

WCC rejects most changes to sidewalk ordinance

B.B. Kamoroff
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Sidewalks and who is responsible for them dominated the February 26 Willits City Council meeting. All but one of the proposed changes to the city's sidewalk ordinance were rejected.

The sidewalks in Willits are on city property and are owned by the city. But California law states that property owners, not the city, are responsible for repairs to city sidewalks abutting their property. And if someone is injured on the sidewalk, the owner of the adjoining property (or the owner's insurance company) is liable, not the city.

The problem for the city is that many city ordinances across the state, including Willits, do not specifically state that property owners, and not the city, are liable. That omission has led courts to rule against cities, and has resulted in cities rewording their ordinances to specifically state that property owners are liable.

That proposed one-sentence change to the Willits ordinance grew, like

Read the rest of
Sidewalks
Over on Page 11

Judge cites 'willful ignorance' in failed Cubbison prosecution

By Mike Geniella,
mendofever.com

Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman's February 25 decision to toss out the felony prosecution of Mendocino County Auditor Chamise Cubbison and former Payroll Manager Paula June Kennedy is a damning indictment of how the controversial criminal case was managed from the beginning.

The official court transcript describing Moorman's findings should be accessible as a matter of the public record and can be accessed here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VNY5EMekdxHavtBhhwhCXLJOLJB2RA1q/>

Supporters of the reinstated county auditor and Kennedy are celebrating the case's outcome. Thy two veteran county workers were accused of criminally misappropriating public funds to pay Kennedy about \$68,000 in extra pay over a three-year period during the COVID pandemic.

Cubbison and Kennedy's

Read the rest of
Cubbison
Over on Page 11

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above: A Speckled Sussex chick, though just a few days old, can already add "model" to its chicken resume. Below: A real ostrich feather duster – hung safely away from the heat lamp! – serves as a surrogate snuggly mother inside the baby pen. At bottom: A wide range of egg colors is the result of our coop stock, which includes a wide variety of breeds.



Above, right: A Black Crested Polish will grow up to have a black body and a full floofy head of long white feathers creating quite the hilarious "hair do" when she reaches full size. Below, left: Once the babies are a few weeks old, they graduate out of the black-and-yellow Costco tub, and into the little bird cage, which gives them more rumpus room, helps them start to acclimate to regular temperatures, and lets them see their surroundings. Below, right: Last step before full immersion into the big-birds' free-roaming coop is a stay in the middle-bird coop and pen, where they can acclimate further with the flock, but still have some space to call their own. These 5-week old Black Copper Marans (who are supposed to lay dark chocolate colored eggs!) still have their heat lamp and get closed into their small pen at night, but can have even more space for their growing selves in the attached exercise expansion pen. When they're about 8 weeks old, they'll finally get to free roam and roost in the big bird coop with the rest of the ladies.



Have fun raising a rainbow of chicks who eventually give you back a rainbow of eggs

The saying that "There's no such thing as a free lunch" ... or "breakfast," in this case ... is still true when it comes to owning chickens. Sure, you're collecting "free" eggs from the coop each day, but there's quite a bit of work, and cost, associated with the process.

It certainly is a fun and rewarding way to get those "free" eggs, however, and raising chicks, and then keeping chickens, is a great project to dip a toe into the world of animal husbandry.

Each spring, chicks of all breeds – and resulting fun shades of egg shells – are available from local stores, specialty breeders, and direct from mail-order sources.

Keeping the chicks warm and safe while young is the main hurdle; chicks are fragile and the unpredictable weather can leave them vulnerable to the cold. Keeping them in an enclosed space with access to water, chick crumble, and their heat is necessary. Once they're about 8 weeks old and fully feathered, they can be a little more hardy and not need the external heat.

Red or clear heat lamps, or light-less brooder plates are standard ways to provide heat for the chicks, but giving the littles a way to escape away from the heat is very important, too. Aim to heat one side of the coop, and keep water and flammables on the cool side of the coop.

Chicks drink a special vitamin mix which gets added to their water to help them grow big and strong, and special chick start/grow feed is available to give them added nutrients. Any store that sells chicks can help set up new owners with all their needs.

Keeping their cage, water, food – and bum bums – clean is important! Chicks have very fluffy bottoms and their droppings easily can get stuck to their feathers on the way out. They can then dry, harden, and block the chicks up, preventing new poops from being able to come out.

Owners must watch closely and help remove dried poops from the babies' bums by applying warm water on a cotton ball, or gently soaking the chick's rear end to soften and then gently remove the blockage. Ah, the joys of animal ownership.

– Maureen Jennison



What new fire zones mean for city

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The City of Willits held a public forum last Thursday, March 6, to discuss the new Fire Hazard Severity Zones within city limits, created by the state Fire Marshal's Office (part of CAL FIRE), and what the new zones will mean for property owners in the city. Last year, CAL FIRE released fire hazard zones for the unincorporated areas of the state, including property in the Willits valley outside city limits.

The state created three levels of hazard severity: Very High, High, and Moderate. There are also areas in the city not considered by the state to be in a fire hazard zone at all; these areas have no designated category. According to land use consultant Logan Shine, hired by the city to study and explain the new fire map, the fire hazard zones are not where fires are likely to start but where embers are likely to land from a nearby wildfire.

Within the city, only a small area in the southeast corner of the city is in a Very High zone. About half of the west side of the city is in a

Read the rest of
Zones
Over on Page 11

Indivisible Willits meets at the Rec Grove

Margi Gomez Guhde
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

An overflow crowd of friends and new acquaintances filled the pavilion at Recreation Grove last Sunday to organize themselves to take political action in these chaotic times. Indivisible has come to Willits, and it looks lot like hometown democracy.

Indivisible is a progressive organization that began in the U.S. in 2016 with the online publication of a 23-page handbook written by Congressional staffers Leah Greenberg and Ezra Levin, who were included in Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in 2019

The organization was modeled after the Tea Party movement, which focused on calling congressional officials and attending public meetings and town halls to make their feelings known about the new Obama administration. Indivisible founders thought that similar grassroots action could be effective when applied against the current administration and its policies. There are thousands of like-minded

Read the rest of
Indivisible
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Should DA David Eyster resign?

To the Editor:

The article by Mike Geniella of MendoFever.com and printed on the front page of the March 6, 2025 Willits Weekly, showed that Mendocino County Auditor Chamise Cubbison's criminal charges were dismissed by Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman.

Documents during the final days of the hearing, "showed that county payroll reports detailing the extra pay in question had been distributed twice monthly to top county officials over a three year period." "It was all there if anyone had bothered to look," said Judge Moorman. Willful ignorance is the way Judge Moorman described testimony by county officials.

After 1.5 years with no pay or benefits and incurring legal fees at her own expense, Cubbison is suing the Board of Supervisors for suspending her \$176,000, post and denying her due process. She may be made whole by the results.

But what about District Attorney David Eyster? How will he be held accountable? His legal fees were paid by the County of Mendocino, and he is responsible for these false charges against Cubbison. He hasn't lost anything except perhaps his reputation. Who will respect his decisions in the future? He needs to resign.

April Tweddell, Willits

Actions to help our community grow and prosper

To the Editor:

First of all, a big big Thank You to all who supported me, shared thoughts, and were able to vote in the Willits City Council election. Buoyed by so much good energy in our community, I stayed involved at City Council, explored committee meetings, met and talked with city staff and department heads ... all the things I would be doing if I were on the council.

And another hurrah to the renewed interest in local government and the great public turnout for council meetings. It feels like a New England town hall, even when things get rowdy. You can view all the Willits City Council meetings on YouTube if you can't make it in person. Just search for "Willits TV"

Did you know that most committee meetings are open to the public? I am quite interested in the Finance Committee, which has not met since July of last year. A Finance Committee meeting has finally been scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, at 3:30 pm at the county Museum conference room (by the Willits Branch Library). You do not need to live within City of Willits limits to attend, listen, learn and share your thoughts.

Here are more actions that will help our community grow and prosper: 1) Allow our city Finance Director to return to work – he has been on administrative leave since September 22, 2024, with no reason given.

2) Have a competent professional overseeing city finances including: completing audits, managing accounts, planning for the current fiscal year, and providing oversight on staff actions with respect to budget issues.

3) Although Measure K questions and Capital Improvement Plan issues were addressed by the Finance Committee last year, those solutions should be carried forward rather than neglected.

4) Our city manager should be held accountable. for his performance and contract.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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5) New council members need to be more respectful.

6) Former council members should be willing to hear about mistakes that may have been made and support remedies. I have great respect for nearly everyone who has served on the City Council.

7) The current council has a difficult task in front of them, and they should both be supported and held accountable for adhering to proper procedures and protocols.

There is a lot of worry and discontent among skilled and dedicated (and often overworked) staff, including department heads, misuse and overuse of consultants, loss of talented engineering staff, the loss of our Human Resource director, some rocky contract negotiations, and an inability to hire a permanent police chief and work productively with officers.

