

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Retired Mendocino County Superior Court Judge John Behnke, sitting on temporary assignment in his old courtroom, presided over the two-day trial.

Read the rest of
Burn
Over on Page 11



At top: Willits High School prom court members Zahyr Lopez and Jewel Beshara (left) and Kaleb Whitehurst and Maia Collins (right). The theme for the 2025 prom was Enchanted Forest, a fitting theme for the location of the Brooktrails Lodge. Above: Congratulations to the 2025 Prom King and Queen: Kason Dondero and Aleli Zuniga. At left from top: Micaella Williams, Abigail Sherf and Jazmarie Henson smile for a photo. Buck Whitley and Lisa Arkelian looked lovely for the 2025 event. Mariana Mendoza and Rickey Ramirez in purple and Jordan Hodges and Mia Chavez, in mint were dressed perfectly for the theme.

– *Maureen Jennison*

Below, left: Teacher Dina Haigounian, center, jumped in to smile with a group of students during the 2025 prom. Below, right: The Brooktrails Lodge was decorated in white drapes, flower petals and vines for the occasion. At bottom, from left: Outside tables were topped in white linens and vines climbed the columns. The dance floor was filled when it was time to announce the king and queen. Some of the prom decoration committee members included, from left: Arjon Martin, Alexandra Mendoza, Lylv Herman and Cecily Potter.



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

On May 9, the work of many people took fruition to create a successful and jolly fundraiser for Nuestra Alianza at the Willits Methodist Church. It was spectacular! We wish to thank the following people for their amazing skills and heartfelt labor:

Pastor Jamie Rogers-Fairchild, Larry and Phyllis Aguilera, Diana Gomez, Norma Hansen, Graciella Botello, Sienna Stone, Jaime Del Agula, Kim Bancroft, Nayeli Rodriguez, Becky Blackburn, Oralía Garcia, Medie Jesena Parrot, John Haschak, Ana Almanza, Michael and Dayle Deer, Irma Lopez, Rani Saijo, Cocina Picante and Eva Rodriguez, Grace Sakurada, Josefá Adame, Jeannie Morawski, Esmeralda Naranjo, Anne Vanderhorck, Elisa Villalobos, Karen Tam, Zuleima Fuenmayor, Dayami Puccio, Rosa Pena, Cathy Ortiz, Saray Flores, Mary Holcomb, Rosa Luna, Belen Sedano, Polly Girvin, Maria Cendejas, Ana Patricia Ramirez, Norma Mendez, Liz Fairchild, Anita Blu, Kate Black, Keily Becerra and Valeria Puche, and folks who donated amazing auction items.

In addition, we take a deep bow to all the many folks who donated funds to Nuestra Alianza. The funds will be spent to benefit those in need.

Mil gracias a todos.

Sergio Perez and Dina Hutton from Nuestra Alianza

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 retrofitting due to mudslides. They have contributed so much to our community and we would like to give something back.

Charcuterie Appetizer
French Onion or Vegetarian Mushroom Soup
Caesar Salad with Reza's Classic Sourdough
Beef Bourguignon & Salmon Filet
or
Vegetarian Lasagna
Green Beans Almondine & Hasselback Potatoes
Cheesecake and Fresh Fruit
Coffee, Tea, Water, Wine
No Host Wine Bar

THE HARRAH CENTER
1501 BAECHTEL ROAD

DOOR PRIZE

LIVE MUSIC
The Farmers Market Band

SILENT AUCTION

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

PURCHASE TICKETS

GO FUND ME DONATIONS

Friends of Deb & Reza Fundraiser Gourmet Dinner, June 1

Submitted by Friends of Deb & Reza

This Friends of Deb & Reza Five Course Gourmet Dinner on Sunday, June 1 is a fundraiser for our Willits neighbors Deb & Reza Ghannadan whose house is in need of retrofitting due to mudslides.

They have contributed so much to our community, and we would like to give something back.

The dinner, 5 to 9 pm at the Willits Senior Center, 3601 Baechtel Road, will feature local food sources; Charcuterie: Sarah Gerlinger, Flowers & Decor: Cici Winiger; Chef Mike Adkins; Salmon: Princess Seafood; Beef: Eastside Ranch; Vegetables: Green Uprising Farms; Wine: Frey Vineyards; Chocolates: Sunshine Confections; and Bread: Reza's Breadery.

