

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

The Cubbison Affair

To the Editor:

What has become known as the "Cubbison Affair" is not only another blow to the already sullied reputation of Mendocino County, it is an indictment of the corrupt administration of District Attorney David Eyster.

Before the Cubbison Affair, Eyster had already developed a reputation of being a bully. A few years ago when I was on jury duty, I witnessed this for myself when Eyster, acting as the lead prosecutor in a criminal case, browbeat a prospective juror over his honest answers to the questions asked of him. Mind you, this was not a hostile witness, but a prospective juror doing his duty as an American citizen.

Eyster's transparent attempt to bully the county's auditor-controller, Chamise Cubbison, into resigning her position because she had the audacity to question the DA's spending of public funds on lavish parties for his

staff, is an unmitigated abuse of power. When Cubbison refused to resign upon Eyster's threat of a bogus criminal indictment, Eyster then wasted likely over \$100,000 of taxpayer money pursuing the indictment that was just recently laughed out of court by District Court Judge Ann Moorman. As an elected official, Eyster cannot be fired, the only remedy for the residents of Mendocino County is a recall election. Throw the bum out!

The Mendocino County Board of Superiors is not without fault in the Cubbison Affair, as they put her on administrative leave without pay, without even giving her an opportunity to respond to Eyster's charges. This is a gross deprivation of due process by the county's top officials for which the county is now being sued by Cubbison and which will likely cost the county additional tens of thousands of dollars in damages. The level of incompetence of Mendocino County's governing board is staggering.

Jon Spitz, Laytonville

PG&E, Arbor Day Foundation to offer 3,000 free trees

Santa Rosa – Pacific Gas and Electric Company is providing 3,000 free trees to eligible customers across its service area in Northern and Central California as part of its effort to keep communities safe by planting the right tree in the right place. The initiative, funded through PG&E's Energy-Savings Trees program, started March 12.

"Planting trees in our communities offers many long-term benefits, including cleaner air and a reduced carbon-footprint. Our partnership with Arbor Day Foundation is a great opportunity for eligible customers in the North Coast to sign up for a free California tree to plant where they live or work. We encourage customers to participate – and to keep their community safe by planting their tree in the right place," said Dave Canny, vice president for PG&E's North Coast Region.

PG&E is partnering with Arbor Day Foundation to identify distribution locations for California trees and provide safety tips on the best places to plant them. Eligible customers can sign up and reserve a tree at www.arborday.org/pge by inserting their address. Trees will be delivered to the customer's address six weeks after the order date. Each

household can reserve up to one tree from the following options while supplies last:

- Japanese Red Maple
- Redbud
- Flowering Dogwood
- Kousa Dogwood
- Japanese Snowbell
- Tuliptree

Any tree or plant that poses a risk to our equipment must be removed for safety. Planting trees a safe distance away from PG&E equipment can help lower the risk of removal.

Visit www.pge.com/en/outages-and-safety/safety/yard-safety.html for PG&E's "Right Tree, Right Place" resources which provide guidelines on tree planting to ensure a safe distance from overhead or underground electric or gas lines.

For more information from the Arbor Day Foundation, visit www.arborday.org/trees

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is a combined natural gas and electric utility serving more than 16 million people across 70,000 square miles in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit pge.com/news

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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Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)										rainfall since 01Oct24
location	Mon Mar 17	Tue Mar 18	Wed Mar 19	Thur Mar 20	Fri Mar 21	Sat Mar 22	Sun Mar 23	weekly total		
Northbrook Way	0.91	0.01	0.56	0.01	0.06	0.07	0.00	1.62	74.63	
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.86	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	1.35	68.25	
Valley Rd	0.81	0.00	0.31	0.00				1.12	52.27	
Canyon Rd	0.60	0.01	0.31	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.95	47.84	
Pine Mountain	0.53	0.01	0.39	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.97	49.02	
South Main @ East Oak	0.83	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.00	1.46	67.59	
average	0.76	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	1.25	59.93	

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

California Nevada River Forecast Center						
Mon Mar 24	Tue Mar 25	Wed Mar 26	Thur Mar 27	Fri Mar 28	Sat Mar 29	
0.00	0.00	0.1 - 0.25	0.5 - 1.0	0.1 - 0.25	0.1 - 0.25	

<https://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/precipForecast.php?cwa=EKA&imgNum=11&mobile=0>

Thanks to Tim Hanna for his Rain Box covering Monday, March 17 through Sunday, March 23. His commentary on the weather week: "After two moderate rain-producing systems came through early in the week, things dried out, but not up. Weak systems produced very light precipitation on Friday and Saturday, bringing the weekly total to just above what had been predicted. After starting this week with warm, sunny days, expect things to cool down and light rainfall to return by mid-week."

Willits Weekly
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 A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
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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 27: Lasagna w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread

Friday, March 28: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll

Monday, March 31: Pork Burrito Wet w/Green Sauce

Tuesday, April 1: Open Faced Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

Wednesday, April 2: Southern Fried Catfish, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Thursday, April 3: Chicken Salad Sandwich, Mac Salad, Pickle

Friday, April 4: Fish Tacos, Rice and Beans

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.

PG&E to offer \$43 million for 'community microgrids'

Submitted by PG&E

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) this week announced its intent to award up to \$43 million in Microgrid Incentive Program) grant funding for the development of nine new community-driven microgrids throughout its Northern and Central California service area. PG&E today also announced the opening of the application window for the second wave of MIP grant funding beginning April 3.

To apply for the second application window, interested parties must submit MIP project ideas to PG&E by May 30, 2025, through an email to communitymicrogrids@pge.com.

The Microgrid Incentive Program funds the development of community microgrids to support disadvantaged communities most vulnerable to outages.

A microgrid consists of a group of interconnected customers and distributed energy resource(s) that can disconnect from and reconnect to the grid to stay energized during an outage.

Community microgrids are typically designed to serve a variety of vulnerable customers and key community resources such as hospitals, police and fire stations, schools, water treatment and telecommunications facilities, gas stations, markets, and residences, among others.

"The North Coast is home to several ground-breaking microgrids that benefit customers in the region, including the Redwood Coast Airport and Blue Lake Rancheria microgrids in Humboldt County," said Dave Canny, vice president for PG&E's North Coast Region. "These microgrids have now been active for several years providing resilience and low-carbon energy to some of our most vulnerable communities. PG&E was an early collaborator on these microgrids, and we're proud to continue supporting the expansion of community microgrids to additional North Coast communities through this significant award."

PG&E received approximately 50 inquiries from tribal governments, local governments, and community-based organizations since launching its MIP in late 2023.

Of these, 22 project inquiries advanced through initial program screening requirements and technical consultations with PG&E to submit applications. Each of those 22 projects received an application development grant of \$25,000 to offset community investments in developing successful project applications.

PG&E subsequently selected nine projects following a rigorous evaluation and scoring process. PG&E's project scoring framework evaluated customer and community attributes, resilience benefits, and environmental benefits along with the requested incentive amounts to determine the projects with the highest benefit-to-cost ratio.

The microgrids selected in the first wave of MIP funding are located throughout PG&E's North Coast region. **Microgrids** Over on page 11



Photos by Mathew Caine

Comedy Night

Comedians keep the audience in stitches at sold-out Noyo Theatre live show

The laughs came often and joyously to the 200-plus crowd at the Noyo Theatre last Friday night. The show, produced by Total Bern Productions in conjunction with the theater, featured four comedians, some from the Los Angeles circuit, professionals who knew how to connect with the people of Willits, even those like Cody Smit who lambasted everything Willits for its small-town feel.

The show, rated 18 and older for several raunchy, but hilarious, references to sex and body functions, seemed to resonate with the audience. In fact, all three versions of the North Coast Comedy shows were a stunning success, so much so that Willits can look forward to more in the future.

First on stage was Jon Lehre, the host of the show, who performs all over the North Bay Area. Lehre set the mood for the other three acts to come with his musings on marriage and the fact that no one was drinking in the audience, "This is the way God intended comedy," he said, "with Red Vines and popcorn."