8) Grant funded activities can be useful, but require careful management of financial obligations.

9) Key concepts we can agree on are sustainable economic development and fiscal integrity. Let's define these key ideas better. For more information on Economic Development, pick up a copy of the March/April WELL (Willits Economic Localization) newsletter at the public library. New members are always welcome.

We all have a lot to learn; let's help each other out. I'm not trying to amplify controversy, we need all souls on board to move forward with sound management, fiscal integrity, and development of a vibrant economy. As always, I can be reached at (707) 459-0155.

"C'mon people, smile on each other, everybody get together, try and love one another right now" Thank you.

Robin Leler, Willits

Grange resolution on patrol vehicles

To the Editor:

At our February monthly Grange meeting Little Lake Grange #670 unanimously adopted the following resolution.

The resolution was read into the record of the Willits City Council meeting on February 26. Because it was not on the agenda the Brown Act prohibited the council from considering it that night. We urge them to consider it now.

Little Lake Grange #670, Willits

Resolution

Whereas: The Willits PD Patrol vehicles are currently using a color scheme of dark blue on black, which is not easily recognized as a law enforcement vehicle.

Whereas: Highly visible patrol cars deter infractions. Drivers check their speed and self-police when they notice a visible patrol car.

Whereas: **Vehicle Code DIVISION 17. OFFENSES AND PROSECUTION [40000.1 - 41610]**

(Division 17 enacted by Stats. 1959, Ch. 3.)

CHAPTER 3. Illegal Evidence [40800 - 40834] (Chapter 3 enacted by Stats. 1959, Ch. 3.)

ARTICLE 1. Prosecutions Under Code [40800 - 40808] (Article 1 enacted by Stats. 1959, Ch. 3.)

[40800]

(a) A traffic officer on duty for the exclusive or main purpose of enforcing the provisions of Division 10 (commencing with Section 20000) or Division 11 (commencing with Section 21000) shall wear a full distinctive uniform, and if the officer while on duty uses a motor vehicle, it shall be a distinctive color specified by the commissioner.

(b) This section does not apply to an officer assigned exclusively to the duty of investigating and securing evidence in reference to the theft of a vehicle, failure of a person to stop in the event of an accident, violation of Section 23109 or 23109.1, in reference to a felony charge, or to an officer engaged in serving a warrant when the officer is not engaged in patrolling the highways for the purpose of enforcing the traffic laws.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 59, Sec. 9. (SB 1474) Effective January 1, 2017.)

Resolved: That Little Lake Grange #670 requests that Willits Police Department adopt a new color scheme for their patrol vehicles that is higher contrast and more easily identifiable as a Law Enforcement Vehicle.

American Legion hosts St. Patrick's Day Dinner, March 15

American Legion-Willits Post #174 presents the annual Duane Brown Memorial St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. Saturday, March 15, from 5 to 7 pm at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street.

Menu: Corned Beef & Cabbage, Murphy's (Spuds), Carrots, etc. and Dessert \$25 per adult, \$12 per child under 12, under 5 years old, free. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

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 13: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Pickle

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

Monday, March 17: Corned Beef & Cabbage

Tuesday, March 18: Pork Tacos, Rice & Beans

Wednesday, March 19: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Thursday, March 20: Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap, Mac Salad

Friday, March 21: Italian Sub Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

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.

Arrest after stabbing at Kawi Place

By Sergeant Sergio Ochoa for MCSO

On March 6, 2025 at about 10:10 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to the 100 block of Kawi Place in Willits, for a report of a stabbing victim. Upon arrival, deputies contacted the victim, a 47-year-old male from Willits, and provided medical aid while medical personnel responded to the scene.

Additional deputies, wardens from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Willits Police Department officers arrived on scene and began searching the area for the suspect, who was as identified as Jason Ryan Omholt, 47 from Eureka.

An ambulance arrived on scene, provided the victim with emergency medical assistance, and transported the victim to a hospital for further medical treatment. It was determined the victim suffered life-threatening injuries, and there was substantial evidence located at the scene to corroborate that a violent assault had occurred.

Once the victim was transported, deputies began conducting an assault investigation along with detectives from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. During the investigation, it was learned Omholt had an active felony arrest warrant out of Humboldt County for 10851 CVC (Vehicle Theft). Additionally, deputies learned of a possible location where Omholt was possibly staying. Deputies responded to a residence located in the 2600 block of Mitomkai Way in Willits, where they were able to locate Omholt hiding in a bedroom.

Omholt initially refused to come out of the bedroom but after further negotiations, Omholt surrendered and was taken into custody without further incident.

A search warrant was obtained and served at the residence where Omholt was staying. At the conclusion of the investigation, Omholt was placed under arrest for 664 / 187 PC - Attempted Murder; 148 (a)(1) PC - Resisting arrest; and the out-of-county felony arrest warrant.

Omholt was subsequently booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he is being held in lieu of \$125,000 bail.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Willits Police Department for their assistance during this investigation.

This incident is actively being investigated, and anyone with information regarding this investigation is requested to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center at 707-463-4086 (option 1). Information can also be provided anonymously by calling the non-emergency tip line at 707-234-2100.

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Drovers Distillery

Gin, vodka and brandy producer opens distillery and tasting room on Main Street, carrying on centuries-old family tradition

Agim Nerguti delicately and proudly poured his Drovers Distillery Apple Brandy into snifters to be tasted by the several Willits residents who came to explore this hole-in-the-wall facility, tucked away near the farthest reaches of the old Remco factory. Nerguti is finally realizing his dream of owning his own distillery, as his family previously did for centuries in the old country, in a town called Gjegjan in Kukes County, Albania.

Mathew Caine
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"My family has been distilling from between the 1400s and 1500s," said Nerguti. "They have been distilling during the Turkish occupation [of Albania], the Yugoslavian and Serbian occupation, the Swiss and Austrian War occupation, World Wars I and II, communists for 50 years.

"War seems to follow me around for whatever reason," he said. "I learned the trade from my father, and I've been doing it since 1995. I moved to the States in 2005. I was here for a few years until I gathered enough funds to start my own venture. I'm still working on it, five years and finally we opened the doors the last couple months."

On this Saturday afternoon, he was amiably pouring for the several curious aficionados as he answered questions about his methods, history and equipment. Offering generous samples of apple and grape brandy, vodka, and gin, he obviously enjoyed entertaining the people and

turning them on to his ancient family recipes of spirits.

In addition to the straight samples and bottles to be purchased (without labels, while waiting for the printing to be delivered) three cocktails were also available to be bought: Heather (cranberry, lime, sage, gin or vodka, and tonic), Citrus Fair (orange, lime, sage, brandy, and tonic), and a Gin or Vodka and Tonic.

Starting small, Nerguti is the "janitor, distiller, president and vice-president, and everything else," and complains he has a terrible boss. He thanks Bruce Burton and Ed Mitchell for their generosity in helping him with a place to brew (a small garage space) and the adjoining bar, which he built himself.

The name Drovers derives from another of his family's ventures. "Our family was into the cattle industry as long as they were in the town," explained Nerguti. "We used to drive the cattle in the Alps, where the grazing was better, in the summertime and in the wintertime we'd take them to the coast. We'd have to drive them for 20, 30, 50 days sometimes. It has a special meaning to me. I don't know if it means anything to anybody else, but that's why I named it Drovers."

Read the rest of Distillery | Over on page 7

At top, from left: Drovers Distillery is located in a garage space at the old Remco factory. People show up throughout the afternoon to sample Agim Nerguti's brews and to socialize. Nerguti charrs and rebuilds his kegs to create the best aging environment. Above, left: Nerguti shows his tiny still in which he currently creates all of his distillates. Above, right: A menu board lists the prices of bottles, shots and cocktails. Below: Owner and distiller Agim Nerguti shows off his logo based on his family's cattle business.