The evening will start out with a charcuterie appetizer table featuring French Onion Soup, Caesar Salad, Reza's Sourdough Bread, Deb's family recipe Beef Bourguignon and Salmon Filet, Hasselback Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, and Cheesecake. Coffee, tea, water and wine at the table, with a no host wine & beer bar. Door prizes and a silent auction with items donated by Friends.

Music for the evening will be provided by the Willits Farmers Market Band. Choice of seating outside on the patio or inside the center. "Let's dress up a bit and come join our friends and family for a great evening."

Tickets \$75 per person are available at the Harrah Center or online at ticketleap.com. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

For additional information contact: Dorothy Roediger 707-972-7103; Virginia Jorge 707-495-5323; or Deb Ghannadan 707-513-0667

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501

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

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

Monday, May 19: Pork Enchiladas w/Green Sauce

Tuesday, May 20: Asian Chicken Wrap, Cole Slaw

Wednesday, May 21: Pepperoni & Cheese Sub Sandwich, Bean Salad

Thursday, May 22: BBQ Chicken,, Baked Beans, Veggies, Cornbread

Friday, May 23: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll00

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.

Fire Safe Council awards \$150,000 to local wildfire safety projects

Submitted by MCFSC

May 1 – The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council is pleased to announce the distribution of \$150,000 in grant funding to support wildfire preparedness and community resilience efforts. A total of 20 micro-grants were awarded to 15 Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils and give fire agencies in recognition of their ongoing commitment to protecting our communities from wildfire risks.

These groups are leading the way in grassroots fire prevention, showcasing community-driven innovation and action. Projects funded this year range from fuel reduction and water storage installations to community education events, emergency equipment purchases, home hardening projects, and defensible space assessments.

"What inspires me most is seeing neighbors come together to protect one another," said Eva King, Community Outreach coordinator of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council. "These grants don't just fund projects, they support the people doing the work, side by side, to make their communities safer."

The 2025 Micro-Grant Program was made possible through generous support from the PG&E Corporation Foundation, which contributed \$50,000 for the third consecutive year, and from Mendocino County Measure P and other MCFSC resources. Grant amounts ranged from \$2,000 to \$12,500. Many projects include significant in-kind support – such as volunteer labor, material donations, and local fundraising – which further amplifies their impact.

The selection process prioritized proposals that demonstrated strong community collaboration, beneficial impact, fire risk reduction, clear budgeting, and realistic timelines.

Here are the 2025 Micro-Grant recipients and their funded projects:

- Albion Little River FSC – Fuel reduction for invasive broom
- Black Bart Trail FSC – Defensible space assessments and home hardening
- Black Oak Ranch FSC – Fuel reduction for a summer camp
- Blue Rock FSC – Water tank installation
- Cahto FSC – Fuel reduction and trash removal
- Comptche Firewise – Water tank installation
- Feliz Creek FSC – Joint Firewise education event with McNab Firewise
- Hopland Fire Department – Fire break creation/prescribed burn equipment
- Leggett Fire Protection District – Purchase of handheld radios
- Long Valley Fire Department – Residential defensible space assessments
- McNab Ranch FSC – Radios and water tanks
- PiercyFire Department – Emergency generator for community shelter
- Piercy PSRMA FSC – Roadside fuel reduction
- Point Arena FSC – Senior-focused wildfire preparedness event
- Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire Department – Reflective address signs and radios
- Round Valley FSC – Emergency equipment storage unit
- Spy Rock Ready FSC – Water tank installation
- String Creek< Willits FSC – Storage unit for temporary refuge area
- Surfwood Prepared FSC – "Map Your Neighborhood" organizing project
- Yorkville Firewise – Bulk vent material for home hardening

Residents are encouraged to connect with their local Fire Safe Council or fire department to learn more about these projects and get involved. To find or start a Neighborhood Fire Safe Council in your area, visit firesafemendocino.org/infsc. For Micro-Grant program guidelines, history, and updates, visit firesafemendocino.org/micro-grants. or contact MCFSC at king@firesafemendocino.org.



Latino Support

Fundraiser to benefit Nuestra Alianza is fun and successful evening full of good food, music, and a silent auction

In this area, Latino and Native American ethnicities seem, at times, to exist in a separate world, although they make up about 25 percent of the population. Their cultures, in large part, can be hidden from the rest of locals. They need to create a space for their traditions to be honored and taught to the young, in order for their cultures to be vibrant and continued within the larger society in which they live.

