Online & Print Online & Print

Tuesday's
Ridge Fire
stopped
quickly

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit and fellow fire responders made quick work of the Ridge Fire southeast of Willits Tuesday afternoon.

CAL FIRE MEU's initial report for the May 6 Ridge Fire, at 2:10 pm, reported an approximately 3 acre fire in the Ridgewood Road and Mariposa Creek Road area. Fire resources were already at scene.

At 2:28 pm, CAL FIRE MEU reported "hose around fire."

At 2:40 pm, CAL FIRE MEU reported that forward progress had been stopped at the now 5-acre Ridge Fire. Resources, including 2 engines 2 hand crews, 1 helicopter, 1 chief officer, and our local government resources, cooperators were set to remain at scene "to extinguish hotspots and strengthen perimeter control lines for approximately the next 3 hours."

 $\stackrel{\text{Read the rest of}}{\text{Ridge}} \Big]$

Over on Page 11

WPD Hi-Lo Siren drill coming up May 28

Submitted by WPD

Spread the word: The Willits Police Department is set to conduct a Hi-Lo Siren Evacuation Drill on Wednesday, May 28. Do not evacuate, this is only a training.

As fire season is upon us, we at the City of Willits Police Department want to ensure that all residents are aware of the Hi-Lo Siren's distinct sound. Willits Police patrol cars are equipped with Hi-Lo Sirens which will only be activated in emergencies that require an immediate evacuation. "When you hear the Hi-L,o it's time to go!"

On Wednesday, May 28, at 3:30 pm Willits Police Department will conduct a Hi-Lo Siren Emergency Evacuation Drill in patrol cars driving City of Willits streets with sirens activated. DO NOT EVACUATE as this is only a drill. The drill will end by 3:40 pm. Please do not call 911 (unless you have an emergency) or police dispatch during the drill.

In the event of a real Hi-Lo Siren evacuation you will receive a Nixle Alert of what and where the danger is and directions of travel to evacuate. To receive Willits Police Nixle Alerts, text, your Zip code to 888777 or sign up online at nixle.com.

Additionally, we suggest you go to mendoready.org and sign up for Mendocino County-wide emergency alerts. Thank you.







Above, from left: Grant Fisher of Grant's Goodies offers tasty and sweet treats at the Willits Farmers Market. Denise Jessie, branch manager for the Willits and Laytonville libraries, hands out free books and activity packets from a mobile cart. Melissa Arana and helper Bayleigh sell meat and more at the Eastside Ranch booth. Below: Ben Wolff's booth, Soul Shaker Acres out of Potter Valley, offers greens, starts, dried flowers, and more.













Back at the Park

Farmers Market is back in City Park after almost a decade away

It felt like the perfect summer day for the first outdoor market last Thursday when vendors were finally back at the ideal location along State Street on the north side of the Willits City Park after nine years.

Vendors offered prepared foods, veggies, greens, meat, eggs, drinks, starts, gifts, and more from their pop-up-topped booths, and the public came out for it, shopping, chatting, and listening to music during the 2.5-hour event.

"There are so many more people here," said Evelyn Fisher, mom and sales associate to son Grant, who runs the Grant's Goodies booth at the market. "The foot traffic is amazing, and it's so nice to be back out at the park."

Willits Farmers Market Manager, Michael Foley agreed. "What a lovely day to be back in the park!" he said. "Vendors and customers alike were all smiles, lots of families with children playing in the park. And we brought a bit of shade back to the old spot with our canopies over the sidewalk!"

The market will run at the park from 3 to 5:30 pm until the first Thursday in November when it will return to inside the Little Lake Grange.

- Maureen Jennison

At left, from top: The market sign now points shoppers towards the vendors located back in the City Park for the weekly Thursday afternoon markets. Ann Maglinte and Debi McCarthy smile in the walkway for a quick photo. John Kvasnicka handed out some free mini scoop coupons to Scoops. Allegra Foley of Green Uprising Farm holds some of the tastiest spinach available. Reza Ghannadan of Reza's Breadery speaks with a customer at his bread booth. Kiki Burghart of The Electric Floral Shop enjoys the outdoor market with a refreshing drink.

Below: The south sidewalk on State Street was filled with vendors and shoppers for the first outdoor market. At bottom, left: Deborah Knoles of Moonflower Tea mixes up some creamer into a cool coffee drink. Carmel Zadik holds a basket of her baked goods at The Sweet Spot booth.







County approves

voluntary employee buy-outs

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino County
Board of Supervisors
approved the adoption of
the county's new "Voluntary
Separation Incentive
Program" Tuesday
afternoon, via the consent
calendar.

The purpose of offering separation incentives to eligible employees is, as per the agenda staff report: "The County of Mendocino is facing critical budget shortfalls for the Fiscal 2025/2026. purpose of the Voluntary Separation Incentive is to allow Program employees to voluntarily resign, and prevent or reduce involuntary staff reductions," i.e., layoffs.

"The VSIP offers lumpsum, post-separation
payments as an incentive
for employees to voluntarily
separate employment
from the County," the staff
report continues. "Eligible
employees who voluntarily
leave county employment
afford the county the
opportunity to be better
poised to strategically plan
future resources, realize

 $\begin{bmatrix} \text{Read the rest of} \\ \textbf{Buy-outs} \end{bmatrix}$

Over on Page 11

Wildfire Readiness Week

is a call for action

Submitted by CAL FIRE

Sacramento, May 4 – California faces a year-round wildfire threat. Wildfire Preparedness Week 2025, observed May 4 through 10, serves as a vital call to action for all Californians to take steps now to prepare and reduce wildfire risk at home and in your community.

CAL FIRE and partners are intensifying their efforts to help communities prepare for the peak of the fire year, through collaboration, innovation, and public engagement.

This year's theme – "Building a Fire-Ready Future: Strengthening Our Defenses, Together" – underscores the collective responsibility of individuals, communities, and agencies to prepare for and defend against wildfire threats.

CAL FIRE continues to lead proactive wildfire mitigation through strategic fuel reduction, forest health initiatives, and an expanded grant program supporting private landowners, Fire Safe Councils, and Firewise Communities.

Read the rest of Action

Over on Page 11

Art Center seeks your memories

We are preparing to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Willits Center for the Arts. Please send us information you might have on the history of this much loved local institution before it gets lost to time.

If you have any information about or documents or pictures related to the founding of the Willits Center for the Arts or the history of the building it now calls home, please email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org letting us know!

We're happy to hear about anything in relation to the WCA, but in particular we would love to have memories, stories, documents, or photos about:

- The history of the WIC building and the roles it has played in the community all the way back to when it was built in the 1920s;
- The grassroots community organizing that got the center started as an arts commission and then a 501(c)(3) ... the journey from an idea, to a community discussion, to
- The work on the building itself to turn it into the beautiful art center it is today; and
- Events or shows that happened there, artists you saw that stuck with you, the impact WCA had on your life or the community as a whole.

Please email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org with a sentence or two summarizing what you have to share and your contact information. We will follow up with you to get more details when the project starts later this year.

- WCA Board of Directors

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, May 8: Chicken Bacon Ranch Wraps, Pickle,

Friday, May 9: Pork Chops, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll Monday, May 12: Scalloped Potatoes w/Ham, Veggies, 2873.

Tuesday, May 13: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,

Wednesday, May 14: Pasta Primavera (vegetarian), Garlic

Thursday, May 15: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cole Slaw,

Friday, May 16: Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Tomato

Mother's Day Breakfast: Buffet breakfast feast from 9 to 11 am, Sunday, May 11, with Pancakes, values, piscuits & Gravy, Vegetarian Breakfast Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Ham, Fresh Fruit Cups, Hot and Cold Beverages, and Fruit Syrups. Complimentary mimosa Cold Beverages and Fruit Cold Beverages and Fr 11 am, Sunday, May 11, with Pancakes, Waffles, Biscuits 12. children under 6 free, 1501 Baechtel Road.

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 Joliana at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

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

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

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



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

Library to discontinue Hoopla and other online services

Submitted by Mendocino County Library

May 6 - Due to current and upcoming financial obligations, the Mendocino County Library has made the difficult decision to discontinue some online services, including Hoopla, Kanopy, Pronunciator, ProCitizen, GrantFinder, and Kovels. We understand that this news will come as a disappointment to many who have enjoyed these digital services.

This decision follows a careful review of the Library's digital resources and the impact on patron needs versus budget constraints. Although expenses continue to increase, sales tax revenue is projected to decrease. Measure O provides a sales tax revenue of one-quarter cent (0.25%) with 60% of the revenue for operating expenses and 40% set aside for capital investments. The 60% for operating investments is a small increase over the previous Measure A funds of one-eighth percent (0.125%).

"Please know that this decision was not made lightly. It was deemed necessary to ensure that the Library continues to be a good steward of taxpayer funds and can maintain other essential services and resources for our community," said County Librarian Mellisa Hannum.

Patrons will no longer have access to digital content of the following services as of these dates:

Hoopla digital: July 1, 2025

Kanopy: July 1, 2025

Pronunciator: November 27, 2025

ProCitizen: November 27, 2025-

GrantFinder: November 10, 2025

We encourage patrons to use the services that will continue to be provided including Libby, the Palace Project, and other digital resources. We appreciate your understanding and continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us.

For more information, please view www.mendolibrary. org or contact the Mendocino County Library at (707) 234-

Caltrans District 1 **Transportation Scholarship** open to apply

The Caltrans District 1 Social Fund and the Caltrans Transportation Foundation are offering one \$2,250 scholarship to a student seeking a career in transportation.

