved their level of understanding of how the board works, what issues they felt were the most important that the board addresses, how they each felt their skills matched the board's needs, as well as their understanding of the selection process.

The selection process then began with Director Susan Mahoney nominating former board member Mary Ziady. She said, "Based on her prior experience on the board, Mary understands the priorities and issues that the district has to address."

Director Ed Horrick seconded the nomination, saying, "Mary's contribution to this district in the past was immeasurable in some ways, especially with the Recreation Greenbelt Committee."

President Tyler-O'Shea then called for a roll call vote, and Mary Ziady was unanimously elected. Vice President Rick Williams, said, "Mary, congratulations." Then, all in attendance applauded.

Notary Gillespie administered the oath of office, and Ziady took her seat on the board.



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(PG-13)  
2 hrs 6 mins  
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Sat.: 1:30 & 7:00  
Sun.: 4:15  
Thurs.: 4:15 & 7:00

**TIME BANDITS (1981)**



(PG)  
1 hr 56 mins  
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Sat.: 14:15  
Sun.: 1:30 & 7:00  
Wed.: 4:15 & 7:00

**PORCELIAN WAR**



(R)  
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Sat.-Sun.: 1:15, 3:30, 5:30 & 7:30  
Wed.-Thurs.: 3:30, 5:30 & 7:30

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