Nuestra Alianza, since 2000, has been providing services and information to the Hispanic population, while encouraging its people to retain their traditions. It gives its people a sense of belonging while integrating into the prevailing environment. They make available several programs to benefit their members. Among these is their very successful summer program for the young ones under 12, the Plan Vocacional, which is done entirely in Spanish to help the kids connect to time-honored traditions of dance and art.

Nuestra Alianza provides COVID testing, a food bank, free tax preparation, mental health services, English as a second language classes, parenting classes, general health education, translation services, math tutoring, computer use, gang and substance abuse outreach, information on workers' rights, and more.

In order to continue their beneficial services, the organization needs money. Last Friday night, Nuestra Alianza had a fundraiser in the Willits United Methodist Church, which was very well attended. The ambience was festive and informational. A silent auction, with items generously donated by local businesses and individuals, was full of valuable and artistic items. Attendees were treated to a traditional Mexican dinner, which they ate at communal tables, adding to the sense of togetherness and shared experience.

Prior to the dinner, the chapel was filled with attendees, who were treated to music by Kate Black, Anita Blu, and special guest percussionist Liz Fairchild, who entertained with mostly mellow folk rock tunes, prior to talks by members of Nuestra Alianza and other Willits people.

Kim Bancroft performed the duties as MC, introducing the other speakers. "Nuestra Alianza means Our Alliance," Bancroft explained. "We hope that this effort to expand the alliance between the Latino community and the non-Latino community and continue to find ways to work together. This evening you'll learn a lot about this wonderful organization of dedicated people who have supported cultural services in Willits and beyond for many, many years."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak spoke about his own experience and that of his family:

Read the rest of **Support** Over on page 15

At right, top: Some of the early arrivals peruse the many items at the silent auction. At right, above, left: The sanctuary of the Willits United Methodist Church is filled with attendees interested in helping Nuestra Alianza. Ar right, above, right: Kim Bancroft, of the Friends of Nuestra Alianza, acts as the master of ceremonies, introducing the speakers. At right: Larry Aguilera offers a prayer to the ancestors and an acknowledgement of the land. At far right: Dina Hutton, founder of Nuestra Alianza and past executive director, tells about organization's origins.

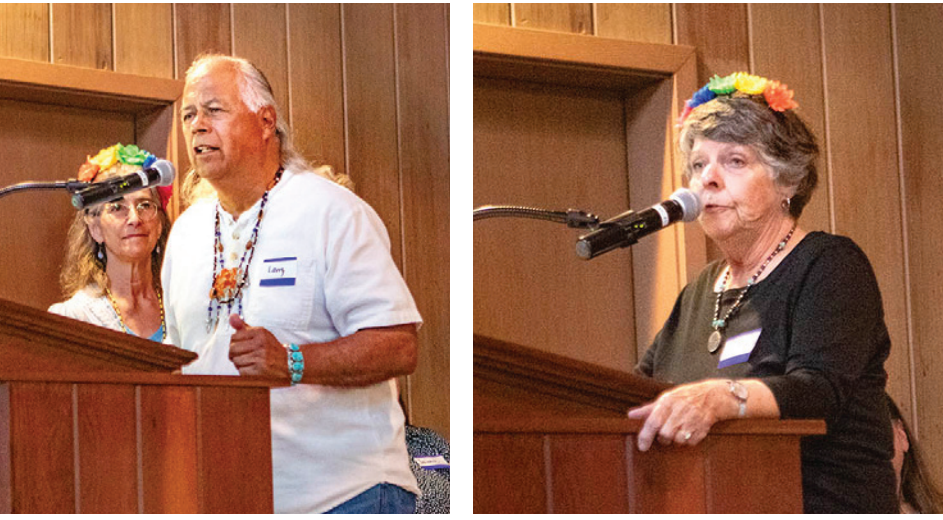
REDWOOD MEADOWS

Senior Apartment Community

1475 Baechtel Road | Willits, CA 95490

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW

Call now: 707-459-1616



Please leave me WILD!

- Fawns naturally lie still and lower their head when approached. The fawn is not sick or injured, he is simply trying to hide.
- Mothers will leave their fawn for several hours at a time while she forages for food. She will not return to her fawn if humans are in the area.
- If the fawn is tucked away and laying quietly, leave it alone and leave the area!
- If you find a fawn with open wounds, broken bones, is crying out for an extended time or laying flat on its side, it may need help.
- Please call Mendocino Fawn Rehab for advice before moving a fawn. 951-852-0513 or 707-984-6363.