Next up was redhead Addison Krider from Los Angeles. Her cute looks belied her raunchy R-rated humor. "I live in fiery, I mean sunny, Los Angeles," she exclaimed, prior to diving into tales of her dating life, substance use, and other subjects not mentioned in polite company.

Cody Smit railed about having nothing to do in Willits, other than look at the brand-new firehouse. His jokes tended to hilariously self-effacing humor and his "ginger" appearance.

The headliner, Raul Trujillo, has been seen on "The Late Show" with Stephen Colbert, as well as many venues in Los Angeles and has been noted to be one of the 10 comedians to watch out for by Variety Magazine. His jokes were related from a Hispanic perspective, which were appreciated by many in the audience.

The show was the final of a series of three North Coast Comedy nights. However, new owners Jim Devine and his wife, Michelle Hutchins, have several plans to bring in more innovative entertainment to the venue.

"It was super fun to see 200 people in here," said Devine. "It's rare, but it's three comedy shows that have done that well since I've been here. There have been a couple of movies that have brought in crowds: 'Deadpool & Wolverine' (I hate that it speaks so precisely to our American culture right now), it really packed them in for days. 'Moana 2' did well. It was kind of unexpected and we couldn't keep candy in the house."

However, it has been difficult to bring

in movie-going crowds for most of the films. "The easiest answer for sure is the competition from cable," mused Devine. "Unfortunately, I think it's bigger than that. People have really become accustomed to their worlds, and going to movies requires sharing space with other people. There's more than a little bit of germ consciousness since COVID. It's hard for us to even want to engage in that type of public square anymore."

"It's so comfortable at home, exactly the way we like our environment. There are a hundred reasons for not wanting to get engaged with the community in that way. People want to curate their world exactly."

"I get it," said Devine, "but this is the optimism that kind of gets me up every day. This experience [movies] survived for a hundred years. During the Great Recession, it seemed like nobody was going to want to spend money, buy tickets, and go to the movies. The invention of television could have been the end of going to the movies. If that didn't do it, the invention of VHS, where you could watch a movie whenever you want to. Now there's streaming."

With that in mind, Devine has been inventive with the use of the theater spaces, bringing in a recent documentary series, "Little Lake Valley Wild Horizons," for a month of stimulating and informative topical films, all of which have brought in varying audiences, depending on the subject matter. Most of the films, like "Sally," "Baduwa't," and "Porcelain War," are pointed and poignant, and are worthy of hours of discussion.

Look forward to more comedy shows, documentaries, bands, and other non-traditional movie theater entertainment as Devine attempts to find a formula which will bring the crowds back to this historic theater, which will be celebrating its 80th birthday on May 4, which is also Devine's birthday. From the original showing of "The Dark Command" in 1945, to the latest studio releases, the Noyo Theatre has been a stalwart of the community, a deco building which has stood the test of time, providing Willits with quality entertainment through the years.

The Noyo Theatre, located at 57 East Commercial Street, can be reached at 459-6660. Show times can be found at www.noyotheater.com. Check out their Facebook page, "Noyo Theatre" to keep abreast of live shows and more.

We want to hear from you!
 Join a community workshop to share your experience with housing and transportation in Willits:

In-Person Gathering
Monday, March 31st
 TIME: 5:30-7:30pm
 LOCATION: Willits City Hall
 111 E Commercial St
 Food will be provided!
 All ages are welcome.

Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, April 2nd
 TIME: 12:00-1:00pm
 LOCATION: Virtual Zoom Meeting
 RSVP to receive a Zoom link:
<https://bit.ly/WillitsWorkshop>

HOSTED BY:

 Please email questions or accommodations to: ematsumoto@rchdc.org

Haebl Creek Village is bringing more affordable housing to Willits (located at 275 Margie Drive). We want your feedback on what public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements to bring to the area. Join us to learn more about Haebl Creek Village and share your ideas.

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Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner, April 11

Submitted by Willits Sober Grad

Please support Sober Grad's biggest fundraiser: It's time for the BEST tri-tip dinner of the year! Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner pickup is set for Friday, April 11, from 4 to 6 pm, at the Willits High School Ag Farm (behind the high school, 299 North Main Street).

Dinner – a complete meal for 4 – includes Marinated & Grilled Tri Tip, Baked Potatoes, Green Salad, Dinner Rolls, Cookies, and a Beautiful Rose donated by Flowers by Annette.

Tickets are \$65 for the dinner for 4, and are pre-sale only. Tickets are available at 101 Trailer & RV Supply and Monkey Wrench Men & Womens Wear. You can also get your ticket by calling Karen Thiel, WHS, 707-459-7700, ext. 1504 or Carrie Lambert, Willits Sober Grad, 707-671-6173.

Willits Sober Grad is a profit organization that works each year from September through June to raise funds which are used to put on a safe, sober party for the graduating Seniors of the Willits Community Schools on Graduation Night. These schools include: Willits Charter School, Willits High School, Sanhedrin High School, LaVida Charter School. Since its inception in 1986, no High School Senior has died on Graduation Night.

Congrats | River is 11

It's hard to think of words that rhyme with eleven, Except for 'seven', or angel in 'heaven'.

With a panda, a platypus, and a nice kangaroo, River just turned ELEVEN woohoo!!

Happy Birthday River!

Love, Mom, Dad, Alaska and the pets

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Bereavement Support Group

This facilitated 8-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.

Beginning Wednesday, April 2
Time: 5:30-7:30pm
To register call:
Suzanne Picetti-Johnson (707) 456-9676

FREE OF CHARGE
Space is Limited

Suzanne Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson
Group Facilitators

Please support our biggest fundraiser of the year!

WILLITS SOBER GRAD

Tri-Tip Dinner

FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH
4-6 PM, WHS AG FARM

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT:
101 TRAILER & RV
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or call
Karen Thiel WHS
(707) 459-7700 ext. 1504
Carrie Lambert, WHS
(707) 671-6173
Dinner Includes:
Marinated & Grilled Tri-Tip, Baked Potatoes, Green Salad, Dinner Rolls, Cookies, and a Beautiful Rose
Donated by Flowers by Annette.

PRE-SALE ONLY
\$45 TICKET

At right: WHS Senior Alison Southard shows off a truckbed stuffed high with garbage she cleaned up in Brooktrails as part of her senior project. Below, from left: WHS Senior Alison Southard carries a bag full of trash. Southard picked up miscellaneous items at Brooktrails intersections and along streets as part of her WHS senior project. Southard cleans up unsightly plastic trash.



WHS senior cleans up in Brooktrails for her senior project

"A huge shout out to Willits High School Senior Alison who chose trash pick-up in Brooktrails for community service hours as part of her Senior Project. She definitely made a difference in our community," read one recent post about Alison Southard's senior project on the Brooktrails Community page on Facebook.

"The lot on Daphne that was Mr. Bear's white plastic bag dump looks amazing," the poster reported. "Plus on Sherwood across the street from Birch. She picked up car fender and trash; looks so much better! Thank you Alison!"

Alison recently spent over seven hours picking up trash in Brooktrails intersections and side streets, as part of her community service hours for her senior project. "She worked relentlessly with focus and determination," reported one admirer, "picking up auto parts, diapers and many difficult items – no matter how cold, wet or windy the weather was."

Art Under 20 2025

Special Exhibit: Willits High School Alumni Artworks, Show in the Grand Gallery
Willsits High School - Willits Charter School - Potter Valley High School



Below, from left: General Manager Franklin Rockwell of Slam Dunk Pizza in Willits accepts the third-place award for Slam Dunk's Roasted Tomato Basil Soup. Representing Mariposa Market, Joelle McDougall accepts two awards from Willits Daily Bread's Cynthia Savage, one award for Best Soup - a Beef Tomato and Ginger Curry made by Mariposa's Gigi Jergenson. Mariposa also won the award for Best Decorated Table. Chef Adam Celaya accepts a second-place award for his Clam Chowder from Willits Daily Bread's Cynthia Savage.