This scholarship is competitive and based on the applicant's commitment to a career in transportation, academic record, and participation in extracurricular or

the transportation field, from environmental science and engineering to heavy equipment operation construction. This scholarship is a great opportunity to kickstart

High school seniors or college undergraduates who are from or are currently living in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake or Mendocino counties are eligible to apply. For a complete list of qualifications and to apply, go to apply.mykaleidoscope.com/program/ CaltransDistrict1-2025.

Applications are available online only and must be submitted by Thursday, June 12.

Visit dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-1/d1-popularlinks/d1-scholarship for more information about the District 1 Scholarship Program, and go to the ctf.org to learn more about the CTF.

Have something to say?

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor about local issues. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com

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

Mendocino County students shine at state Science Fair as education funding faces new threats

By Michelle Hutchins, M.A., Area 3 Trustee, Mendocino County Board of Education

Earlier this month, 10 talented students from Mendocino County traveled to California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks to compete in the California State Science and Engineering Fair, joining

over 850 of the most promising young scientists from across

As a judge in the Junior Zoology division, I had the privilege of witnessing the depth, rigor, and creativity of student-led research firsthand. The fair showcased innovative projects across every scientific discipline, from renewable energy and health sciences Michelle Hutchins serves to behavioral research and as Area 3 Trustee (Willits, environmental solutions.



Lavtonville and Covelo) on the Mendocino County Our Mendocino County Board of Education.

students brought forward a range of original and thought- provoking projects. I had the opportunity to interview five of the 10 students during the event, each of whom demonstrated an impressive command of their subject and a passion for problem-

Three students from Mendocino County earned statewide recognition for their outstanding projects:

Jameson Matheson, a 7th grader from Baechtel Grove Middle School in Willits, earned 1st Place in the Microbiology division for his exceptional project work.

Toshiyoi Majima, 11th grade student at Developing Virtue Secondary Schools in Ukiah, placed 5th in the Biochemistry/Molecular Biology division

Seona Slater, a 6th grader from Willits Charter School, received a sponsored award, the South Coast AQMD Air Quality Award, for her project titled, "Hydrogen: Fuel of the

In addition to Mendocino County students, I interviewed students from Humboldt County and from a nearby high school located just across the street from the university. These conversations offered an important comparison and revealed both the common threads and distinct challenges faced by students across different regions.

One concerning reality that emerged at the fair was that despite the incredible talent on display, the California State Science and Engineering Fair was only able to send two students to the International Science and Engineering

Why? Funding limitations.

Meanwhile, larger county Offices of Education (such as San Bernardino and Riverside) have their own direct pipelines to the International science fair. They send students independently, bypassing the state fair entirely. That's not the case for rural counties like Mendocino, where the California state fair is the only pathway for our students to

Fair, even though they are permitted to send up to

This disparity highlights a deeper issue: the growing gap in access to elite academic opportunities based on geography and funding. When federal support is cut (or fails to reach rural communities), it limits not just what schools can offer, but what students can aspire to. In short, without consistent and equitable federal investment, brilliant young scientists from smaller counties are left competing for fewer slots, with fewer resources, and fewer chances to shine on the global stage

While students are rising to new academic heights, school systems continue to face challenges. In early April. California and 12 other states filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration for abruptly cutting off access to hundreds of millions of dollars in pandemic relief funding for K-12 schools.

The lawsuit, filed by California Attorney General Rob Bonta, argues that the U.S. Department of Education violated the law by canceling previously approved extensions to spend COVID-era funds. These funds, originally set to expire in March 2026, were critical to supporting students with tutoring, mental health counseling, summer school, technology access, and after-school programming, especially in rural districts.

> Read the rest of Hutchins

Over on page 4



Below: Noyo Theater owners Jim Devine and Michelle Hutchins are trying to obtain the funds to build a performance stage in their largest





At left: People stop by to see the food and craft vendors and especially Soul Circus with Robin Suzanne. Below: Kira and Cody Swan of Swan Woodworking brought several of their



Commemorating an Icon

Noyo Theater celebrates 85th anniversary and raises funds for a live stage with mini street fair

business, at least in Willits. It was the date that saw the opening of Willits' beautiful deco-inspired movie theater, built by the Redwood Soul Shakedown on KZYX, is coming and is going to do a meet Theater chain and later bought and renovated by Cinema West. Later, on June 8, 2012, the theater was purchased by Jeff and Lois Hoover, who ran the Noyo until 2024,

Mathew Caine _willitsweekly@gmail.com

latest digital machinery. The venue was forced to close its doors in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic and reopened once the pandemic tapered off. They kept the theater alive by selling

updating the projection equipment with the

sold to its present owners Jim Devine and Michelle Hutchins. The first film that played at the Noyo was "Dark Command." starring John Wayne, Claire Trevor, Walter Pidgeon, Roy Rogers, and Gabby Hayes. The film depicted opposing pro-Union and pro-South forces in Kansas, and was partially shot in the Willits area, at Third Gate where the director, Preston Sturges, had a home, which was later purchased by the Hoovers. No one seemed to notice that Third Gate did not resemble any part of Kansas. From Coco. 1940 on, the Noyo has been an icon of the Willits downtown with

concessions out the door, but eventually, in 2024, the Noyo was

its gracefully curved arches and beautiful interior. In order for the theater to continue to exist, Jim Devine decided that it needed to expand its repertoire and bring in live entertainment, beginning with three very successful, sold-out comedy shows. But Devine wanted to create something better and more usable than having performances on the floor in the front of the large space. His plan is to build a stage that would be level to allow bands to be able to play and to be more visible to the audience. So, on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the Noyo, Devine, Hutchins, and event planner Da Grand Pooba decided to throw a party to begin to raise the \$15,000 that would be needed for the project.

"We were talking about putting a party on," said Pooba, "and it dawned on me that because they have something down in Ukiah called 'The Lot' where they have events on a regular basis and because we've been doing downtown music for the Hometown Sound of Music." Celebrations, that it would be a really neat thing to do, take this lot and once a month or so have an event down here.

"I spoke with Jim and Michelle," Pooba said, "and they

thought it was a good idea and that's what started it. With one WILLITS SENIOR CENTER PRESENTS A VERY SPECIAL. Join us on Sunday, May 11, From 8 am to 11 am **BUFFET STYLE MENU:** PANCAKES, WAFFLES, BISCUITS & GRAVY SCRAMBLED EGGS. BACON, LINKED SAUSAGE, HAM FRESH FRUIT CUPS, HOT & COLD BEVERAGES (REGULAR, SUGAR-FREE AND FRUIT SYRUPS) Tickets: Mothers: \$10 | Adults: \$18; Children 6-12: \$10 Children under 6: Free





May 4, 1940 was an auspicious date in the heyday of the movie of our favorite bands in town being Soul Circus, we approached them. When they come off, Selector Jay, who does Redwood and greet and do a playlist of his. So, we're going to have Motown

> In addition to the anniversary of the Noyo, it was also Devine's birthday as well as informal commemorative May the Fourth be With You Star Wars Day. There were several vendors in the city lot, next to Flying Dog Pizza, including the Ministry of Divine Consciousness, Taste Buds, Sun Woodworking, Angel's Touch Apothecary, Shalee Hansen's Impressions Studio / Boudoir by Shalee, Pins by Aiyana and Brian (who created a Noyo Theater collectible pin), Katie B's Creations (freeze-dried confections), and Amber Slater's dye-sublimation printed tumblers and mugs.

> Hutchins' daughter, Bri Wiley, took charge of the silent auction, which included items donated by each of the vendors, with an eclectic variety of items, including a photo of the Cabrillo Lighthouse, car coasters, Turtle Island Tacos, a tour of the inner working of the Noyo, and two Nubian goats, named Nini and

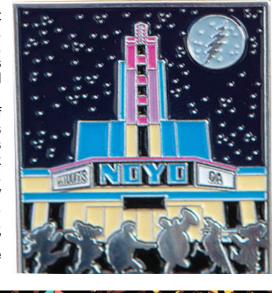
> "We can keep doing the comedy shows," said Devine. "The next thing I'd like to try is live music and see if that is a fit. Originally, Soul Circus was going to be our first band on the stage, and then, in the process of trying to imagine that, we found all the obstacles to make that happen. We decided to move them outside and figure out how to make it happen. "In honor of my birthday, we are going to have a series of

classic films," continued Devine. "One of my bucket-list movies to see on the big screen, and I haven't seen it in a long time, is the animated classic, 'Megamind.' All tickets will be the throwback price of \$6 in celebration of my 60th birthday. In tandem with that, another one of my favorite repertoire movies, a big one from my time in high school is 'Terminator,' with Arnold Schwarzenegger. All through the month of May is a short list of nostalgic movies. We'll have 'Babe in the Big City,' 'Goonies 40th Anniversary,' 'Batman Returns,' 'American Graffiti,' either 'Grease' or 'The





proclaimed the 85th anniversary of the Novo Theater. Above: Madeline, Layla and Kodi enjoyed their day out in the sun and played with the bubble machine and giant Jenga set. Below: Special 85th Anniversary Noyo pins were created by Aiyana and Brian, a father and daughter team from Willits