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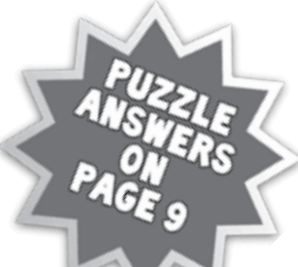
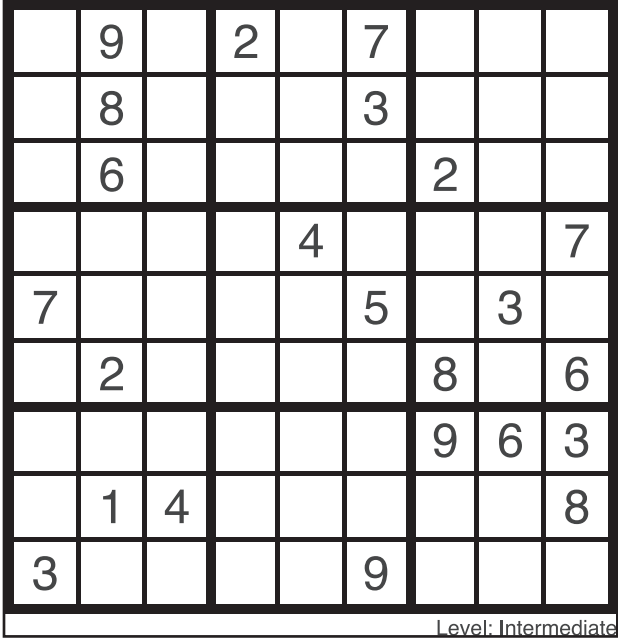
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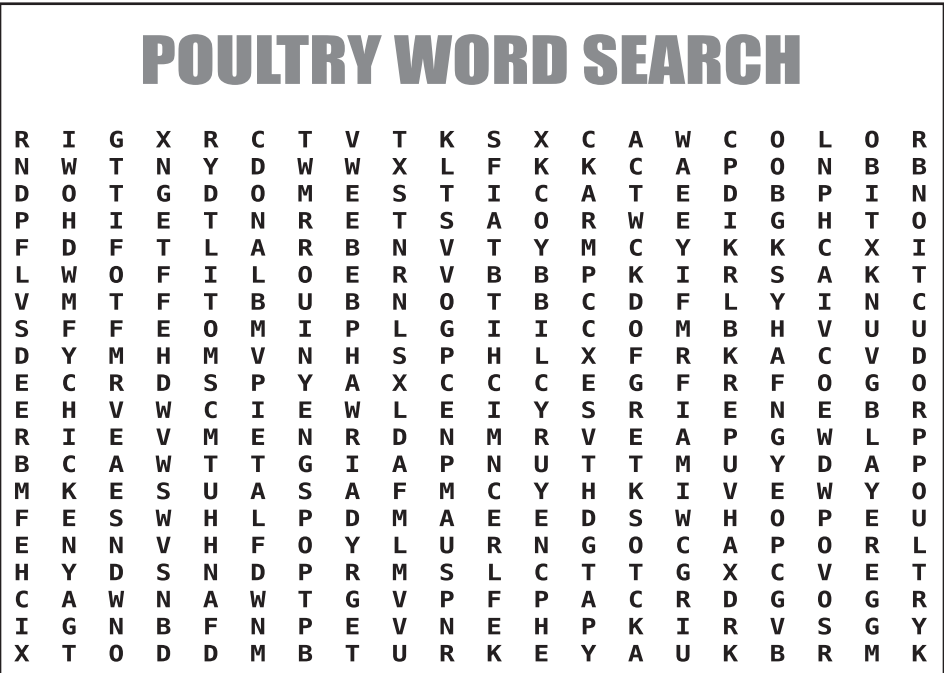
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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

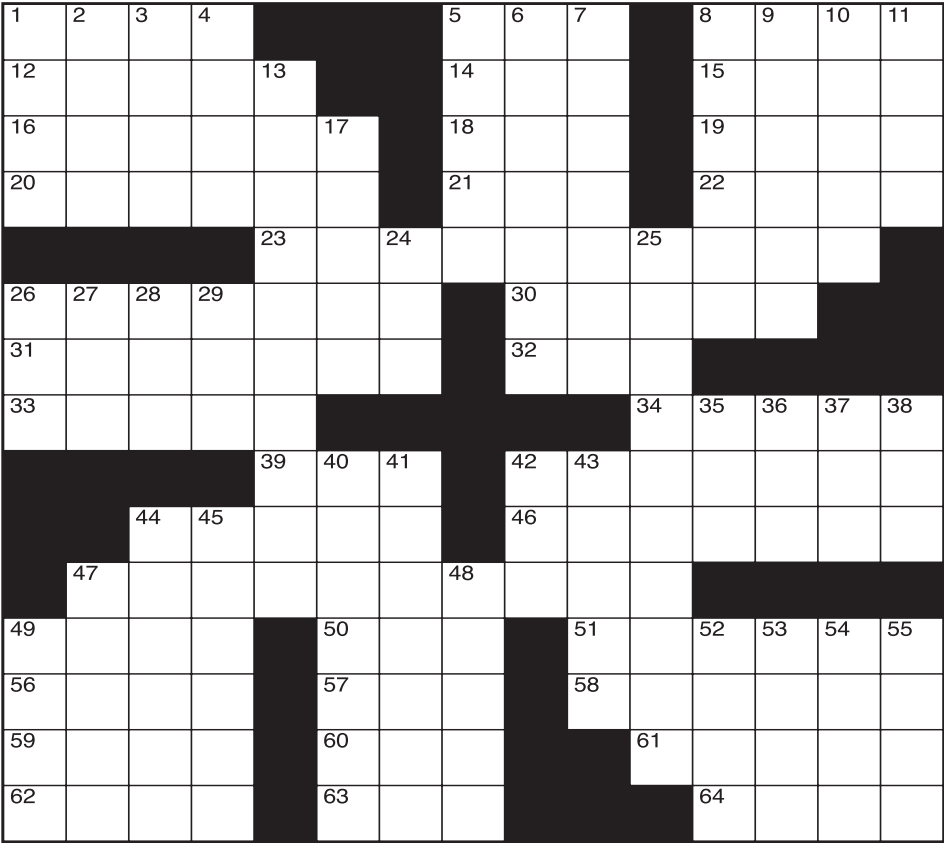
Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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!



BREED	COMB	HATCHED	PULLET
BROILER	DOMESTICATED	HEN	ROASTER
CAPON	EXHIBITION	LAYER	TEMPERAMENT
CHICK	FEATHERS	PLUMAGE	TURKEY
CHICKEN	FINISH	POULTRY	VARIETY
COLOR	FOWL	PRODUCTION	WEIGHT



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Unsheared sheep
 - Rock TV channel
 - Streetcar
 - Concerning
 - Expression of recognition
 - Greek goddess of youth
 - An iPad is one
 - Adult beverage
 - Manning and Wallach are two
 - Makes a petty verbal attack
 - Tyrrion Lannister's nickname
 - Pointed ends of pens
 - Wristwatches
 - Body part
 - Made a mistake
 - Adjusted
 - Turkish honorific title
 - Yell
 - Historic Alabama city
 - Cub
 - Type of sea bass dish
 - To call (archaic)
 - Unfortunate
 - Separate oneself from others
 - Hero sandwiches
- CLUES DOWN**
- Works of body art
 - Abba ___, Israeli politician
 - A desert in Asia
 - Eat greedily
 - Doomed French queen
 - Beat
 - One who survives on blood
 - As a consequence
 - Counted on
 - Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation Science
 - Unclean
 - One who does not drink
 - Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago
50. Former OSS
51. Open spaces in a forest
56. Innermost brain membranes
57. Fortune
58. Hunting expedition
59. Doomed queen Boleyn
60. Peyton's little brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Scottish tax
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. An increase in price or value
24. ___ student, learns healing
25. Bacterial skin infection
26. Expresses surprise
27. What one says on a wedding day
28. Crony
29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)
35. Unit of length
36. Side that is sheltered from the wind
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris
41. Statements that something is untrue
42. Greek alphabet letter
43. Suspends from above
44. Popular types of cigars
45. Girls
47. U.S. philosopher and logician
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian
54. Amounts of time
55. Trigonometric function

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

February 1 to February 28

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported **205 incidents** in this 28-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

February 1

12:27 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

February 2

12:43 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

February 3

No incidents to report.

February 4

3:52 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

7:26 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Hill Road and Sanhedrin Circle and issued citations.

February 5

5:36 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

8:06 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1400 block of Willow Lane.

4:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of East Commercial Street.

11:01 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

February 6

7:37 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 600 block of East Commercial Street.

3:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

February 7

2:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Alameda Avenue and issued a citation.

11:40 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

February 8

12:16 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 600 block of Blosser Lane and issued a warning.

2:15 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Valley Street and McKinley Street and issued a warning.

4:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Commercial Street and South Humboldt Street and issued a warning.

6:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:52 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue and issued a warning.

9:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

February 9

12:01 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:45 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

7:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

7:50 pm: JONES, Elijah Rivers (25) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on

misdeameanor charges of driving under the influence of drugs.

February 10

5:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Highway 20 and issued a citation.

February 11

5:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of Madden Lane.

8:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

8:16 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of North Main Street and State Street.

February 12

2:07 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

5:56 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

6:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued a warning.

7:35 pm: RILEY JR., Bobby Eugene (53) of Crescent City was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdeameanor charges of disorderly conduct (loitering) and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

10:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

February 13

7:49 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of Madden Lane.

3:32 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

8:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:58 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 600 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

February 14

11:04 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:21 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of Madden Lane and issued a citation.

February 15

8:23 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Nancy Lane.

1:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:26 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Della Avenue and Viola Street and issued a citation.

10:16 pm: WINTERS, Matthew Maurice (36) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Creekside Court. He was arrested on felony charges of domestic battery and willful cruelty to a child.

February 16

1:40 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:17 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and West Highway 20 and issued a warning.

4:13 pm: WESTCOTT, Cassandra (32) of Willits was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of domestic battery.

8:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

February 17

No incidents to report.