Sip Some Soup 2025 winners

Submitted by Willits Daily Bread

Willits Daily Bread's Cynthia Savage sent the 2025 winners of Sip Some Soup fundraising – and fun-raising – event. "It was a huge success," Savage said. "Everyone had a great time, and we made over \$5,000."

Mariposa Market won first place for their Beef

Tomato and Ginger Curry made by the market's Gigi Jergenson. Mariposa also won the award for "Best Decorated Table."

Second place went to Chef Adam Celaya for his tasty Clam Chowder.

Slam Dunk Pizza won third place for their Roasted Tomato Basil Soup.

Sip Some Soup 2025 "was a huge success," Savage added, "because of all the people in the community that showed up to support our mission to feed and shelter the people in need in our community."

Savage also noted the bread from Emaland which "was so delicious," and added that Reza's Bread sold out. "The desserts from Slam Dunk Pizza and the Community Foundation of Mendocino County were a hit," Savage said.

Ladies, Take Charge of Your Health!

Join us for PAP-A-PALOOZA at Care For Her, Hillside, and protect yourself against cervical cancer with a Pap test!

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

NEXT EVENT DATE: Saturday, April 12th. We will have the Saturday clinic the second Saturday of each month for PAPS.

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

Join us for PAP-A-PALOOZA

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

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

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Above, from left: Sunflowers start well in early spring. I have had good luck starting them in between kale plants. The kale sheltered the seedlings from wind, and then the sunflowers sheltered the kale from summer sun later on. Don't forget to plant a few at a time, about 2 weeks apart, so you have flowers all summer. If you have carrots left in your garden beds, be sure to pull them now, while they are at their sweetest from the cold weather. Once they bolt, they will be woody. If the gophers have left you any, eat them now. Orach is an unusual vegetable that can be harvested like spinach all summer. The glowing colors and slightly salty flavor add interest to salads. Photo by Karen Morton. Below, from left: Mustards come in various shapes and colors, and are well-adapted to cold spring soils. You can spread compost on the ground, seed mustard into it, and harvest the entire bed in a little over a month. The leaves freeze or dry easily and produce a lot of food. Calendula seeds need to sprout in cold soil, so the month of April is the perfect time to plant them. They are edible, medicinal, and a favorite of bees. Peas are among the first things to plant. Their ancestors grew on beaches, so give them a light soil that's easy on their roots. A dusting of wood ashes or lime and some compost gives them a good start.



COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

March: Watching, waiting, and dancing with the seasons

Now that we're past the equinox and have had a few warm days, it's easy to feel rushed about planting the garden. Don't. Our local oak trees leaf out when the soil temperature is perfect for planting lettuce, peas, carrots, etc. They aren't fooled by warm air temperatures, by day length, or by the calendar. Be like them and wait for the soil to drain and warm.

Late May is the optimum time to transplant frost-sensitive crops like tomatoes and peppers in Willits. So you still have time to start seedlings indoors, to make and spread compost, and to make plans. And there is also time before you plant your beds anew, to get more meals from what's already there.

Walking around and looking carefully at my beds today, I ended up with a number of unexpected harvests. Not only have kale and collards overwintered as expected, but I found cilantro, borage, arugula, chard, green onions, leaf celery, mustard greens, sorrel, tatsoi, turnip greens, mint, parsley, chives, chicory, winter pea shoots, and succulent flower stalks of several different brassicas. Not to mention overlooked beets and carrots from last year. Or the perennial herbs like sage, thyme, rosemary. Or the wild greens — there's enough miner's lettuce to make salads for dozens of people.

This is the time of year when perennial vegetables really shine. Because they already have a mature root system, perennials can send up sprouts bigger and faster than little seedlings can. Asparagus and rhubarb are classic spring perennials, but there are many more.

At Quail Seeds we've sought them out, and have almost 40 edible perennials ranging from staple crops like green onions, chard, and arugula to herby accent leaves like burnet and lovage. My newest discovery is Stridolo, an Italian green that is wonderful in omelets, risotto, soup, or stir-fry. It has a flavor like a cross between green peas and endive, and its waxy blue-green leaves stand up to rain and wind without getting tattered, gritty, or slug-eaten. The Stridolo I planted last summer has already put out 4 inches of new growth this spring, enough for several meals.

Usually, I would suggest doing soil preparation, but this year, you need to use caution before you dig in, or walk on, garden soil. It's been a wet spring, and digging in wet soil

can ruin your soil structure for years. Don't dig until your soil can pass this test: Make a ball of soil in your hand, then nudge it with a finger. If it's too goopy to crumble, it's too goopy to dig. It's too goopy to walk on as well — you don't want to squeeze out air that plant roots need.

Once your soil passes the crumble test, try pushing a piece of rebar into your garden bed. If rebar can't go down at least 6 to 8 inches, the soil's too hard for plant roots to grow freely. You should loosen the soil with a broadfork or garden fork (not a rototiller, which will loosen it temporarily only to make it more compacted once it settles). Adding compost is the best way to keep the soil aerated, fertilize your crops, and hold on to summer water — all at the same time.

If air temperatures are pretty warm and your soil is still too wet to plant, try these shortcuts to get some early harvests before your main crops: Spread compost, or a mixture of compost and used potting mix, on a garden bed and sow or transplant into that. The drier, fluffier compost or potting mix will let in more warm air, and be easier on plant roots. This works well for lettuce, Asian greens, mustard, spinach, peas, and other fast-growing spring crops.

Or you can plant into tubs filled with a light (but fertile) potting mix. I find that peas, lettuce, chard, and spinach do particularly well planted in tubs, and are easier to harvest and wash than those growing in the spring mud. Tomato cages make great supports for mid-size peas like Cascadia or Oregon Giant.

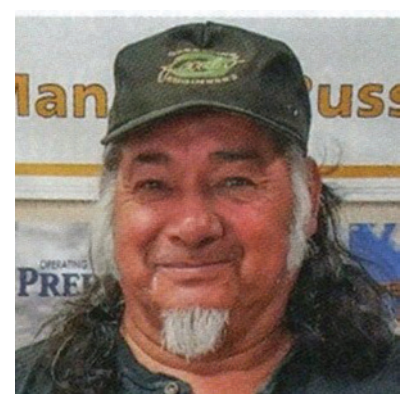
And along with those earliest plantings of salads and veg, don't forget that pest-eating insects are arriving now. Make them welcome by planting flowers like Alyssum and cornflower, by letting mustards, arugula, kale, and other crops bolt and flower, and by leaving small flowering weeds in some parts of your garden.

Bittercruc, chickweed, miner's lettuce, veronica and henbit are all in bloom right now. The nectar from their tiny flowers gives gnat-like predatory wasps the fuel they need to hunt for aphids and caterpillars. Even a very small garden is a very wide and intricate world. A good gardener watches, waits, and dances with its rhythm.

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



Above, from left: Stridolo is a little-known Italian green that is right at home in my Willits garden. This photo was taken March 20, and shows new growth perfect for harvest. Rucola, or perennial arugula, is another Italian vegetable that is tasty, perennial, and grows well in our climate. Blood Sorrel is a decorative and easy perennial with a lemony flavor that thrives with minimal care. It's a perfect choice for containers, or for an ornamental edible planting in the front yard. This is Sugar Magnolia, a purple-podded sugar snap pea bred by Alan Kapular in Oregon. It is a sweet way to "eat the rainbow."



OBITUARY |

Frank Martin

Frank Martin, also known as Frank's Scrap and Frank's Firewood, passed away in the comfort of his home in Willits, California. He was born in Oroville, California on March 8, 1952. Frank was a Native American of the Maidu and ConCow descent.

He was a proud member of the Operating Engineers Local #3, where he ran heavy equipment for Siris and Argonaut Construction, and had 52 years experience under his belt.