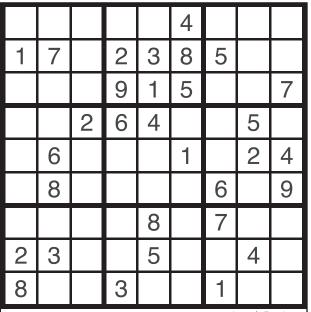






Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



CGETPPAEXWXSEBRED

T T I V V F A T K M R H P O M G E X E I

FOSTER

GATHERING

GRANDMOTHER

GREETING CARD

HONOR

HUGS

MATERNAL

MOM

period

46. Automobile

51. Mouth

52. Infections

56. Shameless

62. Cold wind

65. Bulgarian city

68. Between-meal

CLUES DOWN

1. Not soft

3. Line a roof

Software

7. Shag rugs

8. Type of whale

9. Lacking a plan

10. Spill the beans

4. Greek god of the

underworld

sustenance

66. Speak indistinctly

60. Assist in escaping

48. Focus a shot

49. The NFL's big game

54. Curved pieces of a horse

61. Capuchin monkey genus

63. Retired Brazilian NBAer

64. Tropical Old World tree

67. Soviet Socialist Republic

2. Sharp-pointed dueling

6. Large-headed elongated

AFFECTION

AUNT

BREAK

BREAKFAST

CARING

DEDICATED

DESSERT

FANFARE

CLUES ACROSS

submarine

system

Irene

13. Vertical position

14. American jazz singer

15. Ancient Greek City

Leader Harry

19. Assigns tasks

leader Pot

22. Discounts

28. Lentil

17. Japanese seaport

16. Former Senate Majority

18. Self-immolation by fire

21. Beloved type of cigar

23. Cambodian communist

25. Kilometers per hour

29. Extremely angry

31. Yellow-flowered

33. American state

European plant

36. Some are made by

38. Express with a head

44. Youth organization

45. 18-year astronomical

movement

39. Affair

41. Cured

24. Important football position

1. Two-person German

6. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)

9. Database management

IMRTCVA

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

PRESENTS

RELAXATION

REST

RESTAURANT

SISTER

SPA

VACATION

WOMAN

11. Some is 'heavy'

canonized

14. Indicate times

23. Indicates before

27. Drags forcibly

29. Impropriety

30. Word forms

34. Neither

origin

42. A promise

43. Challenges

50. Notable tower

52. Type of sword

53. Vaccine developer

56. Summertime insects

57. Concluding passage

61. Central nervous system

58. Guitarist Clapton

59. Damp and musty

47. Official

55. Listing

65. Against

32. Equal to 10 meters

35. Computer language

37. Practice of aging film or

TV characters (abbr.)

40. A woolen cap of Scottish

49. People living in Myanmar

17. Greeting

21. Seashore

26. Destitute

12. One who has been

20. Broadway actor Josh

25. Electrical power unit

an explosive device that had been ignited in an abandoned shopping cart. A battalion chief with the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority responded to assist, and determined the crime of arson had been committed.

By Sgt. Jay Vanoven, for MCSO

Street in Redwood Valley to investigate a

Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire District

personnel had responded to the area for a

reported fire and discovered a small grass

fire that had been extinguished by quick-

Upon further inspection of the scene it

was determined the source of the fire was

reported explosive device detonation.

acting community members.

Examination of the scene revealed a section of the shopping cart was destroyed and scattered on the ground, leaving an approximately 100-foot debris field. A section of the grass, approximately 8 feet in diameter, had burned before being extinguished by community members.

Fragments of the destructive device were located and believed to be similar to a recent incident investigated by the California Highway Patrol on Highway 222 (Talmage Road) in Ukiah on April 30, 2025. During the incident on April 30, an intact and non-detonated explosive device was located in a roadside ditch. Personnel from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad responded on April 30 and rendered the device safe.

Photographs of the detonated fragments from the May 1 incident were sent to Bomb Squad personnel, who confirmed the two devices were of similar type. Further investigation revealed that on May 1, 2025 layers of packing tape and ignited with a emergency tip-line at 707-234-2100.

On May 1, 2025 at approximately 12 fuse had been placed in the shopping cart pm, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office by a male adult, later identified as Todd was called to the 8600 block of North State Scott a 49-year-old male from Ukiah

Ukiah man arrested after bomb goes off in RV

Based on these two similar devices being placed in public over two days, concern was raised that Scott may have additional explosives and intend to deploy them elsewhere.

Efforts were made to locate Scott as quickly as possible, and a warrant was obtained to search his residence. Scott was contacted at approximately 6 pm during a vehicle stop in Redwood Valley. Based on evidence obtained and Scott's statements, he was arrested for igniting an explosive device (18740 PC) and arson causing damage to land (451(c) PC).

During the service of a search warrant at Scott's home, a third explosive device was located along with three firearms. Scott was determined to be prohibited from owning or possessing firearms due to a prior criminal conviction. The explosive and the firearms were seized as evidence.

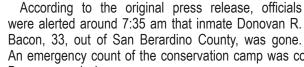
Scott was booked into the Mendocino County Jail and released after posting bail. Charges regarding the illegal possession of firearms by Scott will be submitted to the Mendocino County District Attorney for

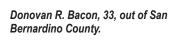
The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire District. Ukiah Vallev Fire Authority, and Sonoma County Sheriff's Office for their assistance during these

Anyone with information related to this incident is requested to contact the Sheriff's Office Communications Center at 707-463-4086 (option 1). Information can also be a destructive device wrapped in several provided anonymously by calling the non-

Parlin Forks inmate walks away, is apprehended Submitted by CDCR

Fort Bragg - California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation apprehended the same day an incarcerated person who walked away from Parlin Fork Conservation Camp #6 in Mendocino County on Sunday, May 4, 2025.





An emergency count of the conservation camp was conducted immediately, confirming Bacon was missing. At approximately 11:30 am, May 4, CDCR's Office of Correctional Safety Special Agents

with the help of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office apprehended Donovan R. Bacon at the Coyote Valley Casino in Redwood Valley, without incident.

Bacon has been rehoused at a prison, and his case will be referred to the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office for consideration of escape charges. Bacon was most recently received from San Bernardino County on September 15,

2023. He was sentenced to six years for second-degree robbery with an enhancement for the personal use of a dangerous or deadly weapon. He has been housed at Parlin Fork Conservation Camp in Mendocino County since February 18, 2025.

Since 1977, 99 percent of the incarcerated people who have escaped or walked away from an adult institution, camp, in-state contract bed or Community Rehabilitative Program Placement have been apprehended.

The rest of Hutchins

From page 2

In total, California stands to lose around \$200 million. Many Mendocino County districts depend on these funds to address the academic and emotional impacts of the pandemic, needs that certainly haven't disappeared.

This year also marks 60 years since the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, which created Title I, the federal program that delivers targeted funding to schools serving students from low-income families. Title I has become a cornerstone of public education, helping ensure that every student, regardless of their ZIP code, has access to quality learning opportunities. In fiscal year 2024, Title I was funded at \$18.4 billion, distributed through formula grants.

Yet some lawmakers have proposed converting Title I into a block grant, allowing states more freedom in how the money is spent, and raising concerns among education advocates about accountability and equitable access. For smaller, rural counties like Mendocino, programs like Title I and pandemic recovery funding are not abstract, they

What Mendocino County's students demonstrated at the state Science Fair is that curiosity, critical thinking, and innovation are alive and well, even in small, rural communities. But we must continue to ensure that students have the support systems, funding, and opportunities they need to thrive. As we celebrate our young scientists' success, we must also fight to preserve the infrastructure that made their path possible to ensure that rural talent isn't left behind.

Michelle Hutchins has over 30 years of experience in public education, having served as county superintendent from 2018 to 2022. She currently serves on the Mendocino County Board of Education and works as a consultant to several county offices across the state, with a focus on supporting small and rural school districts. Hutchins also hosts a monthly radio program called "Inside Education: Where Policy Meets the Classroom," airing the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 pm on KZYX.

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Our P.O. BOX 1698 See us out and about? is always happy for At the Farmers Market? envelopes! Mail us We are happy to take any amount direct! any cash donations!

Cash

Thursday, May 8

'A Bit and a Bite' at the Museum: Friends of the Mendocino County Museum presents light refreshments, history and conversation. Project Interpreter and Wildlife Biologist Marisela de Santa Anna shares her experience leading tours of the Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands, and authoring a wildlife blog. Thursday, May 8 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

Willits Senior Center Presents

A Very Special Mothers Day

Breakfast!

8am-11am

One Complementary Mimosa to all moms 21+

Buffet Style Menu

Pancakes, Waffles; Biscuits & Gravy; Vegetarian

Breakfast Casserole; Scrambled Eggs; Bacon, Linked

Sausage, Ham; Fresh Fruit Cups; Hot and Cold

Beverages; Regular, Sugar Free, and Fruit

Mothers- \$10

Children 6 to 12- \$10

Children under 6- Free

1501 Baechtel Rd. Willits, CA 95490

Sunday, May 11th, 2025

pm at the Willits Market Farmers at City Park, with vendors along State Street on the north end of the park. you the freshest produce available, local meat and eggs, hot food and cold from small local businesses, of them many sourcing ingredients from local farms. Crafts, live music, and the new copy of Willits Weekly. The market honors EBT

and WIC cards and matches benefits with Market Match, to double your food dollars

Friday, May 9

Democracy Vigil: Every Friday evening from 5 to 6 pm, at Babcock Park, South Main Street.

Fundraiser for Nuestra Alianza at Methodist Church: Support the cultural activities and social services provided by Nuestra Alianza. Enjoy a huge feast of Mexican food and a delightful silent auction, Friday, May 9, 5 to 8 pm, with a welcome from Nuestra Alianza and the church pastor, Jaime Fairchild; music from the Harmony Keepers: Kate Black, Anita Wagenet, and guest musician Liz Fairchild; speakers including Supervisor John Haschak, and from Nuestra Alianza, Dina Hutton, Sergio Perez, and Medie Jesena; and Mexican Ranchera music sung by Keily Beccera. Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. The price of admission all goes toward donations, with a sliding scale of \$5 to up on WCA's grand piano,

Art Talk at WCA: Willits Center for the Arts' Art Talk this month is on the National Gallery of Art, "A Living Monument to Art, History, and Innovation," located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., one of the nation's preeminent cultural institutions. Talk by art historian Gary Martin on Friday, May 9, at 6:30 pm at the Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street. Free. Info: (707) 459-1726, or Gary Martin at 707-972-3326 or visit www. willitscenterforthearts.org

"Serenity House" at WCT: this original play written and directed by Schuyler Marcier, set in a group home for individuals navigating addiction and mental health recovery. continues Friday May 9 at 7 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. Runs through May 18, with shows on Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm.