Read the rest of **WPD** Over on page 9

What's Happening
Around Town

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. 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.

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors every Thursday from 3-5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 391 School Street, for the freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot dinner, tasty treats, new vendors, hot drinks, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Friday, March 14

'Char Talk' at the Library: Join the talk on pyrolysis and gasification by Peter Roediger, carbonizer. For those who have made or utilized bio char soil in the garden, metal forge or anywhere else, this is for you. Friday, March 14 from 4 to 5:30 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Due to limited space, registration is required: peter@biocharcoalition.org.

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. The March exhibit at WCA, "Therian Dreams," features prints and sculpture by Robert Spies and "INK'd IN," works by eight printmakers, through March 26.

Raven & Goose at Shanachie: With fiery fiddlin' and foot stompin' piano, this nationally touring contra duo plays original compositions and breathes new life into traditional tunes. Friday, March 14 at 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

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. "This community event offers a chance to touch and feel and play instruments and amplifiers." \$20 per table; to reserve a table or for more info, call Chris Chichacki at 707-459-1099.

Willits Library presents a downtown Storywalk

Discover the joy of reading while getting a dose of exercise with the Willits Library's downtown Storywalk! Stroll through the heart of the city as you enjoy the delightful tale of "Mateo and his Red Cat," showcased in the windows of local businesses.

The walk begins at 2 South Main Street. and continues south down Main Street. In Willits. The Storywalk will continue through the month of March.

Grab your family and friends for a fun-filled adventure that brings stories to life!

Click the link for a Storywalk map: <https://libraryaware.com/3570AZ>

ATW Grief Support Group starts April 2

Avenues to Wellness offering a Grief Support Group, beginning Wednesday, April 2, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm for eight consecutive weeks. Please call Suzanne to register: 707-456-9676. Space is limited.

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

Kid's Coding Basics at the Library: Learn the basics of coding with drag & drop tools available from Scratch. Saturday, March 15 from 2 to 3 pm. "We'll be using scratch.mit.edu to create games and animations." Free for ages 8 to 16. Registration required; to register, visit or call the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

"Cards for Cooper": Join us for an evening of poker, dinner and drinks, all benefitting 8-year-old Cooper Agenbroad. We are fundraising to purchase a service dog for his medication-resistant epilepsy. "Cooper loves football and wrestling and has not let his medical condition hold him back from doing the things he loves." Saturday, March 15, at 4 pm at 300 East Commercial Street. \$100 buy-in + add on; dinner 1 drink with cash prizes and silent auction. Donations can also be made via Go Fund Me at www.gofundme.com/f/donate-to-provide-cooper-with-a-lifesaving-service-dog

American Legion 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, from 5 to 7 pm at the Veterans Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. Menu: Corned Beef & Cabbage, Murphy's (Spuds), Carrots, etc. and Dessert \$25 per adult, \$12 per child under 12, under 5 years old, free. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

"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



We've updated the Shanachie Pub and Willits Library ongoing events columns, thanks to publicity from those two esteemed Willits event presenters. We'll be updating and making any needed changes to the general Ongoing Events column before getting it back in the Calendar. Anyone with a weekly or twice-monthly event for the Ongoing column, please email your event to willitsweekly@gmail.com

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

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. "You're invited to bring any instrument, meet new musicians, discover new genres, and explore your creativity!"

Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm – welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!"

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Shanachie Pub presents its popular Open Mic Night every Wednesday, featuring an eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can be entered for the lottery. Lottery determines order from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20 pm.

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. Tickets, \$20, are available online at: wctperformingartscenter.org, or at the door.

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.

Monday, March 17

Willits Gem & Mineral Society Meeting: Join the Willits Gem & Mineral Society for a free monthly meeting, on Monday, March 17 this month. Come hang out with local rockhounds, lapidary artists, jewelers, and fellow rock enthusiasts. Bring a green stone or a lucky stone for show'n' tell. Free cool rock for all attendees. Bring a snack to share. 7 to 8:30 pm, at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street.

Wednesday, March 19

'History Makers' at the Museum: Wednesdays at the Mendocino County Museum from 2 to 4:30 pm. In March, Women's History Month, enjoy art projects inspired by Mendocino County women artists. Wednesday, March 19, features Mushroom Yarn Craft inspired by Miriam Rice. Attendance is included with regular Museum admission. 400 East Commercial Street. Enjoy free admission on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. More info: at www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

Thursday, March 20

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors every Thursday from 3-5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 391 School Street, for the freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot dinner, tasty treats, new vendors, hot drinks, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

ATW presents Wolfgang Ronnefeldt on dreams: The Howard Foundation's Avenues to Wellness presents "Dreams: Uncovering Their Meaning in

Ongoing Events Column

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

Story & Playtime: Friday mornings each week, 10:30 to 11 am. In the children's area of the library. Start your morning listening to a children's story, then join us for a short playtime

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to 1 pm. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe."

LEGO Club: Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

Tech Help: Saturdays from 11 am to 12 pm: Bring your computer questions here to get help.

Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome! Spinning circle 1 to 2 pm; Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm.

Your Life," a talk by Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, MA. "Although the language of dreams is often symbolic and metaphoric, we can learn this system of communication and bring to the surface its meaning." Thursday March 20, 6 to 7 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts. 71 East Commercial Street. FREE to the public, chairlift available.

Friday, March 21

Hillshaker at Shanachie: : formerly known as the Clay Hawkins Duo, Hillshaker blends rapid-fire fingerstyle slide guitar and honest, heartfelt songwriting by Clay Hawkins with long time co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass, playing "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart" or "Mountain House." Friday, March 21 at 7 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, March 22


Sip Some Soup: 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, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "This event aims to provide food for the hungry in our community and raise funds for a warming center/shelter in Willits. Come taste some soups, try homemade bread from Emmandal, and check out the silent auction." Tickets: \$15 per adult; \$25 per couple; \$5 for children 12 and under. To sign up to make soup, call Cindy Savage at 707-459-2579, leave a message if there is no answer.

Willits Gem & Mineral Society
March 17th 7-8:30pm
@ The Willits Grange
"Bring a green stone or a lucky stone for show'n' tell!"
"Free cool rock for all attendees!"
"Bring a snack to share!"
"Door prize to lucky winner!"



Night Animals at Shanachie: Bringing the party, this six-piece funk band from San Francisco "grabs you immediately and refuses to let go" with their infectious original material and electrifying covers. Saturday, March 22 at 7 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.





Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, MA

Dreams: Uncovering Their Meaning in Your Life

Thurs. March 20, 6-7pm

Dreams are a source of inspiration and guidance in our life. They offer a gift from the psyche and provide messages not to be wasted. They are like a language that gives us information to guide our choices. Although the language of dreams is often symbolic and metaphorical, we can learn this system of communication and bring to the surface its meaning.

Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, M.A. has worked as a body-centered psychotherapist for 30 years. He was engaged by the courts to teach anger management groups for 10 years. For the last 25 years he has facilitated Dream groups and overnight Dream workshops.

Call 456-9676 for more information.
Email: spicetti@howardfoundation.org
Visit: avenuestowellness.org.

WILLITS Center for the Arts
71 E Commercial St.

FREE to the public.
Donations appreciated!
Wheelchair accessible.

Mar 2025

Learn how to remember your dreams

Learn how dreams can inspire and guide us through difficult times

Discover the significance of nightmares

How do dreams help us develop our intuition?



Mendocino County 4-H Presentation Day

Submitted by Willits 4-H Club

The Willits 4-H Club recently hosted the Mendocino County 4-H Presentation Day at Blosser Lane Elementary School on March 2.

About 40 4-H members from around the county came together to present on a variety of topics ranging from illustrated talks about Cochín Chickens to demonstrations on how to make ice cream.

Two groups gave a "Share the Fun" skit in front of the entire audience: the Willits 4-H Club with their skit titled, "Before the Meeting, We are Making You Ice Cream!" Willits 4-H Club officers, President Brian Spackman, Vice President Landyn Martin-Lundgren, Treasurer Grady Fonsen, Co-Secretary Arya Allenbrand, Co-Secretary Charlie Piñon, and Sergeant of Arms Champ Bolton. also won a gold for their "Share the Fun" skit.

Many other members from around the county came and volunteered. The Willits 4-H Club would like to thank those who helped organize the event and those who volunteered as judges, room monitors, and especially Dan and Annette Pinon who organized concessions.

Music Gear Market

Sat. March 15th
Little Lake Grange
Willits CA.
10-3

Sponsored by
Little Lake Grange
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\$20 per table
To reserve a table or for more information contact
Chris Cichacki 707-459-1099

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RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

'Dreams: Uncovering their meaning in your life'

Avenues to Wellness presents: "Dreams: Uncovering Their Meaning in Your Life" by Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, MA. Thursday March 20, 6 to 7 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. FREE to the public, chairlift available.