Frank enjoyed cutting firewood, recycling scrap metal, rock fishing at the ocean, he was a NASCAR fan, a Dodge man, he enjoyed his garden, and had a happy finger for the casinos, Lol! He loved his Westerns, and John Wayne was his hero.

Frank touched a lot of peoples' lives and will be missed dearly and always loved. Awe Ho. There will be a dinner (or "shin-dig," as Frank called it) at a later date.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

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

Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:700 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/>
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

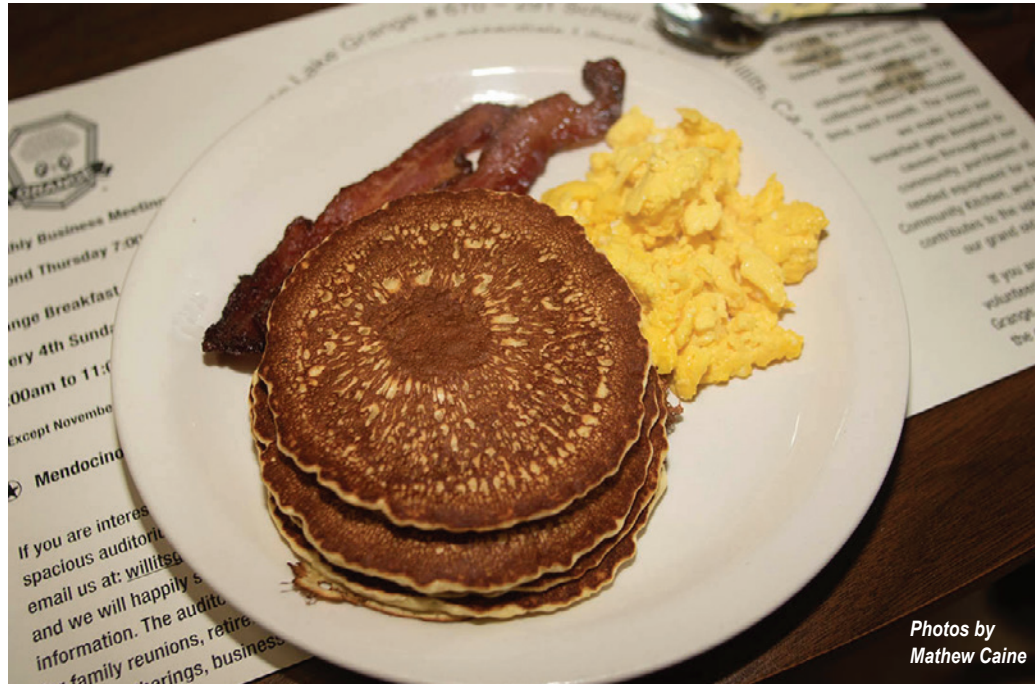
St. John Lutheran Church
Church Service:
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

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!

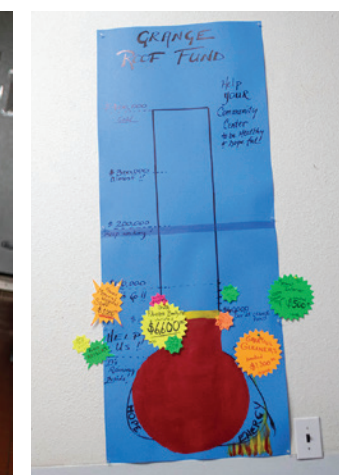
Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort
where all are welcome
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@outlook.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willitsumc
If you want to be included in this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



Above: After 8:30 am, the Little Lake Grange dining room fills up quickly with diners and people wanting to socialize with friends. At right: Young Jocelyn Svendsen fills the orange juice glasses. At far right: The Little Lake Grange on School Street hosts monthly pancake breakfasts. Below: Two eggs, three pancakes, and two slices of bacon make up the hearty breakfast. At bottom, left: Richard Jergenson tests the griddle heat and the batter prior to beginning to cook the pancakes for the crowd. At bottom, right: The Grange Roof Fund is off to a slow start with \$6,600 of the needed \$400,000 raised to replace the aging roof with metal.



Photos by Mathew Caine



At left: Michealle Havenhill and Mark P. Henrique are new customers to the Little Lake Grange pancake breakfasts. Above: There are several choices for the breakfast crowd, type of pancake, maple or regular syrup, fruit cup, etc.

Pancakes with Friends

Little Lake Grange serves as a social hub and a place to eat a hearty breakfast on the fourth Sunday of each month

For about 40 years, the Little Lake Grange has provided a monthly pancake breakfast for the people of Willits. It's not just a place to eat. The meal enables a place for the diners to get together, schmooze, or just see familiar faces. It is more of an event than just a meal.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The workday begins very early in the morning, 5 am, for the 8 am public opening, with the grill and batter preparation, cracking eggs, bacon frying, and the setting up of the tables. Up to 30 volunteers work diligently to create a pleasant and jovial atmosphere in which old friends and new can enjoy a meal together.

of egg styles. We have really high-quality bacon from Mariposa, local farmer eggs. All of our dairy is from Clover Dairy, organic half and half. We used to have powdered creamer and margarine. We offer real butter now. Everything has been upgraded to good quality food."

Richard "RJ" Jergenson is the master of the pancakes, having learned the fine art from the originators of the breakfast. Jergenson has a "secret" ingredient which makes his buttermilk batter better – a couple of bottles of Scrimshaw beer, but you didn't hear it here.

"We'll go through typically about 600 to 650 pancakes," said Jergenson. "Gluten-free, sourdough, and buttermilk. They are all organic ingredients. The eggs come from a farm out in the valley. We're very proud of that."

"I inherited the 100-year-old recipe from the man who trained me how to run this workstation, Hank Strook. According to Hank, this recipe was from the Edith Page family. She was very instrumental in the founding of this grange. Edith was the president here for many, many years. She passed the recipe to Hank. Hank passed the recipe to me."

Robert Smith and his mom, Elisha, run the intake table, making sure that everyone knows what is available. "\$12 regular, \$11 for senior, \$5 for children; \$2 for extra bacon, \$1 for an extra egg, \$1 for maple syrup, \$1 for fruit syrup, \$2 for the fruit cup," Smith explained. "I take the order up here in the front and then a server will take the rest of their order when they get to a table."

"They take one of these flowers and put it in the vase on the table, so the server knows to get the rest of the order," said Smith. "Normally, people get three pancakes on their plate but they can have as many as they want. It's unlimited. They get the equivalent of two eggs scrambled. Two slices of bacon. The seniors get one less egg and one less bacon," explained Smith.

The money received from the monthly breakfast goes to various causes, including the aging and somewhat leaky Little Lake Grange roof, which will take approximately \$400,000 to replace. Leftover food is available for organizations that can use it or distribute it to the needy. Waters encourages Willits Daily Bread or other groups to come to the grange directly after the end of the breakfast, 11 am, to pick up any remaining foods.

The Little Lake Grange, located at 291 School Street, can be reached at 459-9716. For more info, visit their Facebook page "Little Lake Grange."



Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Account Specialist III**
\$46,633 - \$56,700
- Administrative Services Manager II**
\$96,803 - \$117,665
- Air Pollution Control Officer**
\$115,731 - \$140,691
- Animal Control Assistant**
\$37,544 - \$41,392
- 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 Public Guardian/Administrator**
\$67,766 - \$82,388
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner**
\$84,323 - \$102,460
- Legal Secretary I/II**
\$37,648 - \$55,744
- Planner II**
\$77,584 - \$94,307
- Public Health Nurse**
\$92,040 - \$111,883
- Registered Nurse**
\$78,977 - \$95,971
- Screener**
\$41,142 - \$50,024
- Senior Environmental Health Specialist**
\$67,641 - \$82,222
- Senior Program Manager**
\$96,595 - \$117,416
- Senior Public Health Nurse**
\$101,296 - \$123,136
- Sheriff's Evidence Unit Supervisor**
\$59,779 - \$72,675

For a complete list of current openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
EOE

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

WW529
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2025-F0109
The following person or persons are doing business as Sequoia Farm, 36000 Covelo Road, Willits CA 95490; 951-805-9007.
Registered owner: Annette Pastrana (Amy), 315 South Main Street, / P.O. Box 1715, Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/18/2023.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on March 3, 2025.
/s/ Annette Pastrana
Publication Dates: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2025

WW530
PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner CAROL DENISE ALESHIRE has filed Case Number 25CV01855 with the Mendocino County Superior Court as a Petition for a Decree Changing Name from CAROL DENISE ALESHIRE to CAROLE DENISE ALESHIRE.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before the court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Any person(s) objecting to the petition for name change must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection(s) at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard, and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.
To object to the petition by remote appearance, go to the court's website at www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov in advance of the hearing.
Date of hearing: May 2, 2025, Time: 9:30 a.m., in Dept. E. The address of the court is 100 N. State St., Ukiah, CA 95482.
If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2025

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

"We are very hopeful for these two boys and two girls to make it into adulthood," said Hanzlik. "They did miss out on the colostrum's potential being able to nurse from mom, but they looked good, and we're hopeful they'll be OK. We want to really express our appreciation to those who stepped up and supported caring for these kittens. We wouldn't have been able to take them in without these foster caregivers stepping up."

This raises the great debate, however: How do you know if kittens are indeed abandoned, or are in need of help? The best opportunity is to keep the kittens with their mom, but if they are not OK, then it is appropriate to take action, says Hanzlik.

"Lots of kittens get catnapped each spring," explained Hanzlik. "We want to encourage people to give the situation a moment, monitor for a few hours if they can, and really assess before becoming involved. Are the kittens crying? Do they look cold? Are their bellies big and full? Do they look like they're being cared for?"

"It can be a really scary and emotionally-charged situation when you come across group of babies," she said, "but it's good to give them a chance to stay with mom if they're able and she's there. If they look like they're in distress, however, cold, crying, not moving, then please, seek help. Call us and we can help walk you through what to do."

If you want to help lighten the shelter load, and adopt a cat or kitten (or dogs, too!) of all ages, there's many furry friends hoping to come home with you now.

"We have a lot of wonderful cats at HSMC that would love to meet you," said Hanzlik. "We'll also be having a number of kittens to come into shelter soon, too – kitten season is here! You can always check out adoptable animals on our website, or come down to the center during

CLASSIFIEDS

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

For Sale
Iglou 3.5 cubic feet chest freezer. \$50. Call: 707-951-9268

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.

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.oakvine.net/tp>

Ads here are \$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks! Email us your ad

open hours to meet the animals."

If you're interested in helping HSMC, but aren't interested or able to do adoptions, donating monetarily is always appreciated. The group also has links to their Amazon and Chewy.com wish lists on their website where people can drop-ship wanted items right to the center.

"We alllllways need wet kitten food, too," said Hanzlik. "We can never have enough of that!"

The community is also welcome to attend HSMC events, including their upcoming volunteer orientation on Sunday, March 30 at 11 am where interested persons can just drop in and learn about helping at the center. May 3 is the annual Spring Gala Fundraiser at Gather Events in Ukiah, which is the center's largest fundraiser with tickets available on their website now.

More events and donation and adoption information is available on their website: <https://mendocinohumanesociety.com/>

They're open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and from 11 am to 3 pm on Saturday and Sunday. They're located at 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, just at the bottom of the Ridgewood Grade, and can be reached by calling 707-485-0123 or emailing info@hsmc.org.

"One final 'thank you' for our community who is here for us, and helping us do this life-savin work," said Hanzlik. "It's so important!"



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16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490
786 Redwood Drive
Garberville, CA 95542
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Tel 707.923.2179
Fax 707.923.9550
rcantua@farmersagent.com
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Willits, CA 95490
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www.noyotheatre.com
Mid week promotions: Wednesday - Matinee prices to all shows all day.

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1 hr 1 min
Fri.: 4:15 & 6:45
Sat.-Sun.: 1:45, 4:15 & 6:45
Wed.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 6:45

GIANTS RISING
NR
1 hr 20 min
Fri.: 4:30 & 7:15
Sat.: 2:15, 4:30 & 7:15
Sun.: 2:15 & 4:30

UNFORGIVEN
(R)
2 hr 11 min.
Fri.: 6:30
Wed.-Thurs.: 3:45 & 6:30

NOVOCAINE
(R)
1 hr 50 mins
Fri.: 4:30 & 7:00
Sat.-Sun.: 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00
Wed.-Thurs.: 4:30 & 7:00
Theater 1 Deluxe - Luxury Recliners, Laser Projection, Ages 16+

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H E D G E D S A E



Above, right: The varsity softball team poses for a photo after their first win of the season against Ferndale: from left, Coach Adam Sherf, Emily Garness, Jocelyn Galvan, Glori Gutierrez, Abigail Sherf, Chloe Wright, Ava Dockins-Kline, Addie Jones, Mia Chavez, Alexandra Ramos, Ava Holmen, Lisa Arkelian, and Head Coach Ray Britton.



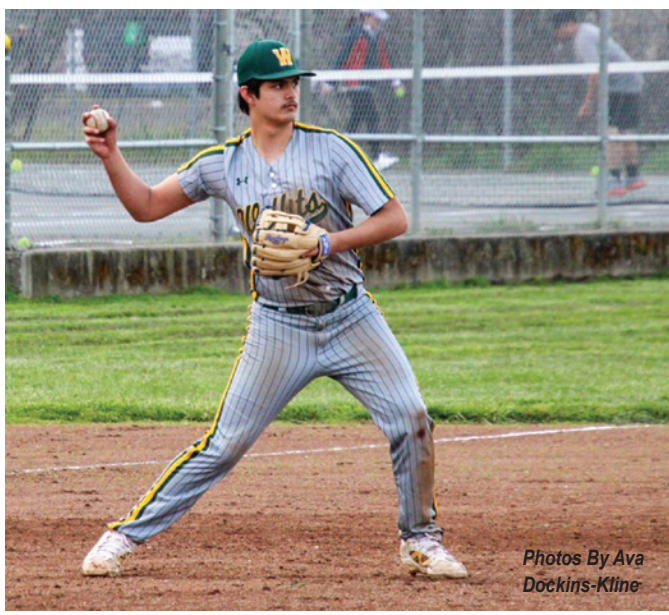
Above, left: The JV softball team gathers for a photo after their season opener win: from left, top row, Sophia Miya, Taylor Valente, Brodey Lamprich, Izzy Simms and Isabella Whitehurst; middle row, Abigail Sherf, Ember Hetherington, Vada Morgan and Ariana Vasquez; bottom, Chloe Wright.



At top: The WHS swim team smiles for the camera: from left, Khatia Eaton-Geiger, Leah Blakey, Evie Kale, Krystina Ojeda, Kate Winter, Estrella Mendoza, Olivia McCartney and Madison Winter.

Above: The WHS golf team at their first tournament of the season: from left, top row, Cole Lane, Nikolai Ritchley, Ezra De La Fuente, Torin Fraser, Brody Bowen; bottom row, Zahry Lopez, Makiah Carter, Nora Martin, Richy Ferry and Graysin Dukeshier.

At right: Pitcher Corey Rocky gets ready to throw.



COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

Talented players and coaches at WHS begin the spring sports season with determination

Despite the cold, wind and rain, Willits Wolverines spring sports have commenced. These players are more than ready to trade in their galoshes and head into sunnier skies in the next couple of weeks with many sporting events on the calendar.

Sheri Dockins
Sports Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Tennis, swimming, golf, track, baseball, and softball all have a fantastic group of coaches and young athletes on their teams. They are approaching this season with a steady amount of enthusiasm and excitement. All spring sports schedules for WHS can be found on "The Wolverines Den" on Facebook. See you all there! Let's GO Wolverines!