Latchkey at Shanachie: "Mixing elements from countrified soul, 70s AM radio, and four-part vocal harmony, and putting the results through a punk rock filter, Latchkey presents an invigorating twist on the Northern California festival vibe." Friday, May 9, 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

Saturday, May 10

"Serenity House" at WCT: this original play written and directed by Schuyler Marcier, set in a group home for individuals navigating addiction and mental health recovery, continues Saturday May 10 at 7 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, May 9 listing for details and ticket info.

Ju Drum & Band at Shanachie: "Original Afrobeat-Reggae from the Heart of Nigeria to the Stages of Humboldt County." Ju Drum was raised with and taught performing and recording neighbors on Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 music professional since the age of 14."

Museum admission. 400 East Saturday, May 10 at Commercial Street. More info: www. 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-Street. 234-6365

Sunday, May 11

Willits Farmers Market: Join your Mother's Day neighbors on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 **Breakfast at Senior** pm at the Willits Farmers Market at City Center: Enjoy a Park, with vendors along State Street breakfast on the north end of the park. Consider from 9 to 11 am, parking at the City or Skunk Train parking with Pancakes, lots. For the freshest produce available, Waffles, Biscuits & and much more. See Thursday, May 8 Gravy, Vegetarian listing for more details. **Breakfast Casserole** Members Day at FOWL Book Sale: Scrambled Thursday, May 15 is opening day,

cost of

Thursday, May 15

runs at the Willits Library through Sunday,

May 18. New favorites? Old classics?

at the sale. Friday, May 16 and Saturday,

May 17, hours are 10 am to 5 pm. Sunday,

May 18, open hours are from 10 am to 3

unique

Street.

MOTHERS DAY May 11 ~ 4-6pm

SPENCER BREWER & WENBO YIN

BEN RUEB & MARGIE RICE

KATRINA HU. LITA LI. & HANNAH CHENG

TICKETS \$25 ONLINE ~ \$30 AT THE DOOR

Willits Center for the Arts 71 E. Commercial St.

Tickets Online at willitscenterforthearts.org

mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Saturday, May 17

Friday,

May 16

FOWL Spring Book

Sale: Friends of

the Willits Library's

May 16

Saturday,,

Learn the "Aid

in Dying/End

of Life" law.

ho can use it

What actually

happens?

Learn how to

leave a legacy

instead of a

mess

itiate difficult

th family and

conversations

friends

from 10 am to 5 pm,

at the Willits Library,

390 East Commercial

Street. New favorites?

Old classics? Find

pm, and all books are only \$3 a bag.

Sausage Bacon, Ham, Fresh Fruit Cups, Hot and Cold Beverages, and Fruit Syrups. Complimentary mimosa to all moms 21+. \$10 mothers; \$18 adults; \$10 children 6 to 12, children under 6 free. 1501 Baechtel Road. Gifts, including See's Candy, will be given away; breakfast will be prepared by, served by, and cleaned up by our male

"Serenity House" at WCT: this original play written and directed by Schuyler Marcier, set in a group home for individuals navigating addiction and mental health recovery. continues Sunday

May 11 at 2 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, May 9 listing for details and ticket info.

DUETS at WCA: Celebrate Mother's Day with a musical world tour at the Willits Center for the Arts, with four "duets" from the region's finest musicians, who pair violin, saxophone, vocals and traditional Chinese instruments. Performers are Ben Rueb & Margie Rice, Barney McClure & Roseanne Wetzel, Spencer Brewer & Wenbo Yin, and

trio Katrina Hu, Lita Li & Hannah Cheng. \$25 presale online at from 10 am to 5 pm, at the Willits Library, willitscenterforthearts.org and at the y desk; \$30 day of the show Enjoy harcuterie and special pastries from Willits' own Craft House Baking and the Cheesecakery, sparkling wine and other beverages. Doors open at 3:30 pm on Sunday, May 11, and music begins at 4 pm in the Great Room at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-1726.

Wednesday, May 14

'History Makers' Family Craft Program at the Museum: Wednesday, May 14, at the Mendocino County Museum from 2 to 4:30 pm. Flower Collage inspired by Low Gap Park. Program attendance

t so" in the final chapter of your life. Your legacy is the paperwork! Conquering fears and handling materialistic and spiritual details will be the final gift you give to those you love. Peace of mind and time for fun will be your reward. Cynthia Wall, LCSW is a medical social worker and

ychotherapist with a matter-of-fact perspective on the lity of mortality. In 1978 she joined the Long Valley Health Center. She's had a private practice on the coast since 1985 where she has always been involved in end-of-life issues and supporting those who grieve. She has been living strong with Stage 4 cancer since 2019. She joyfully aided her husband in sing the legal right to die on 12/31/22.



Sunday, May 18

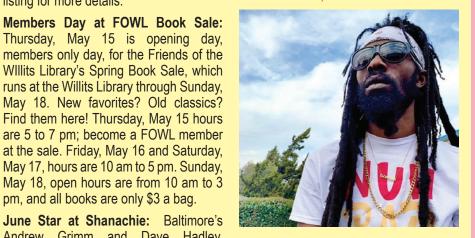
www.visitwillits.com

299 East Commercial Street | Willits, CA | 707.459.7910

Proudly sponsoring the calendar section

FOWL Spring Book Sale: at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. New favorites? Old classics? Find them here! Closing day, Sunday, May 18, open hours are from 10 am to 3 pm, and all books are only \$3 a bag.

Leaf of Life at Shanachie: Leaf of Life is a gritty Kingston, Jamaica born roots reggae and dancehall artist. Self-taught songwriter, composer, producer and vocalist .Saturday, May 17 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



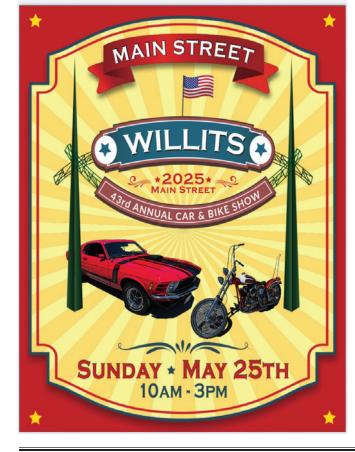


May 19th 7-8:30pm The Willits Grange

SPECIAL PRESENTATION! An Introduction to the Art of Lost Wax Jewelry Casting

Spring Book Sale opens to the general Willits High School public Friday, May 16 390 East Commercial Street, New THE LITTLE favorites? Old classics? Find them here! **Book Lovers Discussion Group at** the Library: This group meets monthly to discuss books, authors and genres, this month: Friday, May 16, 12 to 1 pm. Come talk about why you love books! All adults welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www. Howard Ashma and Glenn Slate Doug Wrigh FOWL Spring Book Sale: Friends of the Willits Library's Spring Book Sale continues

> Send in your local community event! willitsweekly@gmail.com



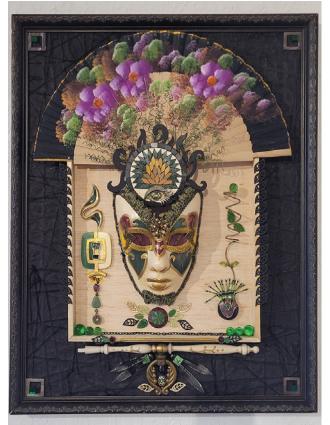
End of Life: Your Best Chapter Thurs. May 15, 6-7pm The last few pages in any book are always the most

nportant; the plot comes together, characters forgive and are orgiven, and loose ends are neatly tied up. You can "make





Willits Weekly | May 8, 2025 Willits Weekly | May 8, 2025 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com



Above: "Green Wisdom" by Leslie Rich.

At right, top: Artist Esther Siegel tells Visual Jazz stories with appreciative art lovers. At right: "Shoefly" by Spencer Brewer. A detail from "Shoefly" by Spencer Brewer. Harpist Suni Robin added a bit of musical heaven to the Visual Jazz opening night.



Celebrating Annie Samson

A gathering to celebrate the life of Annie Samson, who died on March 20, will be held on Saturday, May 10 from 2 to 5 pm, in the Great Room at the Willits Center for the Arts.

Visual Jazz

WCA hosts artists reception for May assemblage exhibit

Margi Gomez Guhde

According to Miriam-Webster's

the word assemblage means, "both a collection of persons or things: a gathering". Moving on to another definition given by Miriam Webster. assemblage refers to, "an artistic composition made from scraps, junk, and odds and ends (as of paper, cloth, wood, stone, or metal)." In the case of WCA's Visual Jazz exhibit, both definitions

With the addition of live harp music from Ukiah harpist Suni Robin, the opening provided a visual and audio delight for Art Center regulars and new visitors alike.

Leslie Rich

Leslie Rich began working in assemblage about four years ago. "I love the process of 'finding' the materials and discovering how they 'want' to be put together," she said.

Although she has shown her paintings and other artworks throughout the years, Visual Jazz is Leslie's first showing of her assemblage pieces.

She notes that each of her creations is infused with personal meaning, continuing: "I'm grateful to have added assemblage to my art toolbox, and so fortunate to have wonderful mentors and creative

riends of the

MUSEUM

Welcome

Visitors

Gift Shop

SEEKING: MUSEUM AMBASSADORS

What Is Needed? 2-4 hour shifts, 2 times each month

Support and Training Provided

Volunteer With Us!