Dreams are a source of inspiration and guidance in our life. They offer a gift from the psyche and provide messages not to be wasted. They are like a language that gives us information to guide our choices. Although the language of dreams is often symbolic and metaphorical, we can learn this system of communication and bring to the surface its meaning. Please join us for this inspirational talk.

Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit: avenuestowellness.org to view video archives of previous talks. Email: spicetti@howardfoundation.org or call: 707-456-9676 for more information.



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE

ARTS

Presents

Art Talks

The Grand Egyptian Museum



March 14
6:30 PM

71 E. Commercial St.
Willits, CA 95490
www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Mendocino College presents a locally based Journalistic Theatre Project

Mendocino Stories:

Instructions for Living in a Broken World

Co-created by Mendocino College Students with Dan Hoyle, Lucas Verbrugge & Reid Edelman

March 13-23, 2025



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE

ARTS

PRESENTS

INK'D IN

PRINTS, SCULPTURE, POETRY, VIDEO

OPENING SAT MARCH 1st

6-9pm - 71 Commercial St., Willits, CA
Exhibit extends through Sunday, March 26

'Therian Dreams' and 'Ink'd In' at the Art Center through March 26

Willits residents and visitors have two more weeks to experience the March exhibits= at the Willits Center for the Arts. "Therian Dreams" showcases the atmospheric and provocative prints and sculpture by coastal artist Robert Spies, and "Ink'd In" is a group printmaking exhibit featuring a wide array of techniques from eight printmakers, ranging from the traditional Japanese-style woodblock prints of Walter Padgett to the whimsical and colorful Gelli Prints of Ukiah artist Darrell Carpenter, and lots more.

The exhibit runs through Sunday March 26 at the Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are: Fridays through Sundays, from 11 am to 5 pm.

Above: A print by Laura Corbin. At left, top: "Minotaur," a sculpture by Robert Spies. At left: A Gelli print by Darrell Carpenter. Below, left: A print by Kate Gould. Below, right: One of the woodblock prints featured in the March exhibit.



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NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyothatre.com

Mid week promotions: **Wednesday - Matinee prices to all shows all day.**

BECOMING LED ZEPPELIN

(R)
2 hrs 1 min
Fri.: 7:00
Sat.-Sun.: 3:00 & 7:00
Wed.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 7:00

Movie Times for March 14 thru March 20

BADUWA'T

(All Ticket Sales Benefit Baduwa't Watershed Council!)

49 minutes
Fri.: 4:15 & 5:45
Sat.-Sun.: 12:30, 1:45 & 5:45

THE UNBREAKABLE BOY

(PG)
1 hr 49 mins
Fri.: 4:00 & 6:30
Sat.-Sun.: 1:30, 4:00 & 6:30
Wed.-Thurs.: 4:00 & 6:30

MICKEY 17

(R)
2 hrs 17 mins
Fri.: 3:45 & 6:45
Sat.-Sun.: 12:15, 3:45 & 6:45
Wed.-Thurs.: 3:45 & 6:45

Theater 1 Deluxe - Luxury Recliners, Laser Projection, Ages 16+

'Mendocino Stories' at Mendocino College Theatre opens March 13

Submitted by Mendocino College

The Mendocino College Theatre Arts Department presents "Mendocino Stories: Instructions for Living in a Broken World," an original play based on stories of real people in our local community. The show will run for two weekends only, March 13-23, in the Mendocino College Theatre on the Ukiah campus.

Under the guidance of renowned playwright and solo performer Dan Hoyle, actor-educator Lucas Verbrugge, and college theater director Reid Edelman, students have utilized Hoyle's exciting techniques of "Journalistic Theatre." The result is an inspiring locally grown project reflecting the challenges and resilience of our community with honesty, humor and lots of heart. Tickets are available at the Mendocino Book Company and online at www.ArtsMendocino.org.

Due to some mature content, the production is appropriate for audiences ages 14 and older.

Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday March 13, 14, and 15 at 7:30 pm, and Thursday, Friday and Saturday March 20, 21 and 22 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday March 23 at 2 pm. Mendocino College Theatre, Center for the Visual & Performing Arts, 1000 Hensley Creek Road, in Ukiah.

Tickets (\$20 general; \$15 students and seniors) are available at the Mendocino Book Company and online at www.ArtsMendocino.org. The performance on Thursday March 13 is a "pay what you wish" preview. The performance on Thursday March 20 is a special discount night, with all tickets costing only \$10.

For additional information, call (707) 468-3172.

willitscenterforthearts.org • 707-216-1826 • \$20

Tension

Mendocino Dance Project

Saturday, March 15, 2025, 7pm
Willits Community Theatre
37 West Van Lane, Willits

together a variety of themes into an evening-length performance of dynamic and athletic movement, with performances by Emily Anthony, Priya Birchard, Jessica Curl, Mackenzie Rain, and Natalie Thiel-Gebheim.

The Mendocino Dance Project also offers dance programming in local schools, vertical dance workshops, and summer camps in the redwoods, and dance classes for people with Parkinson's Disease. Tickets for the one-night appearance at WCT on March 15 are \$20 and available online at wctperformingartscenter.org, or at the door.

The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane in Willits. Season Sponsors for WCT are NC Financial Group, Community Foundation of Mendocino County, KZYX Radio, KLLG Radio, Jerry Drew Painting, Greg and Tanya Musgrave, and Sparetime Garden Supply.

Below: Dancers Emily Anthony, Mackenzie Rain, Kara Starkweather, Jessica Curl, and Natalie Thiel in Mendocino Dance Project's newest work, "Surface Tension."



Photo by Larry Wagner

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Mickey 17'

The Story: Mickey 17 (Robert Patinson) is sad. He has died 16 times, and been resurrected 16 times. This is his 17th body, and 17th life. That is why his name is Mickey 17. He is an "Expendable." His job on the interstellar spaceship is to do deadly dangerous things. And when the spaceship with its cargo of colonizers lands on the new icy planet light years away from Earth, his job will still be to do dangerous, deadly things.

It seems that there are beings, of a sort, already living on this new world. They look like huge sow bugs. They have tentacles. One wonders: Are they dangerous to human beings? Mickey 17 will have to test their attitudes. And deal with the fact that recently he has fallen in love with Nasha (Naomi Ackie), a policewoman on board the spaceship. She loves him back.

Maybe that's why he's sad; he has someone to lose. Or maybe he was just born sad and is living out his destiny (which is everyone's destiny) to die. Mickey is more than a little bit pathetic. But this is his movie, and there is a chance that he will change.

My Thoughts: This flick was written by Bong Joon Ho and Edward Ashton, and directed by Bong Joon Ho. Mark Ruffalo plays the disgusting malignant narcissist who is (somehow?) in charge of the whole expedition, along with Toni Colette who is (cold, scary) brilliant as Ruffalo's adoring wife. This flick is a thrilling science fiction adventure, and a thoughtful examination/deconstruction of racism and sadism. So: Respect!!!

Parents: Not for children. Sex and death are at the center of the story

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

'Surface Tension' by Mendocino Dance Project at WCT, March 15

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

"Surface Tension," Mendocino Dance Project's newest work, will perform at the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, March 15 at 7 pm. "Surface Tension" uses contemporary dance to express the challenging times we are currently living, according to Artistic Director Kara Starkweather.

Starkweather says the program explores how we can find each other and stay resilient amongst the chaos. "It is a challenge to remain grounded and stay in touch with our own humanity," she says, "as we are constantly confronted by so much turbulence around the world."

The Mendocino Dance Project dancers will weave together a variety of themes into an evening-length performance of dynamic and athletic movement, with performances by Emily Anthony, Priya Birchard, Jessica Curl, Mackenzie Rain, and Natalie Thiel-Gebheim.

The Mendocino Dance Project also offers dance programming in local schools, vertical dance workshops, and summer camps in the redwoods, and dance classes for people with Parkinson's Disease. Tickets for the one-night appearance at WCT on March 15 are \$20 and available online at wctperformingartscenter.org, or at the door.

The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane in Willits. Season Sponsors for WCT are NC Financial Group, Community Foundation of Mendocino County, KZYX Radio, KLLG Radio, Jerry Drew Painting, Greg and Tanya Musgrave, and Sparetime Garden Supply.



The rest of **Distillery** *From page 3*

"This place got small once I brought in all the equipment. I'm hoping to expand in the next couple years. So far, most of everything is done word of mouth. Somebody stops by and tastes something and then they post something," said Nerguti, who smartly is starting small, having financed the business himself and plans to grow little by little until he can begin to export his wares.

Nerguti reminisced about his distillery in Albania and the knowledge he received from his father. "I learned the trade from watching my father, not being forced to do it. When my father got sick, I ended up doing the distilling because we only had a certain amount of time to distill the mash that we had made. None of our customers knew the difference, so my dad said that I should do it and he retired. My dad had to produce all the way up to 2008. Then he retired. People kept demanding his product. I like distilling spirits because it means a lot to me. When my pop passed away, I wish he were alive to see how far I've brought it.