Varsity baseball

The Dave Kline Field is in beautiful shape this season as a true testament to the dedicated maintenance crew at WHS. The stands have been full of Wolverines fans, and the team looks ready to go!

We have a brand new set of coaches ready to take on the team. Shawn DeFranco and Matt Schlegel are alumni, and good players who both have had the honor of playing for Coach Kline during successful years of baseball.

The Wolverines baseball team came out swinging with a dominating win for their first game of the season against Victory Christian Academy.

The players got a chance to shine, showcasing their abilities for the rest of the season. On the roster this season are senior Landon Honeycutt; juniors Corey Rocky, Jayden Schlegel, Kaiden Oliver, Ricky Ramirez, Ryan Carter and Brayden Norbury; sophomores Jakob Kirby, Kai Schwebbs and Ivan Estrada; freshmen Grady Cooley, Jordan Shull, Darrell Simmons and Fisher Kuhn.

"Let's go! It's been a long time coming and I am finally here," said Head Coach Shawn DeFranco. "I am excited to join the Willits Wolverines as the varsity baseball head coach for the 2025 season. It is a privilege to work with such a great group of coaches – some new, some returning.

"We have an amazing group of boys on this squad," said DeFranco. "Leading the way is one senior, six juniors, three sophomores, and three freshmen who have all stepped up for us and the team in a huge way.

"I am thrilled to be a part of WHS and the baseball program. I was fortunate to play for Coach Kline over 20 years ago, and now I am coaching on the field dedicated to him. The team and I are looking forward to seeing the continued support from the Willits community at our upcoming home games. You don't want to miss out! Go Wolverines!" concluded DeFranco.

JV softball

JV softball has started out their season with some noticeable heat with multiple victories against Healdsburg, Cloverdale and Clearlake. They are looking alive on the ball field and ready to take the lead! On the roster this year are sophomores Brodey Lamprich, Vada Morgan, Tessa Simpson, Izzy Sims, Megan Perkins, Isabella Whitehurst, Sophia Miya and Ariana Vasquez; and freshman Ember Hetherington.

Coach and players are all eager to have some fun and develop new skills!

"2025 spring sports are underway, and our JV Wolverines softball team is off to a great start with a win in the season opener against Healdsburg," said Head Coach Adam Sherf.

"Half of the players are returning from last year, and we have five new players on the roster for this season. They are all learning a ton, improving skills, and developing solid team chemistry.

"Willits High has the only JV team in our league," explained Sherf, "but we have a full season of non-league games scheduled. We have plans to have some fun and win some ball games!"

Varsity softball

The Lady Wolverines softball team has entered their new season with a fierce determination to improve and continue the momentum of solidarity as a team. With some talented players and a pitcher that turns up the intensity for the game, these players and coaches should be in for a memorable season.

They had their first exhilarating victory of the season against Ferndale 12-9! On the roster this year are seniors Mia Chavez, Ava Dockins-Kline and Jocelyn Galvan; juniors Lisa Arkelian, Ava Holmen, Alexandra Ramos, Addie Jones, Gloria Gutierrez and Emily Garness; sophomores Chloe Wright and Abigail Sherf.

"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game," said Head Coach Ray Britton. "With that being said, I am excited to get the 2025 softball season rolling. The team finished out strong last season, finishing second in league. We have the majority of players returning, only losing two seniors from last year."

Wolverines Golf

Wolverines Golf started out swinging in the right direction this season, leaving the CMC Golf Tournament as champions. They competed against Clearlake, Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Lower Lake, Point Arena and Upper Lake at the beautiful Brooktrails Golf Course here in Willits.

Read the rest of **Sports** Over on page 11



Above: The WHS tennis team poses for a photo: from left, top row, Coach Kristi, Emelia Owsiany, Frida Friend, Amsatou Ndoye, Yamile Viera, Sophia Vaccaro, Jazmarie Henson, Jacquelyn Viera, Alieah Barragan, Mason Valente, Ana Gomez, Karina Velazco, Lissbeth Hernandez and Daylin Richarson; bottom row, Jayden Finley and Salisa Leon.

PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!
SATURDAY, APRIL 5
From 12 to 4 pm at J.D. Redhouse
Digital images by Maureen Jennison are just \$5 each!
No appointments, just come by and get in line!
The snugly, live bunnies are back too!

The rest of **Sports** From page 10

The mighty Wolverine golfers led the way with 298 points. Fort Bragg was second with 334, Clearlake was third with 348, fourth place went to Mendocino, scoring 420, and Upper Lake finished fifth with 426.

Players leading individually were junior Cole Lane with 66, senior Zahry Lopez with 72, sophomore Brody Bowen with 85, and sophomore Richy Ferri with 86.

In a shotgun-style tournament, each school keeps the top four scores. Also on the roster are seniors Makiah Carter, Torin Fraser and Nora Martin; junior Ezra De La Fuente; sophomores Nikolai Ritchley and Graysin Dukeshier. Amazing work! Congratulations Wolverines!

"We are excited with the golf team this year, having won the North Coast Sections pendant, looking forward to backing that up and winning again. We're 3-0 right now," said Head Coach Jeff Yokum.

"We did receive a nice donation from Rotary International Willits for \$1,000 to purchase some training equipment. We have just received a swing plane trainer. Cole Lane is leading the division as the individual player and Zahry Lopez is right behind him."

Wolverines Tennis

This year's tennis team is off to an amazing start with a much bigger roster of tenacious and talented players! Leading the way are four seniors, Jayden Finley, Alexandra Suarez, Mason Valente and Jacqueline Veyra; six juniors, Emelia Velasquez-Owsiany, Ana Gomez, Jazmarie Henson, Lissbeth Hernandez, Salisa Leon and Karina Velazco; four sophomores, Alieah Barragan, Amsatou Ndoye, Daylin Richarson and Sofia Vaccaro; two freshmen, Frida Friend and Yamile Viera.

"Tennis is off to a great start this year! We have a big team with a lot of heart!" said Head Coach Kristi Keller. "We have traveled to Middletown, Fort Bragg, Kelseyville and Anderson Valley so far this season. In our match against Fort Bragg, our two doubles teams Jacqueline Veyra and Alexandra Suarez won 2 to 1. Frida Friend and Lissbeth Hernandez won 2 to 0. In Anderson Valley our doubles team and Sofia Vaccaro won 2 to 0. We look forward to a great season, win or lose! We are having fun!"

The Wolverines Track team is anticipating their first meet at home next week. They are a small, but very dynamic group of talented athletes this year, with a lot of determination to reach goals.

"The Willits track team is off and running," said Coach Matt Moratti. "With only a handful of athletes, and despite the weather, our team has been preparing for our first league meet on April 2 in Cloverdale.

"The team comprises two freshman, Cruz Oltjenbruns and Emmett Viellux, both sprinters; two juniors, Dauten Amburgy and Nikolas Bloyd, both throwers. Nikolas runs the unified 100-meter dash.

"Our sole senior, Leo Moratti, has competed in two pre-season meets, both at Santa Rosa High School. Leo has been accepted and has a visit planned to sign a letter of intent to run track at Cal Poly at Humboldt. Leo holds the school record at the long jump," Moratti said.

Wolverines Swimming
The Willits Wolverines Swimming team is feeling ecstatic as they dive into the season with a dynamic group of athletes! They competed in Fort Bragg last week, stealing the victory against both competitors: Willits-63, Fort Bragg-57 / Willits-83, Mendocino-16.

"We may be small, but we are mighty!" said Head Coach Mattie Piñon. "The Willits High swim team had a late start to our season, but we started strong with three wins already! I'm looking forward to a great season with all my swimmers!"

The rest of **Vendor** From page 1

for economic reasons, such as to protect local businesses from outside competition. For mobile vendors, however, cities can enact restrictions designed to help local businesses, particularly restaurants that have to compete with food trucks.