Spirits were high last Saturday evening at Willits partners in Spencer and Esther. We have been Center for the Arts for the opening of the much- friends for almost 40 years." she continued, "and awaited Visual Jazz assemblage exhibit from we've been through thick and thin together.... artists Leslie Rich, Esther Siegel and Spencer Making and sharing art helps me survive these

> "I love seeing the beautiful exhibit of our work," Leslie said. "I especially appreciate interacting with friends and art lovers, and hearing their reactions to the various pieces. The opening is

Esther Siegel describes herself is a "later in life" artist, who first worked with paper in the form of scrap-booking and card making. Once she discovered she could "draw and paint" with objects, she was hooked on assemblage. Esther compares assemblage with the chemistry of cooking and baking, another of her interests.

She loves the alchemy of combining objects in the studio to find their "new and perfect home." Esther works in stages, starting with a flurry of ideas and arrangements, often working on several pieces at once. "Inspiration comes from visual resources and just browsing through the myriad of "stuff" in our barn art studio." she relates.

Her desire for harmony, love of horses, and interest in psychotherapy are some of her themes and motivators. She thinks of herself as a "glasshalf-full person" who strives for humor, optimism, and lightness in her art.

Jazz

Over on page 11

Below: Friends Spencer Brewer, Esther Siegel, and Leslie Rich at the Visual Jazz opening at the Art Center. At bottom: "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words," by







Sherwood Road and is part of the Willits Unified

School District. Known for its strong community

ties and multi-grade classrooms, the school

emphasizes academic excellence, creativity, and

For more information, contact Sherwood School

- Annapurna Steffen, interim principal

at (707) 974-6769 or visit https://www.willitsunified.

Sherwood School Open House

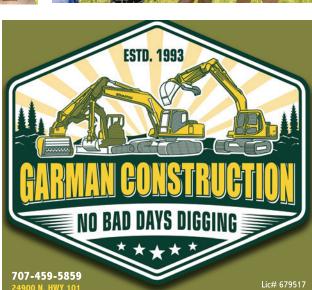
May 9th from 5:00-7:30 PM!

student engagement.

com/o/sherwood











Indivisible Willits

They're mad as hell and they're not going to take it anymore (channeling Peter Finch in the 1976 film "Network"). In these politically divisive times, when the country is being governed by an administration that is breaking many of the normal protocols, there is an increasing number of citizens who see the current administration as an entity who

Mathew Caine

They additionally see the fiscal actions as detrimental to a strong national and personal economy. Demonstrations against the people in power have been growing amidst the fears of recession, corruption, oligarchy and fascism. Locally, there have been gatherings at Babcock Park of the Willits chapter of Indivisible Mendocino, a group dedicated to voicing their concerns about the direction in which the country is

Last week, there were two such gatherings, one as part of a national May Day demonstration, the other, locally based. Around 50 concerned Willits citizens amassed at the park on May 1, to be seen and heard with multi-colored signs expressing their anger

The next day, Indivisible had one of their weekly vigils at the park, an event which they which they believe is more in keeping with the values and laws of this country.

Each of the participants expressed their personal concerns, be it the U.S. Constitution, cuts in Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, or veterans services or the government's policies in regard to sending immigrants to South America, or suppressing the ability for people to vote, or a myriad of other grievances.

"We are going to stay here as long as it takes to get rid of this administration that feelings and that of many of the other participants.

"There are so many grievances that Read the rest of it is hard to pinpoint one or two. I think

At left, top, from left: Linda Posner uses humor to get her point across. Kim Bancroft is concerned with DOGE's slashing of services that are needed by so many citizens. At left, from left: Mary Burns, Dayle and Michael Deer, and Linda Posner do their civic duty and express their feelings about the current administration. Fran Appling Gardner would like to see a more peaceful nation based on justice and truth. At left, below,

from left: Kate Black, one of the organizers of the May Day demonstration, urges people on with her megaphone. Patrick Hart and Third District Supervisor John Haschak lend their support to the protesters to make their concerns heard. One protestor channels Woody Guthrie's guitar to make a point about the perceived fascism of the administration. Below: Even veterans show up to support the cause of liberals and social justice.



ELLIOTT EXCAVATION



1571 S Main St. Willits





Activists gather at Babcock Park on May Day to protest against the current administration

is subverting the U.S. Constitution and the rights of individuals who may not fit into the administration's view of what it is to be an

plan to create each week, on Fridays at 5 pm, until policies have changed in a manner

is ruining America and trampling over our constitution," Madge Strong expressed her

Over on page 11 Protest |





you want to be included in this column please call: April Tweddell (707) 972-2475

Library

Spring Book Sale

May 15th - 18th

at the

Willits Branch Library Conference Room

Thur May 15th 5 pm to 7 pm **FOWL** members only

Fri May 16th 10 am to 5pm Sat May 17th 10 am to 5 pm 10 am to 3 pm Sun May 18st

Sunday all books only \$3 a bag!

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









Sherwood School hosts Open House and Ribbon Cutting Celebration, May 9 tuition-free public school located 10 miles up

Sherwood School invites families and community members to its Open House and Ribbon Cutting Celebration on Thursday, May 9, from 5 to 7:30 pm, as part of its student recruitment for the 2025/26 school year.

The event will include a ribbon cutting ceremony unveiling several exciting new additions to the school campus, including a covered pavilion, a basketball court, and a vibrant mural celebrating native plants and animals. The mural is a collaborative project between Sherwood students and local artist Danza Davis.

Guests are invited to tour classrooms, enjoy student work displays, and read Young Authors' books – original stories written and illustrated by students. An enchilada dinner fundraiser will also take place, with proceeds supporting future student programs and activities.

A special meet-and-greet for incoming Kindergarten families will begin at 4 pm, offering a chance to connect with the Kindergarten teacher and tour the classroom before the general Open House.

Sherwood School is a small, rural,

Willits Weekly | May 8, 2025

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10:00 a.m. - Worship dult Sunday School 8:30 a.m Info? 707-459-1905 www.agapebiblechurch.com **Amazing Grace**

ssembly of God Church 803 Coast Street P.O. Box 489, Willits Worship Service - 5:00 p.m. Pastor Kris Strickland

SPIRITUAL

PATHWAYS

Agape

Bible Church

290 S. Lenore Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Where love is first

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Church of Christ

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That 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.

Wednesdav Bible Study-

7-8:00 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 265 Margie Drive Willits, ČA 95490

ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m. ckankar: The Path

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

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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.

10:30 a.m. - Spanish Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m. Or by appointmet at

Saturday-5:30 p.m.

Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English

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

Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. (707) 459-2988 24 Mill Creek Drive Facebook.com/stjohnswillits 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 Garder A place to find comfort

where all are welcome astor Jaime Rogers-Fairchil Sunday Worship at 10:30 am 286 School St. (at Pine) 707-459-2855 wumc@outlook.com www.willitsumc.org Facebook: facebook willits umo

april@willitsweekly.com

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Sherwood School is Now Enrolling for

Kindergarten – 5th Grade!

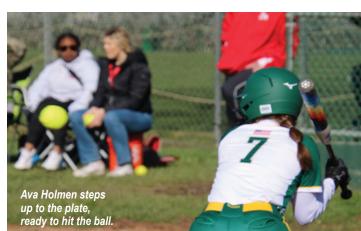


Above, left: Salisa Leon gets ready to serve to her opponent in tennis. Above, right: Senior Krystina Ojeda dives off the block in preparation of the relay.

At right: Sophomore Brody Bowen, right, asked senior Makiah Carter to prom. Below: Some of the golf boys pose proudly: from left. Brody Bowen Zahyr Lopez, Torin Fraser, Assistant Coach Ben Branscomb









Varsity Softball makes striking moves and hits some wins

Sheri Dockins

Wolverines Varsity Softball had their work cut out of them this last week, with three intense home games – Tuesday against

COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

WHS Varsity Softball plays three games in one week, winning two out of three;

tennis team competes in CMC Championships;

golf team heads to North Coast Sections Championship

Credo, Wednesday against Healdsburg, and Friday, the awaited rematch against Tomales. Tomales had an iron-clad pitcher when Willits traveled to their hometown to compete a few weeks back. The Wolverines were ready to show them what our diligent pitcher and team had ready for them this time around. The Wolverines fought hard in each and every game, wrapping up the week with two out of three

"Long but good week of softball," said Head Coach Ray Britton. "Tuesday's game against Credo, the girls played well on both sides of the ball, offense and defense. Game ended early, five innings, with us winning 13-3. Wednesday was Healdsburg. A nonleague game. We lost, but were able to use three different pitchers in the game. Getting different girls game-experience was a plus for myself to get a look

"Friday we played a tough Tomales team who we lost to on the road," said Britton. "This time around we played at home. We played the best game of the season, getting a great pitching performance from starting pitcher Lisa Arkelian. Offensively our whole lineup was hitting. We ended the game in five innings

Congratulations WHS Varsity Softball! We are proud of you and can't wait to see what you do with the rest of your season!

Wolverines JV Softball face some adversity, lighting a fire to persevere

WHS JV Softball faced a couple of their toughest competitions this last week on their field. Though they played hard and displayed great athleticism, they ultimately lost both games. This did not dampen their spirits. They strive to learn, improve, and have fun!

The Wolverines JV Softball team faced off with the Ukiah Wildcats in a Monday matchup at home. The Wolverines fought hard, but were ultimately taken down by the Wildcats with a score 15-4. Ukiah came out swinging, scoring three runs in the first inning, three runs in the third inning, and a whopping nine runs in the fifth. As a team, they collected 10 hits and 10 stolen bases.