"All my family did it illegally," he confided. "I'm fully licensed now. Down in Albania, it's kind of a tradition. Often, the government doesn't bother people with their traditions, especially families like ours, who have been doing it. If it doesn't affect their bottom dollars, they don't worry about it.

"I want Willits to know I'm here and I'm here to stay, hopefully," Nerguti said. "Willits reminds me a lot of my country back home. People are handshake, respectful. They respect each other. They support locals. I didn't want to start in a town that relied on tourism. Locals will keep you forever. Tourism is seasonal. Here, almost everybody knows me. Back home, I grew up the same. You know everyone. Everyone knows you. You wake up in the morning, you go to breakfast, you see people you know.

"Respect is a big thing where I come from," said Nerguti. "In the big cities, they don't care about people. I'd rather have 10 customers that are good people, than a hundred customers who aren't good people. I'm here to leave a legacy and a name behind. That's what the bottom line of it is."

Drovers Distillery, located at 934 South Main Street, is open to the public from 5 to 11 pm, Tuesday through Thursday; noon to 11 pm on Friday and Saturday. For more info, call 707-955-6174, or visit "Droversdistillery" on Facebook and @droversdistillery on Instagram.

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? 707-459-1959
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
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Church of Christ

"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023

Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7-8:00 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

- A University for Soul
- Spiritual Living Courses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at 707-459-2252
<https://stanthonywillits.org/>
sainthonywillits@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
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@outlook.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willitsumc

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



Above, left: Some completed packets of vegetable seeds await sorting into the seed cabinet. Above, right: The volunteers carefully measure the amount of seeds for each packet. At right: The Willits Library has an extensive collection of vegetable and flower seeds to be borrowed. Below: Bunny California, Garrett Moore, and Dee work on sorting, labeling and packaging the seeds. Below, left: Some of the seeds are hidden inside their pods and require more processing in order to extract the seeds. Below, right: The volunteers work diligently on the project for about three hours. At bottom, left: Bunny takes advantage of the snack table prior to getting down to work on the seeds. At bottom, right: Librarian Denise Jessie shows some of the completed packets of seeds from the cabinet.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Seed Packets

Volunteers restock seed selection at Willits Library just in time for spring planting

The Willits Branch of the Mendocino County Library has a seed library for those residents who enjoy germinating their own plants, rather than beginning with purchased starts. The seed library is quite extensive and contains both flowers and vegetables. Gardeners are encouraged to let one or more of their plants go to seed in order to return the seeds to the library, but it is not required as gathering seeds requires extra time and effort, above what is required to grow the plants.

On Saturday, March 8, several volunteers sat in the conference room to label envelopes and place a generous amount of the seeds into packets. For their efforts they were rewarded with comradeship, snacks and great conversation.

"Today, we have a seed-packing party for seeds that have been donated and need to be packaged or seeds that we purchased," explained Branch Librarian Denise Jessie. "We have a budget line now. I think it's the first year we've done that for seeds. It's cheaper to buy seeds in bulk and then repackaging them.

"We have some volunteers coming in this morning and they're going to help us get those seeds put in packages. We put them in envelopes that give information about the seed, what year it was harvested, any other information we need to share. We also like to indicate where it was grown; if it's a local seed company, was it in Laytonville, was it in Brooktrails? They all have very different climates. If you're looking for a seed that will grow well in your area, you can see what kind of microclimate it was from.

"We're really not sorting, but packaging. We have some that need to be cleaned, that still have the flower petals on them. Sorting would mean that we put them all in one coffee can and sort them out. We don't do that. We're packaging them up from how we bought them in bulk. We're going to get them inventoried and get the new dividers made and put in the drawers. This is the time people will start their seeds. They have to do it indoors, because there is snow in our forecast late next week. But it's so early, that forecast can change."

Jessie thinks the seed library is a "neat resource. Libraries provide books and we also have some technology one can check out, but to have seeds you can take home for free, plant them, have fresh vegetables during the summer, and when they go to seed, you can bring them back, if not, that's OK.

Some seeds are harder to gather than others. You really have to know what you're doing. We don't push for people to bring the seeds back.

"We have some really neat items that came from an organization; they are guides on different types of seeds, how to plant them, and how to gather the seeds. <https://goingtoseed.org/> is the name of the organization. The instructions come with seeds. We have two different kinds of corn, cucumbers, okra, some really basics like broccoli. It's a non-profit organization that is really about getting seeds into the community and teaching people how to save the seeds, and they donated seeds and booklets."

Many people actually have taken advantage of the seed lending program. "We try to keep track of it, with a form, Jessie continued. "All we're asking is to help us keep track of the seeds with a very simple form. We have a limit of 15 packets at a time. We're also starting a seed library newsletter. We've added 'do you want the newsletter?' to the form. It's a reminder of what's available in the seed library, what we should be doing with the gardens at this time of year. I'm hoping that will give us a method of collecting names of the people who would like that newsletter."

"On the form, there's a safe seed promise, because gathering and using seeds is very important to the environment. We ask people to sign the pledge, so we know that they're not going to use genetically engineered seeds or bring them into the library."

The pledge reads: "Agriculture and seeds provide the basis upon which our life depends. We must protect this foundation with a safe, genetically stable source for the future generations, for the benefit of all families, gardeners, consumers who want an alternative. I promise not to knowingly buy, grow, share, or trade genetically engineered GMO seeds or plants."

In a time of rising food prices and food uncertainty, growing one's own vegetables is a great way to ensure a family's nutritional needs are met, at least in the growing seasons. In addition, it gets people outdoors, away from their screens and provides healthy exercise, and of course, the pride of seeing one's efforts produce an actual growing plant is joyful and priceless.

The Willits Branch Library is located at 390 East Commercial Street. For more info, call 459-5908 or visit www.mendlibrary.org/visit/willits.



Mendocino County invites applications for:

Air Pollution Control Officer
\$115,731 - \$140,691

Auditor/Appraiser
\$68,515 - \$83,283

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

Health Program Eligibility Worker
\$38,334 - \$46,612

Mental Health Clinician I/II
\$62,337 - \$87,630

Planner II
\$77,584 - \$94,307

Public Health Nurse
\$92,040 - \$111,883

Registered Nurse
\$78,977 - \$95,971

Senior Environmental Health Specialist
\$67,641 - \$82,222

Senior Public Health Nurse
\$101,296 - \$123,136

Social Worker I - IV-D
\$51,729 - \$97,448

Social Worker Supervisor I - II-C
\$73,840 - \$103,896

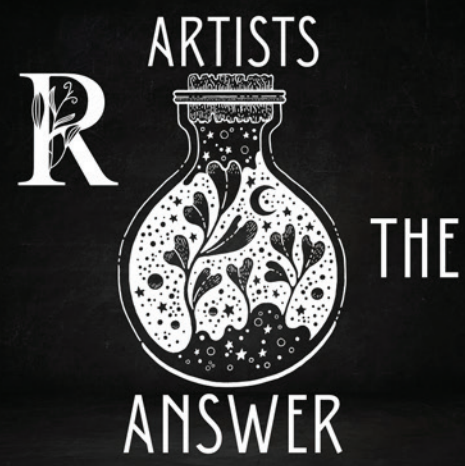
Supervising Health Program Coordinator
\$75,920 - \$92,268

Veteran's Services Representative
\$48,006 - \$58,344

For a complete list of current openings and to apply:

www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs

EOE



"Creativity takes courage." - Henri Matisse
Group: Be the Antidote - Willits
Page: Be the Antidote

Marc Komer

Legal Document Assistant

An Affordable
Non-Attorney Service

(707) 459-2775

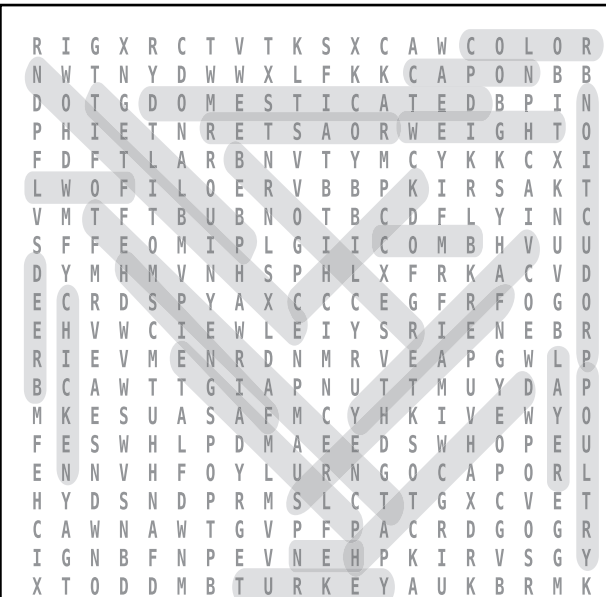
245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.



Willits Weekly
Online & In Print



LEGAL NOTICES

WW528

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0058

The following person or persons are doing business as The Cheesebakery, 21451 Poplar Avenue, Willits CA 95490; 408-469-7481.

Registered owners: Angela and Nicholas Gessner, 21451 Poplar Avenue, Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a married couple.