California law gives cities the right to "establish specific distance requirements [for mobile vendors] to maintain a minimum distance from brick-and-mortar businesses selling similar goods or services to prevent unfair competition." This law applies to all types of businesses, although food businesses are likely to be the most affected.

Willits Community Development Director Dusty Duley told the council: "Many other jurisdictions have been successful in establishing buffers from brick-and-mortar business. They've established areas and streets in cities where they don't allow for mobile vending, limiting the number of mobile vendors."

The city can also place restrictions on both mobile and sidewalk vendors where issues of "health, safety and welfare" are a factor, a term that can encompass a lot of local restrictions. Issues could include traffic flow, parking, public access, congestion, sanitation, trash, signage, noise (including generators and sound systems), operating hours – and just about anything else that involves "health, safety and welfare" – can be written into a new ordinance that, according to Lance, "can accomplish the same thing" as some of the old ordinance restrictions that are no longer permitted by the state.

Mobile vendors and sidewalk vendors will still be required to get permits and business licenses and comply with the same regulations and zoning laws required of local businesses. Vendors, both mobile and sidewalk, can be restricted from operating during special events such as Frontier Days and also during farmers market days, only allowing vendors who are affiliated with the events or the farmers market.

Council member Bruce Burton suggested "proportionately charging somebody who is going to come in and do a competitive enterprise without the competitive costs, that you would charge them accordingly."

Speaking in favor of food trucks, Ed Beals, a professional cook and chef at Howard Hospital, gave his perspective: "Food trucks are one of the most accessible and budget-friendly avenues to starting and maintaining a food business, a good way for chefs and entrepreneurs to prove themselves."

Beals added: "Food trucks will be healthier and better for the economy than some other fast food corporations that are also allowed to set up in town. I would like to see more local food business going to local entrepreneurs, and food trucks are a good avenue for money to stay in this community."

Still, local business owners are troubled by unfair advantages that mobile businesses have over local businesses. Tony Madrigal, owner of El Mexicano restaurant on Main Street, pointed out that as a restaurant: "We have a lot of fixed expenses. We have to meet ADA [Americans With Disabilities Act]. We provide restrooms and a place for people to sit and eat. There are a lot of buildings in town where you have to have parking. So now you're going to have a mobile vendor set up, where's their parking? I think we need to have a level playing field."

Jill Persico, owner of Loose Caboose restaurant on Wood Street, agreed with Madrigal and added: "We've been here 36 years, we've paid taxes to the city for 36 years, we've served the community. We employ all local residents, they eat here, shop here. I just want to continue with my support, my love for my community. We just want a level playing field, so we share responsibilities of what a business has to shoulder."



Curious Rocky

Looking for a new playmate? Look no further than Rocky! This young, energetic pup is looking

for a forever home where he can get all the love and attention he deserves. Rocky loves people and is full of energy and affection. He is an intelligent, curious pup who loves to play, run around, and explore. He's always up for an adventure, whether it's chasing after a ball or finding the best spot in the park to roll around in the grass. Though he loves playtime, Rocky is also mellow indoors, and seems to like the company of other dogs Rocky is a friendly, outgoing pup who would be a great addition to any home. If you're interested in meeting Rocky, come on down to the shelter today!

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

The rest of **Schools** From page 1

Principal Topolinski praised their academic, athletic, and personal achievements, and congratulations were extended to them by their families and the school board.

Following celebrating these excelling WHS students, Colby Friend addressed the board with parental concerns about the district's coach hiring practices, clarifying: "We are not targeting any coach or any program. We're not calling anybody out. We're just asking for a policy, and I think when you hear our policy, you'll find it's really a common-sense policy we're asking for." Concerned parents are asking the board to develop a set of qualifications for candidates, for the district to post coach vacancies on the school website so all interested applicants can apply in advance and, when a position becomes vacant, to choose the best applicant without preference to WUSD employee (excluding qualified teachers), and evaluation and accountability at the end of every season deciding to rehire or release a coach from their role based on their performance.

Friend also debunked the misconceptions surrounding this policy to the audience, addressing the board and saying: "We hope that you guys would consider changing this policy that's really made up by the Willits district. It's not necessary, and it's not found any place in law or contract."

Multiple other parents chimed in to express concerns, and Diana Hernandez, the Baechtler Grove Middle School PTO president, spoke out. She told the board, "The talk in my house is that maybe Willits isn't the spot, and that breaks my heart."

However, she is not the only parent to consider removing their child from the district, and parents have already transferred their children to different districts in neighboring areas. Board President Jeanne King cycled back during her comments, explaining her family's experience of leaving WUSD for sports. She explained that her grandson had gone to play in Ukiah for their baseball program. Still, ultimately, "he lasted two months because being a small fish in a big pond did not work out as well as being a big fish in a small pond."

Parents say they're requesting a different hiring practice for coaches to give their children the best opportunities possible. They acknowledge that winning isn't everything and want to see their children improve athletically, not just win championships, as Willits is being relegated to lower divisions.

As the fourth parent speaks on this issue, it gets heated. Trustee Paula Nunez wraps up the informational session by expressing appreciation for the public interest in the subject and suggesting a break.

After the break, opening comments facilitated lots of discussion about this past week in education, "Pink Slip Week," where teachers and staff receive a pink slip if they are non-elect for the next school year or if there's a reduction in force. Willits Teachers Association President Brian Bowles addressed how counselors at the school sites have been reduced; these are counselors that assist with behavioral issues, support teachers, provide solo, group, and familial counseling for those in need, and more.

Losing these positions will significantly affect these sites and children in classes, he said. Bowles has consistently advocated for more help in this area throughout the school year, and now, the board is taking away all help available due to budgeting issues.

Bowles closed his statement with: "As WTA member, I am invested in this group of people. I've been invested in this district," expressing his care for the youth. He feels, "this is an injustice to our students and future students, and I really hope the board listens."

In addition to Bowles, there were 10 different speakers during public comment expressing the need for these counseling positions and the adverse effects that would follow if the district did remove these positions, even if it was not their primary concern.

The teachers and public of Willits are asking the board to be creative and proactive in keeping these crucial counseling positions that these students need. Trustee Jennifer Sooke touched on budget, state funding, and immigration, in advocating for the needs of WUSD students.

The board meeting ended shortly after a lengthy advocacy for student and teacher needs, pushing multiple items on the consent agenda to April's meeting, where the coach hiring practices will return to the board, and the staff is hopeful for a reinstating of behavioral counselors.

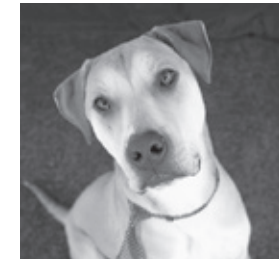
The April meeting of the WUSD school board is set for Thursday, April 10, starting at 5 pm at the Willits City Council chambers at City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street.

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.

Clever Henry

Henry is an active, athletic, and playful pup who loves outdoor adventures like hiking and fetch, but also enjoys cozy cuddle time on the couch. Eager to please and food motivated, Henry is quick to learn and thrives on affection. Whether it's jumping for joy, giving kisses, or leaning in for more attention, this dog is guaranteed to bring a smile to your face!

Great with other dogs and friendly with families with kids 10+, Henry is the perfect companion for anyone looking for a fun, loving, and energetic addition to their home. He will need training to help refine his manners, but with his eagerness to please, he's sure to catch on quickly. If you're ready for a silly, affectionate dog who will keep you on your toes and



The rest of **Burglarized** From page 1

located the vehicle at the 900 block of South State Street in Ukiah. Ukiah Police officers notified MCSO deputies, who responded to the location.

UPD officers advised that the driver and subject in control of the vehicle was a male subject identified as Warren Beck, 39, of Ukiah. Officers located a dangerous weapon concealed on Beck's person during their contact.