Macie Winzler went three for four, with two doubles and three RBI's for the Wildcats. The Wolverines struggled at the plate this game, as a team, just earning just two hits, collecting 10 walks, and striking out nine times. They had a tough time getting balls past the Wildcat's defense. Abigail Sherf and Stormie Nowles each had a hit on the day and, unfortunately, were also hit by the pitch. The Wolverines managed to score two runs in the fourth and two runs in the fifth.

Abigail Sherf pitched five solid innings for the Wolverines, racking up six strikeouts, walking five batters, allowing 10 hits, and nine earned runs.

The Wolverines managed to turn an impressive double play in the top of the third that was just shy of being a triple play. Vada Morgan caught a hardline drive at second base, threw behind the runner racing to tag up at first to Ariana Vasquez for number two. Vasquez threw to the catcher, Ember Hetherington, who laid down a clean tag at the plate that was a hair

Kiyraa Miller threw five innings for the Wildcats. She had more velocity than the Wolverines have faced this year, and was able to strike out nine, allow only two hits, and log the win.

The Wolverines will look to bounce back against the Round Valley Mustangs at home on May 5.

Willits Swim Team dives into league championship status

The Willits Swim Team recently took to the beautifully scenic road to St. Helena to compete in the CMC Championships. These athletes had such an amazing season, mostly wins, taking a tie at one meet. They worked very hard to get to their current standing, outdoing every meet they competed in.

The day of the championships was no different. They dove in the water with a swift voraciousness, taking on each race. For the only senior, Krystina Oieda, this was a really big moment. She knew it would be the very last time she would compete as a swimmer for WHS. She gave it her all! Her efforts reigned as she took first place in the finals of the 100

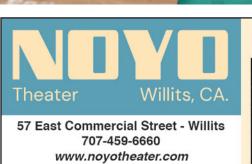
"As it was my senior year of swim, and this will probably be my last of 14 years in this sport, I think I had an amazing year with an amazing group of swimmers. Coach Mattie has genuinely helped me improve so greatly, and I have the deepest thanks to her for such an incredible year," said Ojeda.

Willits wrapped up the competition and, with the standing scores, thought they had it in the bag. They were handed the pennant for league champions, only to get a phone call later that the points were tallied wrong. Willits would have to hand that well-deserved pennant back, due to a half-point difference to Credo High Swim Team. This was of course a blow to our hard-working athletes.

Regardless, they are choosing to remain proud of their immensely successful season. They reside as champions in their hearts. Congratulations on a truly epic season for the Willits Wolverines Swim Team! You are all phenomenal athletes who have a community standing behind you. We are proud of you! We wish our senior, Krystina Ojeda, the very best life has to offer after high school, and we know she will do great things.

Read the rest of

Over on page 9



Mid week promotions: Wednesday -

Matinee prices to all shows all day.



Movie Times for May 9 through May 15

THE LEGEND OF OCH (PG) 1 hr 36min 45 & 5:00 & 7:15

/ THE NEW AVENGERS (PG-13) 2hrs 6min Thur - Fri: 4:00 & 6:45

THUNDERBOLTS *



Fri - Sun 7:00 Wed - Thur: 4:15 & 7:00



Randall Cantua, LUTCF

16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490

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786 Redwood Drive

Tel 707.459.3276

Tel 707.923.2179

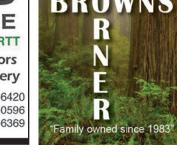
Fax 707.923.9550

rcantua@farmersagent.com

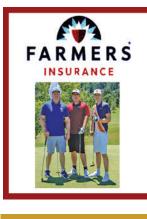
Garberville, CA 95542

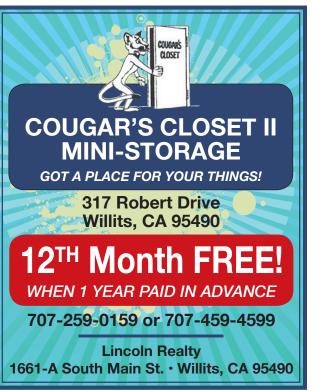
Thrifty Thursday: \$8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.















COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Thunderbolts'



Dan Essman

The Story: As the action begins, Yelena "Black Widow" Belova (Florence Pugh) beats the hell out of or beats to death dozens of thugs (masked military-

types). Yelena is tough. Yelena doesn't ask why. She works in the service of ruthless CIA Director Valentina (Julia Louis-Dreyfus).

For Yelena the fighting is endless, as is her pain-filled and guilt-filled loneliness. What she doesn't know is that Director Valentina has plots and secret plans and wants Yelena Belova dead. More fighting and more killings and more superheroes follow. Plus betrayals and car chases and machine guns and explosions and mystery characters. Also genuine surprises!

My Thoughts: I really and truly liked the movie Florence Pugh is a potent actress. Her face radiates naked sorrow and loneliness, all without weakness She is compelling. She is what a leading lady should

Florence Pugh aside (if possible), this movie kind of overwhelmed my recollections. I watched it twice. realized that, quite unusually, "Thunderbolts" has two main plot lines: CIA Director Valentina's secret schemes and Black Widow Yelena's guilt and savage even suicidal loneliness. That noted: a special shout out to Marvel Comics for creating complex emotional superheroes, as opposed to boring repetitive pellmell punch me/punch you back muscle-brained steroidal thuggery.

Parents: Not for little kids, regardless of whining. This flick is for teenagers and up. Children are executed - though they are shot off-screen, it is stil obvious. (This is important: Though they don't see it what a child creates in his or her mind is pure and persistent horror.)

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

forever home.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW534

PUBLIC NOTICE

As fire season is upon us, we at the City of Willits Police Department want to ensure that all residents are aware of the Hi-Lo siren's distinct sound. Willits Police patrol cars are equipped with Hi-Lo sirens which will only be activated in emergencies that require an immediate evacuation. When you hear the Hi-Lo it's time to go!

On Wednesday, May 28th at 3:30 pm our Police Department will conduct a Hi-Lo Siren Emergency Evacuation Drill in patrol cars driving our City streets with sirens activated. DO NOT EVACUATE as this is only a drill. The drill will end by 3:40 pm. Please do not call 911(unless you have an emergency) or police dispatch during the drill

In the event of a real Hi-Lo Siren evacuation you will receive a Nixle Alert of what and where the danger is and directions of travel to evacuate. To receive Nixle Alert's text your Zip code to 888777 or sign up online at nixle.com.

Additionally, we suggest you go to mendoready.org and sign up for Countywide emergency alerts

Sincerely, Willits Police Department

Publication Dates: April 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0168 The following person or persons are doing business as Divination Ink / Ink.By.Ry, 158 S. Main Street, Willits CA 95490; Mailing address: 20970 Baechtel Road, Willits CA 95490. Phone: 707-972-8805.

Registered owner: Rylee Vigil, 20970 Baechtel Road, Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on April 2, 2025. /s/ Rylee Vigil Publication Dates: May 1, 8,

15, 22, 2025

Delightful Pedro

Pedro is a charming adult dog with a heartwarming and

sweet personality. He is a loving companion who enjoys

spending time with his favorite humans. Pedro may be a

little shy at first, but he warms up quickly once he feels

comfortable with you. Unfortunately, we do not have

enough information about Pedro's history with other dogs.

Therefore, it is best to introduce him slowly to other dogs

and monitor his behavior. Overall, Pedro is a delightful

companion who will undoubtedly bring joy and love to his

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

To learn more about Impala, 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

Happy Ricky

Ricky loves to love. He is all about being petted, having his belly rubbed, or being brushed.

He will rub up on your legs and roll onto his back so you can

rub his tummy. He purrs so loudly, too! He doesn't have a

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.

preference of toys, he will play with them all!

requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 459-4900.

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

Clever Impala

Meet Impala, he is a young, sweet dog (49 pounds of

love) who is easy to have in your home. He is thriving in

his loving foster home. He is living with other dogs and

loves all dogs. Impala is active and is very happy to go

on walks but also happy to chill in the yard. He is great

on leash and off leash. He is potty trained and does know

how to ask to go outside. Impala needs someone who

has time to provide continued socialization and consistent

training. Impala is a wonderful, smart, fun-loving, sensitive

boy who is definitely going to make somebody very happy!

Sports

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

From page 8

Willits Track team women show up

Willits Track and Field was not to be dismayed about missing a big part of their team at their track meet on April 30. They had two amazing lady athletes take to the action, ready to achieve goals. Amsatou Ndoye placed first in the 100 meter with 14.66 seconds, fourth place in the 200-meter run with 32.53 seconds, and another first place in the long jump with 12 feet 7 inches. Macaella Williams placed fourth in the long jump with 11 feet 1 inches. Great job ladies! Congratulations!

CLASSIFIEDS

Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale

Deep Valley Christian

School, 8555 Uva

Drive, Redwood Valley,

(across from the Broiler).

Saturday, May 10 - 8

John Ford Ranch

Beef

John Ford Ranch still

has the 50 lb. Rancher's

Choice Box for \$390.00

and the 25 lb. Hamburger

Box for \$170.00. Please

contact Debbie Arkelian

M & M Collectors

Now at Coast Hardware

in Willits. A variety of M

& M Collectable items

ready for a new home.

There are holiday decor

trains, clocks, jackets

and much more. Come

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.

Run your

classified ad

here next week!

Ads are \$15 for

30 words

for 2 weeks!

oaknvine.net/tp

take a look.

@ 459-5049.

am to 4 pm

Do you need

food?

344 Railroad Avenue,

Willits, CA 95490. Open

Wednesdays & Fridays

1-4:30 - Bring an I.D.

Firewood for Sale

Fir. 1/2 cord, \$175.00

Delivered. Call 707-354-

Free Food for All

Pop-Ups

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.