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/31/2025.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 31, 2025.

/s/ Angela Gessner, owner
Publication Dates: March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2025

Willits Weekly
can run legal
notices including

**fictitious
business name
statements,
foreclosure
notices, storage
unit auctions,
and more.**

**Contact us for
more information
at willitsweekly@gmail.com**

The rest of

WPD

From page 4

February 18

1:36 pm: KUBAS, Michael Dennis (45) of Nice was contacted in the 300 block of Robert Drive. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of trespassing, being under the influence of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

3:31 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

6:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of School Street and issued a warning.

8:47 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of North Main Street.

9:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

February 19

8:00 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Boscabelle Avenue.

5:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Alder Court.

5:34 pm: LOPES SR., Anthony Frank (54) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

February 20

2:41 pm: BUTTREY, Kenneth Wayne (67) of Willits was contacted in the 500 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on felony charges of failure to appear and misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

4:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

10:53 pm: Officers

conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:34 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue and issued a warning.

February 21

9:28 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

11:36 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

3:34 pm: DEGURSE, Nathan Paul (26) of Willits was contacted in the 1800 block of Center Valley Road. He was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance with two or more prior convictions and violation of parole, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

February 22

1:25 am: KUNTZ, Rachel Anne (25) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (drugs and alcohol).

4:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:55 pm: CALES, Tyler Greyson (27) of Willits was contacted in the 700 block of Central Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

9:55 pm: LEWIS, Brooke Angela (44) of Laytonville was contacted in the 700 block of Central Avenue.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Brookside Registration Open

Brookside Elementary TK / Kindergarten registration is now open. To register go to www.willitsunified.com. Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2025; TK: age 4 by Sept. 1, 2025.

Inscripción abierta en Brookside

La inscripción para TK / Kindergarten de Brookside Elementary ya está abierta. Para registrarse, vaya a www.willitsunified.com.

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

Free Food for All Pop-Ups

Mendocino Food Network presents food pop-ups with free food for all: In Willits, every 1st and 3rd Thursday, from 10 to 11:30 am at 1250 Blosser Lane. In Laytonville, every 4th Thursday, 12 to 1 pm at 300 Cahto Drive. In Covelo, every 2nd Thursday, from 12 to 1 pm, at 76300 Grange Street. In Leggett: Every first Tuesday from 12 to 1 pm at 65100 Drive-Thru Tree Road. Info: Rachelle@mendofood.org; 707-615-6654.

Garden Space Available

Free water, compost. 60 cents a square foot, per year. At Willits Community Garden. Call Mike A'Dair 456-4395.

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 Arkellian @ 459-5049.

Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, April 5** from 8 am to 4 pm

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.

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.oaknvine.net/lp>



She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disobeying a court order, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

7:40 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road.

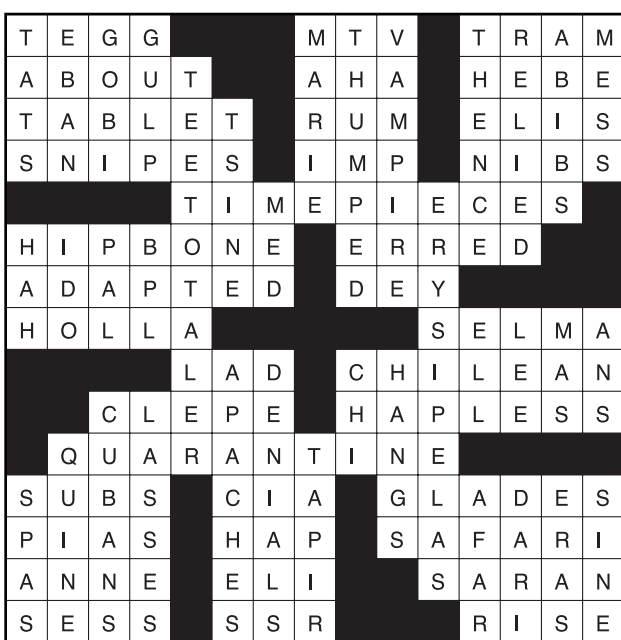
4:28 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road.
8:37 am: EATON, Phoenix Mailani (23) of Sacramento was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of false impersonation and on misdemeanor charges of providing false identification to an officer, petty theft, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

8:37 am: SQUIRES, Asya Alexis (26) of Sacramento was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of false impersonation and on misdemeanor charges of providing false identification to an officer, petty theft, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

5:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 600 block of Central Street.

9:10 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of North Main Street.



Richard Turcotte

Richard James Turcotte, 77 years old, of Willits, CA passed away on February 17, 2025 in his home surrounded by loved ones after a long battle with Inclusion Body Myositis. Richard was born June 30, 1947 in Jackson, MI to Naomi and James Turcotte. He graduated from Melvindale High School in Allen Park, MI.

In his own words, he started off the wrong way, made a few bad decisions, and was saved by an angel- who gave him the best family and life he could ever have.

Richard, known as Turk, held jobs in railroads, steel mills, and North State Nursery, but his passion was rare coins. He was a numismatist for 40 years and opened Double Hawk Coins in 1980. He traveled the country to coin shows following his interest. His diseases eventually slowed him down, otherwise he would have never retired.

He enjoyed nature, gardening and could barbecue the best tri tip. He played guitar and loved the blues and believed in the power of music. He loved spending time with his children and was the best Papa to his grandbabies – instilling as much wisdom and love as he could. He never

lost his sense of humor and even in pain, he continued to thank God for the life he was given.

Richard is survived by his beloved wife of 48 years, Anita, his children, Richard Jr (Calley), Reina (Kurt), Blaise (Priscilla), and Adrienne; his treasured grandchildren, Justin, Cheyenne, Madison, Emma, Brian, Alistair, and Corinne; five great grandchildren, his younger brother Larry; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, older brother Jerry, and his favorite dog, Bear.

Our father will be missed dearly. He loved our mother and cherished their life together. He loved being a Papa and giving unconditional love. We will mourn your loss, but celebrate your life. Thank you for being the best father, the love you and will take care of mom.

A celebration of life will be held later this year. We will invite friends, family and anyone who knew and loved him when we have further details.



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Affectionate Shane



Shane is a sweet boy with a great personality. He already walks very well on leash, knows how to sit, is crate trained and potty trained, and loves all dogs and people. He rides well in the car. We've taken him to social events like a block party and adoption events and he was happy and calm in the busy environments. Children draw his attention and he will follow them hoping to get some love. He seeks affection and likes to cuddle.

Shane loves to play and has a good amount of energy that needs to be burned down every day. Being a cattle dog puppy, he needs to be with a family who has enough time to give him adequate exercise and continue his training. If you are looking for an adventure buddy (or perhaps running partner?), have breed experience and the time to devote to this sweetheart, he will make an incredibly loyal, fun and loving addition to your home.

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

Bubbly Josie

Josie (aka Sweet Potato) is back for another chance to find her match! Josie was part of our bottle-baby Thanksgiving Litter. Josie is all grown up now. She is bouncy, sweet as pie, and loves to please. Josie is super smart and cute as can be. She wants to leave with you today! She has done well with our junior volunteers and thinks kids are tons of fun. Josie would love to meet 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.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



Shanks the Gentleman



Shanks is such a well-rounded, social, friendly dog. He loves everyone! He's easy to handle on leash and enjoys going for walks. Plus, this handsome guy has great indoor manners!

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

Willits Weekly Rain Box

Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)										rainfall since
location	Mon Mar 03	Tue Mar 04	Wed Mar 05	Thur Mar 06	Fri Mar 07	Sat Mar 08	Sun Mar 09	weekly total		01Oct24
Northbrook Way	0.01	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.13		67.17
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12		62.21
Valley Rd	0.01	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07		47.76
Canyon Rd	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10		43.10
Pine Mountain	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05		45.27
South Main @ East Oak	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07		60.60
average	0.01	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09		54.35

data compiled from [weatherunderground \(https://www.wunderground.com\)](https://www.wunderground.com)

California Nevada River Forecast Center						
Six day precipitation forecast for the Willits area	Mon Mar 10	Tue Mar 11	Wed Mar 12	Thur Mar 13	Fri Mar 14	Sat Mar 15
	0.0	0.1 – 0.25	1.5 – 2.0	0.1 – 0.25	0.25 – 0.5	1.0 – 1.5

<https://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/precipForecast.php?cwa=EKA&imgNum=1&mobile=0>

Thanks to Tim Hanna, who provides this Rain Box for Willits Weekly, This record from Monday, March 3 through Sunday March 9 shows just a tiny bit of rain for the week.

It's raining as Willits Weekly goes to press Wednesday afternoon, and the National Weather Service is predicting showers, rain – and maybe some snow this week.

Join the Willits Otters Swim Team this spring/summer

Submitted by Willits Otters

Step One. Sign up for the Willits Otters Spring/Summer swim season for children up to the age of 18.