MCSO deputies arrived and conducted their investigation as it pertained to the burglaries. They located and identified several items stolen from the vehicles belonging to Mendocino County Animal Care Services. The investigation and evidence collected established probable cause to arrest Beck for 666.1(a)(1) PC [Felony Theft with Two Prior Convictions], 459 PC [Felony Burglary], and 594(b)(1) PC [Felony Vandalism].

Beck was subsequently booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$17,500 bail.

Editor's Note: According to the Sheriff's Office booking log, as Willits Weekly went to press Wednesday afternoon, Beck was still being held

The rest of **Microgrids** From page 2

Bay and North Coast region and comprise four projects in Humboldt County, three projects in Lake County, and two projects in Marin County. Four of the nine projects will serve tribal communities. The wave one awardees will receive between approximately \$1.6 million each, based on requested incentive amounts and following the results of PG&E's project application scoring.

Generation resource types for selected MIP projects include a variety of clean energy solutions such as solar, battery energy storage, pumped hydroelectric storage, small hydroelectric, and biomass.

Customers and communities interested in learning more or applying for grants through the second wave of PG&E MIP grant funding should visit www.pge.com/mip.

Online & In Print



WILLITS WEEKLY

Covelo Road conflagration

Little Lake Fire leads response to Sunday fire north of Willits

On Sunday March 16, firefighters from Little Lake Fire Protection District and other local fire agencies responded to a residential structure fire on the 42400 block of Covelo Road, aka Highway 162, CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit reported on Facebook this week.

This address is north of Willits and about 7 miles east out Highway 162, but still part of the Willits area fire district. CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, Ridgewood Ranch Fire, and Brooktrails Fire responded to assist the Little Lake Fire District.

Mendocino Action News on Facebook, which covers emergency scanner chatter in real time, posted that the fire was reported at 7:46 pm, and the reporting party said the structure was a cabin on fire, with all occupants out of the building.

"Powerlines involved" was then reported by Mendocino Action News from the scanner at 8:05 pm,

with PG&E set to arrive on scene at 8:46 or so.

According to the post by CAL FIRE MEU, crews worked swiftly to contain and extinguish the fire. Resources on scene included: Chief 5400; CAL FIRE Battalion Chief 1117; Engine 5480, 5482, 5485; CAL FIRE Engine 1154; and Water Tender 5290.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

"We appreciate the dedication of our firefighters," posted CAL FIRE MEU, "and remind everyone to practice fire safety in their homes."

Little Lake Fire's Michelle Schnitzius reminded everybody of the sheer size of the "Willits" fire district, in a comment on the Facebook post. "Little Lake Fire Department covers approximately 300 square miles for district boundaries, making it one of the largest districts by square mile," Schnitzius wrote.

"Highway 162 /Covelo Road is part of that. We often mutual aid with Covelo Fire when needed for the remainder (past our district on Highway 162 /Covelo Road), especially with vehicles over the embankments. As we are one of the few departments with over-the-embankment equipment and training, we are often called to assist even if not in our district.

"We also have one of the few swift water teams, therefore, we also respond out of our district to help with water rescues. We have mutual aid when needed from CalFire and surrounding fire departments, which is one of the great things about our community. We all help each other."



Above: Willits firefighters use hoses on the cabin fire. At left: A Willits firefighter uses a hose to douse the smoldering ground. Below: A cabin on Covelo Road was destroyed by fire on Sunday evening. At bottom: CAL FIRE Engine 1154 at Sunday's cabin fire on Covelo Road.

Photos courtesy of CAL FIRE MEU






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Willits Elementary Charter School is accepting applications for the lottery to join our school in 2025-26. We will hold the public lottery on Monday, May 5. Applications for entering Kindergarten and grades 1-5 are available on our website and in the school office. All applications due by April 30.


JOIN THE WILLITS ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL FAMILY

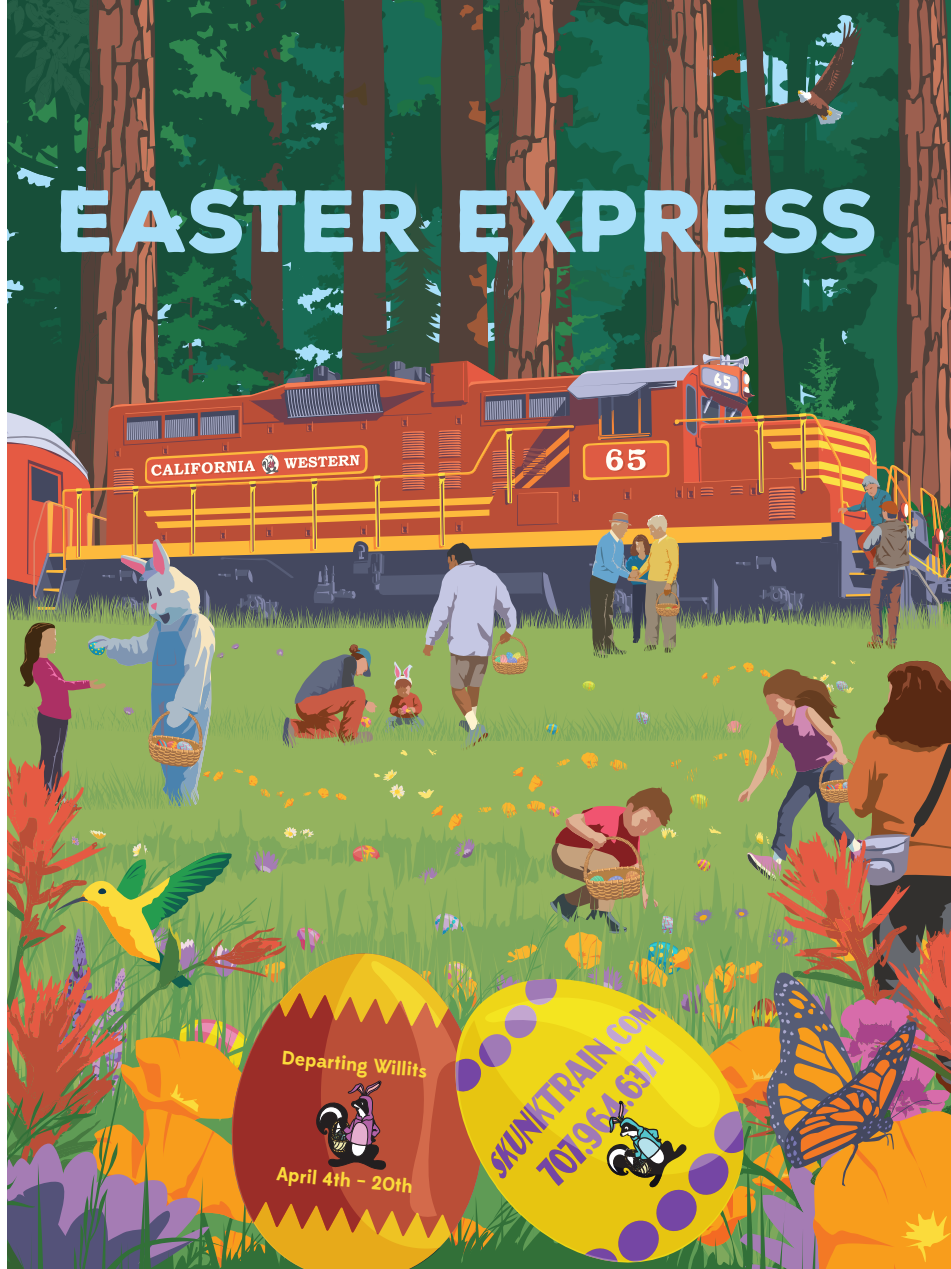
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Willits Elementary Charter School está aceptando solicitudes para la lotería para unirse a nuestra escuela en 2025-26. Realizaremos la lotería pública el lunes 5 de mayo. Las solicitudes para ingresar al kínder y a los grados 1-5 están disponibles en nuestro sitio web y en la oficina de la escuela. Todas las solicitudes deben presentarse antes del 30 de abril.

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