French Black

Copper Maran

Rooster

Have yet to actually

hear it crow, but 95%

sure it's a rooster, and

he's gotta go. Free

to good home, bring

a crate for transport

Breed is supposed to

lay beautiful, chocolate-

colored dark brown

eggs. 15ish weeks old.

707-972-7047.

org; 707-615-6654.

Mendocino

Food

Firewood for sale

(707) 459-3333

Food Bank.

Tennis racks up a phenomenal season with a win at the championships

Willits Tennis had a fantastic season. They had a wonderful group of dedicated athletes willing and ready to compete and learn through every practice and game. They won eight games this season! They traveled south to the lovely city of Rohnert Park to compete in the CMC Championships this last weekend.

For the seniors, this was their very last time to compete in the championships. The senior doubles team of Frieda Friend and Lissbeth Hernandez had an exciting win in their first game 8-6, but fell short on their second with a final score of 8-2.

"They played hard! It was great to watch them play," said Head Coach Kristi Kellar. "Our whole team played hard, and it was a great time. It has been an honor and a pleasure coaching these young athletes this year. I will miss our seniors next year: Alexandra Suarez, Jacqueline Vieyra, Mason Valente and Jayden Finley. I am proud of each and every one of my team members. They are a great group of kids!"

Congratulations on an awesome season, Willits Tennis! Your community salutes your athletic accomplishments. We wish the seniors the very best in their pursuits in the real world. We are always rooting for you! Wolverines pride forever!

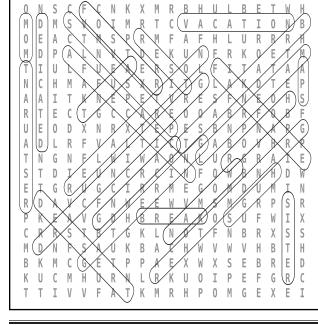
Willits Golf wins NCS North Division, heading to sections

The Willits golf team, along with coaches Jeff Yokum, Nolan Jergensen and Ben Branscomb, competed in their last match of the season in Ukiah on the April 30. They placed second but clinched the official victory of the North Coast North Division! They are now making plans to head south to Rohnert Park on May 11 and 12 for the North Coast Sections Championship!

"We as a team get to take five players to the NCS Championships at Foxtail North in Rohnert Park," said Head Coach Jeff Yokum. "There are five individual qualifiers attending from other schools, also in our division. We received a golf grant that Principal Topolinski is going to present to our team. Zahyr Lopez won the individual champion of our whole division-two league!"

The five chosen players traveling to the NCS Championships are Zahyr Lopez, Cole Lane, Torin Fraser, Brody Bowen and Nikolai Ritchley. Amongst the WHS crew. the other surrounding players from our division that will be attending are Theo Hahn from Mendocino, Ash Hebden and Trevor Bohlen from Fort Bragg, Keoni Holmes from Mendocino, and Mikah Meo from Clearlake.

It has been an exciting year. We are proud and are cheering for you, WHS Golf! Best of luck at the NCS Championships and congratulations on such a phenomenal season!



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D E L E G A T E S C U B A N

Willits Weekly | May 8, 2025 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Pg. 9



Happy Mother's Day - we love you mucho! Jimmie, Jerri & Terri and

Lois Bernard, Marie Bernard, Tiffany

the best mom around

My wonderful Lilker/Schimmel family:

Aaron, fiancé Lindsay, David, Lee and



Happy Mother's Day, Mom. We all love you so much and are blessed to have you. Love, Sarah and the whole crew.



Happy Mother's Day to the best Mama a girl could ask for. I love you Mom!!



Happy Mother's day, Mom! Thank you for all that you do! Love you! - Colleen



Happy Mother's Day to our mom and grandmother, Mae Sundstrom. Your family loves you dearly! We have been



Sheri & Ava Dockins: Happy Mother's Day mom! You're the smartest and strongest woman I know. I love you forever and always!



because of you both. I love you. Jennifer/Jenny: The best mom and

Celebrating the Mothers

Don't Forget! Sunday, May 11 is Mother's Day!



Karen Thrilkill, you are loved and



Luke, Clay, Sara, Lauren, Wyatt and Amy. Mom: you are the greatest Mother of all times. We love you with all our hearts. Happy Mother's Day!



Becky you are a Super Mom! We love you beyond words.



fairy godmother. A blessing to us all.

at Mazahar on a shopping spree.



Laura Wiecek and her daughter Alexis Happy Mother's Day to Ginger Pohlson frpm Christine Danforth - Jones

Happy Mother's Day, Mom. You

hearted, and inspiring woman I

know. Thank you for being my

guiding light and my source of

strength. I am so proud to be

your daughter. Alma Gutierrez.

Happy Mother's Day to our

endlessly! <3 All our love, Tay

lovely Helen. We love you

are the most beautiful, kind



You Don't Have to be Alone with Stress, Anxiety or Depression.

MCHC has the largest team of mental health specialists helping the Mendocino and Lake County region. Find the right

MCHC provides therapy for all ages. Contact MCHC's for an appointmen (707) 466-7388







Happy Mother's Day to the best, GamGam, and I am so happy to be your Mamma, Maggers! Love you both!



Mary Lynn Poole, Jennifer Poole, and Wonderful the boxer dog on a Mother's Day many years ago.



Happy Mother's Day, Judy! You are such a treasure and we are so grateful to have you in our



Happy Mother's Day Mama! Brisa and I just wanted to say how amazing of a mom you are and always will be. We're sending lots of love and appreciation on this day that is



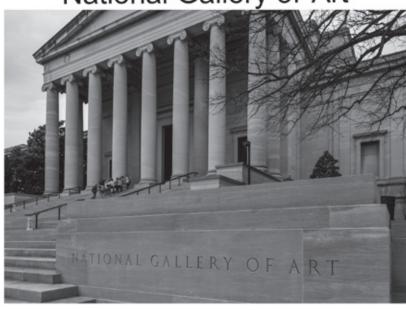


loved! You might not wear a cape, but you're our hero.





National Gallery of Art



Friday, May 9, 6:30 PM WCA, 71 E. Commercial St. Willits, 95490

From page 1

This is a free event For More info: 707-972-3326

Ridge

The rest of

Watch Duty's initial report (watchduty. org) described the Ridge Fire as a "3 acre vegetation fire with a slow rate of spread moving upslope to the north in grass and transitioning into timber, per copter overhead. Potential for 5 acres.

The fire was visible from the Eden Valley cameras on UC Davis' AlertNet California network of live camera feeds. Visit https:// alertcalifornia.org/ to check out the views.

Escaped burn pile Friday

on Facebook reported an escaped control resources were reduced

The rest of

Protest

that what scares me the most is that Trump has in mind being dictator for life and trying to make it so he can have a third term, but I don't think there will even be an election in 2028, if he keeps going the way he's been going. I'm even worried that we can make it to the midterm elections

From page 7

"And, of course, they are subverting the vote," said Strong. "They're shipping people off to El Salvador and other places without any due process. That could happen to anybody. It's an outrageous complete subversion of what this country used to stand for."

As cars rolled by on busy Main Street, many honked in solidarity with the demonstrators, with very few negative acts, including single-finger salutes. "Indivisible is hosting this," said activist Debbie Boone-Harry. "I'm here because I think we have a lot of good messages to get out to save our democracy. I think the people power is very powerful.

"Indivisible is a national group but this is our local chapter, Willits Indivisible," explained Boone-Harry. "They help get us organized, whether we want to write postcards, some people want to do phone calls. They help us advertise these events. They just want to get all the like-minded people involved and give them some direction.

"The things that are most important to me are safeguarding our Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And just save our country. This is out of control. Doing things like this instead of just sitting at home. It feels like I'm doing something. It feels like I have a purpose, doing something to make things better," Boone-Harry said. Each of the participants had their own concerns and

emphases on the rights they see being suborned. "I'm here today to join other people who are concerned about the shape of our democracy and our constitutional rights that are being essentially taken apart bit by bit by the current administration," said organizer Kate Black. "I'm also here because it's good for people who have concerns about this to stand together.

"I feel that most of the American people in this nation are probably along the same lines about their fears and concerns," said Black. "I'm seeing clients and patients that have already had their NIH grant, their research grant, or their job pulled, or being told that they can be bought out and their job will be no more. So, I'm just trying to stand in solidarity, peacefully, nonviolently, always. That's what Willits Indivisible is all about."

"We're trying to be positive," stated Kim Bancroft. "It is a sense of community for us, that there is something we can do. There are three things important for fighting back against what the Trump administration is doing to our democracy and constitutional rights. One is we hope the courts will keep fighting back. Two, is hoping that our representatives across the county know that they will not survive the midterm elections if there is not more support for what the people want. Third, is get out into the streets. Get onto the sidewalk, wherever you are. Here's little Willits 5 pm. The Visual Jazz exhibit showing up every Friday and some of the bigger dates, to make a statement that we're not taking it."

burn pile fire in the 16500 block of Mariposa Creek Road. The fire was phoned in at 2:11 pm, and described as 1 acre, with a slow rate of speed in brush and timber. At 2:28 pm, CAL FIRE described the fire

as 1 acre in heavy brush, slope- and winddriven, at a moderate rate of speed. At 3 pm, fire resources were staged at the

intersection of West/East/Tomki creeks, with creeks reported as passable.