Register online at: <https://team.commitswimming.com/register/sFYdDZBGzroFYgmA8> or find the link on our "Willits Otters Swim Team" Facebook page.

Step Two. Report to first practice on Monday, March

31, 2025 at 5 pm with a parent to meet the coaches and start your training. Experienced coaches will be on hand to teach and train swimmers. Our Otter Pup program will start May 1. A swim test may be given to make sure you are aptly placed.

Mary Colvig, whose Otter experience led to her to become captain of the Colgate University Swim Team,

is head coach. Her mother Linda, a former Otter coach and experienced teacher, will handle the Otter Pups. Also joining the coaching team are Mattie Owen, also a former Otter, Willits High School Swim coach, and collegiate swimmer, and Nicole Karkar and Amanda Katz, both dedicated swimmers. This combined talent will provide swimmers with a strong foundation in training and technique for all four strokes.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde



The rest of Indivisible

From page 1

groups across the country, and Willits Indivisible is now one of them.

Interim facilitator Kim Bancroft explained that the formation of Indivisible in Willits has evolved rapidly. "Just two weeks ago, LuAnn Burton and Linda Grace called together an impromptu meeting of concerned citizens, expecting five or six to show up at the Brickhouse. Twenty did! The next week we moved to the library, but when 80 people came, we moved to Rec Grove, where we counted 105 people at the last meeting."

Bancroft explained that Indivisible Willits seeks to inform others, be a positive voice in our public forums, and alert our representatives when they need to pay attention to attacks on democracy. "We will see the effects of these attacks in our own community regarding research and approval for medicines, changes to Social Security and Medicaid, tax refunds and veterans' benefits, special education funds, farm supports, early education through Head Start, rural clinics; and more," she continued. "This funding has been allocated by our Congressional representatives, and it should be in their hands to decide how funds are spent, not by executive decree."

The Rec Grove Indivisible meeting last Sunday focused on organizing interested community members. Plans to divide into sub-groups with a focus on certain themes was explained, and community members spoke up about their specific interests. Topics



Above, left: A large group of Willits residents attended Sunday's Indivisible gathering in the park. Above, right: Democracy in action at the Indivisible meeting. Standing near the meeting guidelines sign, facilitators for Sunday's meeting were Kate Black, left, and Kim Bancroft.

discussed included creating fact sheets, contacting political leaders (in person or in writing), tracking mid-terms and other elections, vigils and protests, and other kinds of outreach.

Comments heard at Willits Indivisible echoed the national Indivisible website, which defines its mission in this way: "We make calls. We show up. We organize. We have built lasting collective power across the country and in our home towns. We're Indivisible."

Kim Bancroft emphasized that Indivisible Willits is in its early days, and is currently a work in progress. "We seek to have rotating facilitators and note takers," she said. "For this last meeting, Kate Black and myself were the facilitators, and Peggy Weber took notes." She went on: "Our overriding concerns are for preserving democracy and our constitutional rights. The emphasis is on what we can do by acting locally, while remaining as positive and inclusive as possible."

Information on the national Indivisible movement can be found at <https://indivisible.org>. The Willits Indivisible Facebook group page is up now at www.facebook.com/groups/536661709448471, or search Facebook for "Willits Indivisible. Concerned citizens can join the Facebook group to learn more about local meetings and interests.

The next meeting for Willits Indivisible is planned for Friday, March 21 at 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street in Willits.

The rest of Sidewalks

From page 1

the roots of the trees that are upending sidewalks all across the city, into a proposed overhaul of the city's sidewalk laws.

Land Use Consultant Leiloni Shine, contracted by the city to update the sidewalk ordinance, reviewed the changes that were previously discussed at the September 25 council meeting (before the three new council members were on the council).

Following many comments and criticisms by members of the public, and input from council members, the wording change was not implemented, along with a raft of other proposed sidewalk ordinance changes rejected by the council, with one exception. Under the old sidewalk ordinance, property owners were required to repair sidewalks any time remodeling or repair to a home was \$10,000 or more. That amount was increased to \$100,000.

Councilmember Bruce Burton concluded: "That's all I want to do. I say go back to work and find some other project."

The rest of Cubbison

From page 1

professional reputations were shattered and their personal lives put in upheaval during a 17-month long ordeal that ended with Judge Moorman's strongly worded dismissal.

Judge Moorman in her decision makes no direct note of District Attorney David Eyster's actions in the politically laced case, and his secret attempts to assist county supervisors and executives in a plan to force consolidation of the two key county financial offices, do away with their elected positions, and eventually shift control to the Board of Supervisors.

However, court records and documents show it was Eyster's decision to file charges against Cubbison and Kennedy and then hire a special outside prosecutor at the rate of \$400 per hour to take the controversial case to trial. The district attorney did so after conducting his own year-long review of the case including further investigation by DA investigators.

Eyster in the meantime attempted to pressure Cubbison into resigning in return for a misdemeanor criminal filing. Cubbison, proclaiming her innocence, chose to fight.

Eyster filed charges against Cubbison and Kennedy in October 2023. The case dragged on for 17 months before Moorman's ruling quashed his efforts and Cubbison won immediate reinstatement to

her position. Typically, criminal cases clear preliminary hearings and go on to trial because the legal bar is low.

Now, pending Cubbison civil litigation will determine how much in damages taxpayers will pay if Cubbison's claims of denial of due process are upheld against the county Board of Supervisors and a list of "John Does," including Eyster and CEO Darcie Antle.

Moorman's commentary zeroes in on the evidence and testimony of key witnesses Eyster relied upon and turned over to Special Prosecutor Traci Carrillo of Sonoma County to pursue prosecution.

Moorman's ruling also underscores the "willful ignorance" she found on the part of county administrators.

Excerpts from Moorman's ruling focusing on three key figures in the case:

Moorman on Chamise Cubbison:

"Regardless of anything else that I may say today, there's vastly insufficient evidence for – for the Court to find anybody acted with criminal negligence, whether she had authority to have these payments made. And, again, this was completely transparent."

Moorman on Paula June Kennedy:

"And the evidence with regard

to Ms. Kennedy is that, as Mr. McCurry laid out, working these extraordinary hours, every county employee for the County of Mendocino should be thanking her for having been paid during that time frame."She was working all nights and weekends, not able to use the CTO that she had accumulated.... The evidence is clear to me that she was frayed emotionally by the time all of this came to light, that she was suffering under an inordinate amount of stress, not only because of the responsibilities to her job but also the stress that she was experiencing because she couldn't get any relief, because she couldn't take any time off because there is no one else to do the job."

Moorman on Former Mendocino Auditor Lloyd Weer:

"And I think Mr. Weer, the evidence of the commencement of the 470 payments that show up from the very first time they were paid, his statements to Detective Porter, his evasiveness on the witness stand, his purported failure of recollection, his willful and deliberate ignorance by not reading his email, all to me point to the fact that he said something to her that made her believe she had authority."

The rest of Zones

From page 1

High zone. The rest of the west side and most of the eastern edge of the city are in a Moderate zone. The center of the city, near Main Street and running most of the length of the city, is not in a fire hazard zone at all. A map of the fire hazard zones is on the city's web site (see below).

The purpose of these fire hazard zones is to implement California's newest building and land use codes for homes in the Very High and High zones to make them safer during a fire.

According to Willits Building Inspector Davey Bowles, the new codes will apply only to new construction and additions; owners of existing non-conforming homes will not be required to make any improvements. Homes in the Moderate and the undesignated (low fire hazard) zones do not have to meet the new building codes, even for new construction.

Among a raft of new requirements, newly-constructed homes and additions to homes in the Very High and High zones will be required to have flame-resistant and ember-resistant exterior walls, siding, roofs and roof edges. When a home is sold in the Very High and High zones, the seller must disclose the fire zone to all prospective buyers (this disclosure applies to all homes in the two zones).

The city is required by state law to adopt an ordinance recognizing the fire zones by June 25, at which time the new California codes for homes in the Very High and High zones in Willits will be implemented.

How will this affect home insurance? The state Fire Marshal's Office repeatedly emphasizes that the new requirements are not insurance-related and are not guidelines for insurance coverage. One handout at the presentation was a letter from California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, suggesting that the new fire hazard zones might actually lower insurance rates and prevent cancellations, though just about every member of the public who attended the Willits forum was convinced otherwise. People universally felt this will be an excuse for even higher insurance rates and more cancellations. Some members of the public also felt that these new regulations will dramatically reduce property values in Willits.

A state web site has been set up so anyone can look up any address in Willits (or other incorporated cities) and see the fire zone. Go to OSFM.FIRE.CA.gov/FHSZ and scroll down to the "Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area" map where you can enter an address or place. Once the map appears, you may have to shrink down the view (the + and - box) before the colors will show. You can also call the state Fire Marshal's Office at 916-633-7655 and leave a message asking for assistance.

A map of the fire hazard zones along with more information is on the city's web site. Go to CityofWillits.org. In the search box type in "Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones." Or go to: cityofwillits.org/308/2025-Willits-LRA-Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zone on the internet.

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