At 3:09 pm, the landowner reported the On Friday, May 2, Mendocino Action News fire was 50% contained, and incoming fire

> The rest of Jazz | From page 6

Spencer Brewer

Spencer Brewer is storyteller, crafting stories both through his musical compositions and his fantastical assemblage art sculptures. His 'High Whimsy" sculptures made from unusual and vintage objects inspire viewers with a sense of delight, surprise and

Spencer is also a longtime musician and piano tuner, often working with a wide assortment of musical instruments. "Working on pianos, gramophones and pump organs offers me the opportunity to understand and appreciate the design and craftsmanship that went into these special creations from the 1800 and 1900s," he reflects. Many of Spencer's themed works incorporate the various inner parts from pianos, mechanical objects and instruments that few ever get to

"All of the materials in my sculptures are original parts that I re-purpose for new eyes," says Spencer. "They inspire me, and allow me to tell a new story".

Spencer says that going into the barn/ studio to pick out objects that speak to him and appeal to a new vision or idea, is a true blessing. "To create a new piece from our collection of old or vintage objects is a blast. To bring the collection to the Willits Center for the Arts, hang the show and then meet enthusiastic and interested folks at the opening ... well, it doesn't get much better. This is a 'WOW' experience for me."

Don't miss this fun and fantastical show at Willits Center for the Arts, which is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 am to will continue in both galleries at WCA through May 25.

WCA Art Talk: National Gallery of Art, May 9

The Willits Center for the Arts' Art Talk this month is on the National Gallery of Art, "A Living Monument to Art, History, and Innovation," located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., one of the nation's preeminent cultural institutions.

The free talk by art historian Gary Martin is set for Friday, May 9, at 6:30 pm at the Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street.

Since its founding in 1937, the National Gallery of Art has served as a beacon of free access to art and education, drawing millions of visitors each year to its world-

renowned collections, exhibitions, and public programs.

The National Gallery is comprised of two architecturally significant buildings – the neoclassical West Building, designed by John Russell Pope, and the modernist East Building, designed by I. M. Pei – as well as the vibrant, 6.1-acre Sculpture Garden that unites the campus with an open-air celebration of modern and contemporary art.

Home to over 150,000 works of art, the Gallery's permanent collection spans from the Middle Ages to the present day, with particular strengths in Renaissance, Baroque, Impressionist, and 20th-century America art. Masterpieces by Leonardo da Vinci, Johannes Vermeer, Rembrandt van Rijn, Claude Monet, Georgia O'Keeffe, Jackson Pollock, and Mark Rothko exemplify the depth and range of the collection.

Noteworthy recent exhibitions and acquisitions underscore the Gallery's evolving mission to diversify and modernize its holdings. From spotlighting underrepresented voices to showcasing digital innovation in art conservation and research, the Gallery is poised at the intersection of tradition and transformation

More info: (707) 459-1726, or Gary Martin at 707-972-3326, or visit www. willitscenterforthearts.org.

sign up today

save lives."

· Pack a "go bag" and be ready to

"Wildfire safety begins with being

prepared," said State Fire Marshal Daniel

Berlant. "Protecting our homes and

communities takes all of us - neighbors,

local groups, and state agencies -

working side by side to reduce risk and

Help spread the word about Wildfire

To learn more about wildfire

safety and preparedness, visit www.

ReadyForWildfire.org. CAL FIRE

encourages Californians to access

the Ready for Wildfire web-based

FirePLANNER that includes local alerts.

checklists for preparedness, evacuation

plans, and other kits. To download the free

app, visit https://plan.readyforwildfire.org/

The rest of Action

From page 1

CAL FIRE Director and Fire Chief Joe Tyler said, "Building a fire-ready future means working together -by doing your part to protect your property through home hardening efforts, creating defensible space, and creating an emergency plan for your family, you are helping first responders protect lives, property, and natural resources."

This Wildfire Preparedness Week. Californians are urged to:

· Create defensible space, focus on Zone 0, the first five feet around your

embers with ignition resistant building Develop and practice a wildfire action

Harden structures against flying

Stay informed with emergency alerts

plan so you are prepared when wildfire

Buy-outs |

financial savings, and avoid involuntary staff reductions."

Incentive payments start at \$5,000 for an employee with at least 1 year of current employment with the County of Mendocino, but less than 3 years. Those with at least 3 years employment but less than 5 years would receive \$8,000.

Employees with at least 5 years but fewer than 10 years with the County of Mendocino would receive \$10,000 plus \$1,000 for each full year of current service beyond 5 years, up to a maximum incentive of \$14,000.

Employees with 10 years or more of current employment with the county would receive an incentive payment of \$15,000 plus \$1,000 for each full year of current service beyond 10 years for a maximum incentive of \$25,000.

The separation pay will be in exchange for signing the VSIP Resignation and Release Agreement.

Incentive payments start at \$5,000 for an employee with at least 1 year of current employment, but less than 3 years. Those with at least 3 years but less than 5 years would receive \$8,000.

Employees with at least 5 years but fewer than 10 years employment, would receive \$10,000 plus \$1,000 for each full vear of current service beyond 5 years. up to a maximum incentive of \$14,000.

Employees with 10 years or more of current service to the County of Mendocino would receive an incentive payment of \$15,000 plus \$1,000 for each full year of current service beyond 10 years for a maximum incentive of \$25,000.

The Human Resources will begin accepting Voluntary Separation Incentive Program Resignation and Release Agreements beginning June 22, 2025. Resignations of those who accept the VSIP agreement will take place between July 10 and September 13, 2025.

FIVE COURSE GOURMET DINNER SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2025 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM This is a fundraiser for our Willits neighbors Deb & Reza Ghannadan whose house is in need of



DOOR PRIZE

PURCHASE

TICKETS

The Farmers Market Band Tickets \$75 per Person are available at The Harrah Center or online at ticketleap.com

LIVE MUSIC

For additional information contact: Dorothy Roediger 707-972-7103 Virginia Jorge 707-495-5323 Deb Ghannadan 707-513-0667 Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.



Pg. 11

AUCTION

Willits Post Office to participate in Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Saturday, May 10

Posted by U.S. Post Office

Each vear, letter carriers across the country head out on their routes on the second Saturday in May to collect donations of nonperishable food items to benefit local food pantries. Since launching in 1993, the National Association of Letter Carriers' annual Drive has grown into the



Stamp Out Hunger Food Leave non-perishables out for your letter carrier on May 10 to participate.

nation's largest one-day food drive, helping to fill the shelves of food banks in cities and towns throughout the United States.

The need is great, but you can help. We invite you to join letter carriers and our partner organizations in the fight to end hunger in our communities by participating in the annual Stamp Out Hunger

Simply leave your donation of non-perishable food in a bag near your mailbox on the second Saturday in May, May 10 this year, and your letter carrier will do the rest.

If you have a post office box, or would like to bring your donation to the post office directly, stop by 315 South Main Street or call 707-459-5255 for more information.



ATW presents 'End of Life: Your Best Chapter,' May 15

Submitted by ATW

Avenues to Wellness presents, "End of Life: Your Best Chapter" by Cynthia Wall, LCSW, on Thursday, May 15, from 6 to 7 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Free to public. Chairlift available. Donations appreciated.

The last few pages in any book are always

the most important; the plot comes together, characters forgive and are forgiven, and loose ends are neatly tied up. You can "make it so" in the final chapter of your life. Your legacy is the ultimate evidence of what was most important to you - not just paperwork! Conquering fears and handling materialistic and spiritual details will be the final gift you give to those you love. Peace of mind and time for fun will be your reward. This talk will include information about the "Aid in Dying/End of Life" law.

· Learn the "Aid in Dying/End of

· Learn how to leave a legacy instead of a mess

 Initiate difficult conversations with family and friends

Cynthia LCSW is a medical social worker and psychotherapist with a matter-of-fact perspective on the reality of mortality.

In 1978 she joined the Long Valley Health Center. She's had a private practice on the coast since 1985, where she has always been involved in end-of-life issues and supporting those who grieve. She has been living strong with Stage 4 cancer since 2019. She joyfully aided her husband in choosing the legal right to die on December 31, 2022.

Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit: avenuestowellness.org for archives of previous talks. Email: spicetti@howardfoundation.org Call Suzanne at: (707) 456-9676 for more information.

Volunteer at FOWL Spring Book Sale, May 15-18

Submitted by Lotus Baker, **FOWL**

The Spring Book Sale put on by the Friends of the Willits Library is coming up on May 15 to 18, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. and we need more helpers! We have a team of helpers already, and thank you to them!

But as some of us know, we are all getting older, and now there is a need for some younger people to help! There is a need for set-up people, and people to be at the sale to take money and put more books out, and a closing crew.

Due to many cuts in funding from all levels the money from the sale is needed more than ever. We help make up the difference so the library can offer programs, books, periodicals, and other needs.

So if you love books and the Library and can take the time even just an hour or so – please consider volunteering. Thanks, it will be fun and enriching for the

library!

Opening day of the sale, Thursday, May 15 from 5 to 7 pm, is for FOWL members only (can join FOWL at the sale!). Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17, the sale is open from 10 am to 5 pm. Sunday, May 18 open hours are from 10 am to 3 pm, and all books are only \$3 a bag.

To volunteer, please contact Olga by email at nolga@sbcglobal.net with "FOWL" in the subject line or call the Library at 707-459-5908 and leave a message with them. Someone will get back to you to welcome your help!

Life" law. Who can use it? What actually happens? Dance program for kids 3

to 8 open for registration Submitted by Willits Community **Theatre**

Willits Community Theatre is thrilled to announce "Tutus and Toes," a joyful new dance mentorship program for children ages 3 to 8. Running on four consecutive Saturdays beginning May 24, classes are just \$50 for the full session.

Led by local artist and trained instructor Pearl Marill, with support from teen apprentices, the program offers movement-based fun in a supportive and energetic environment.

Classes take place at the Willits Charter School dance room Schedule: ages 3 to 5, 10 to 10:45 am; ages 6 to 8, 11 to 11:45 am. To register, email wctperformingartscenter@ gmail.com for the form, or call (734) 255-6173.



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