NOYO Theater

Willits, CA.

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

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

THE GOONIES

(ALL SHOWS \$8)

(PG) 1hr 51min

Fri: 4:30
Sat: 1:45 & 7:15
Sun: 1:45 & 4:30
Wed-Thur: 7:15

BATMAN FOREVER

(PG-13) 2hrs 2min

Fri & Sun: 7:15
Sat & Wed-Thur: 4:30

THUNDERBOLTS * / THE NEW AVENGERS

(PG-13) 2hrs 6min

Fri: 4:15 & 7:00
Sat-Sun: 1:30, 4:15 & 7:00
Wed-Thur: 4:15 & 7:00

WARFARE

(R) 1hr 35mins

Fri: 4:45 & 7:30
Sat-Sun: 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30
Wed-Thur: 4:45 & 7:30

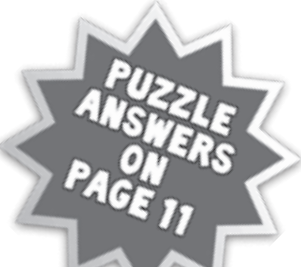
THEATER 1 DELUXE LUXURY RECLINERS LASER PROJECTION AGES 16+

Movie Times for May 2 through May 8

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

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page
Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

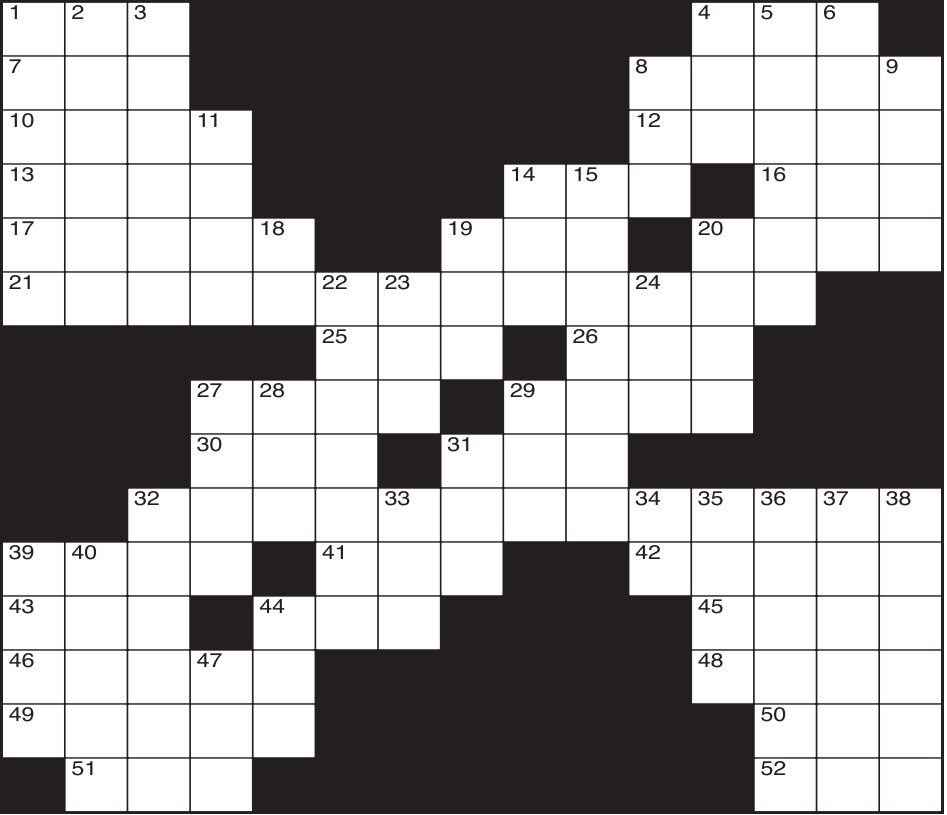
9x9 grid with numbers 1-9 for a Sudoku puzzle.



HOW TO SUDOKU
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

FUN NIGHT OUT WORD SEARCH
A 15x15 word search grid with letters and words hidden horizontally, vertically, and diagonally.

Table with 4 columns: APPETIZERS, DINING, FRIENDS, PLAY. Lists various food and activity options like BABYSITTER, DOWNTOWN, GAME, POPCORN, etc.



- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.), 4. British thermal unit, 7. Afflict, 8. Refrain from harming, 10. Galls, 12. Leg bone, 13. Rhine distributary, 14. Recipe measurement (abbr.), 16. Chap, 17. Useful book, 19. Mountain Time, 20. Snakelike fishes, 21. Places where people live, 25. US, Latin America, Canada belong to, 26. Periodical, 27. A type of sense, 29. A way to get possession of, 30. Everyone has one, 31. Body art, 32. Mr. October, 39. Abba ___, Israeli politician, 41. Head movement, 42. Jeweled headdress, 43. VCR button, 44. A way to change color, 45. Basketball move, 46. Upright stone slab, 48. Forest-dwelling monkey, 49. Pulsate steadily, 50. Negative, 51. Sino-Soviet bloc (abbr.), 52. Unit of work, CLUES DOWN: 1. Island, 2. Pittsburgh ballplayer, 3. Chemical compound, 4. Indicates density of data (abbr.), 5. Mesas, 6. Wild, long-legged sheep, 8. Engine additive, 9. 'CSI' actor George, 11. Stony waste matter, 14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone, 15. Pores in a leaf's epidermis, 18. Digraph, 19. Married woman, 20. Peripheral, 22. Northern Italy city, 23. Klutz, 24. Type of tree, 27. Witnessed, 28. Popular breakfast food, 29. __ Mahal, 31. BoSox legend Williams, 32. Professional drivers, 33. Atom or molecule type, 34. The Constitution State, 35. Chest to store clothes (Scottish), 36. Type of solution, 37. Speaker, 38. Specifying, 39. Formerly (archaic), 40. Wiseman and Krom are two, 44. The bill in a restaurant, 47. Tennis shot

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG
April 28 to May 4
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported 56 incidents in this 7-day period.
Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests
April 28
4:59 pm: JORDAN, Dustin Lee (46) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm and damage or defacement exceeding \$400, and on misdemeanor charges of violation of a court order (domestic violence) and possession of a controlled substance.
April 29
2:37 pm: ELLIOTT, Timothy Slade (52) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance.
7:56 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
10:18 pm: ALVAREZ, Vincent William (32) of Covelo was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and violation of probation.
10:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.
May 1
10:52 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of West Van Lane.
12:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Railroad Avenue.
6:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1200 block of Magnolia Avenue.
May 3
2:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of Central Street.
5:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Blosser Lane and West Highway 20.
10:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of Nancy Lane.
May 4
3:43 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.
5:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued a warning.

Oakland Motorcycle Club rides through Willits, May 21, 22

Posted by the City of Willits
The City of Willits has received notification that the Oakland Motorcycle Club will be hosting its 28th annual Sheetiron 300 Dualsport ride on May 21 and-22, hosting approximately 500 riders.
This event is a self-guided tour through public lands from Stonyford to Fort Bragg and back. Therefore, please be mindful of motorcycle traffic in Willits this weekend.
The City of Willits would like to extend our welcome to all participants.

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-Lo, 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.

Mendocino Producers Guild Artisan Market in Laytonville, May 31

Posted by Mendocino Producers Guild
Mendocino Producers Guild presents an Artisan, Craft & Food Market, Saturday, May 31 at Mendocino Producers Guild's new space, M.P.G. Hall, 43401 Highway 101, Laytonville. 11 am to 5 pm.
Local Farmers, Herbal Remedies, Arts & Crafts, Plant Starts, James & Sauces, Teas & Desserts, Body Products, Leather Goods, and more. All locally made and sourced. More info: www.mendocinoproducersguild.org



Thursday, May 15
Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors on Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Willits Farmers Market at City Park, with vendors along State Street on the north end of the park. Featuring the freshest produce available, local meat and eggs, hot food and cold from small, local businesses, many of them 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.
Hillshaker at Shanachie: Formerly known as the Clay Hawkins Duo, playing "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart." Hillshaker is another local favorite performing as part of the Shanachie Pub 25th Anniversary celebration, Friday, May 16 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Members Day at FOWL Book Sale: Thursday, May 15 is opening day, members only day, for the Friends of the Willits Library's Spring Book Sale, which runs at the Willits Library through Sunday, May 18. New favorites? Old classics? Find them here! Thursday, May 15 hours are 5 to 7 pm; become a FOWL member 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 pm, and all books are only \$3 a bag.
The Little Mermaid at WHS: This Willits High School production of Disney's magical under-the-sea adventure, continues Saturday, May 17 at 7 pm at the Allen Garcia Auditorium at Willits High School. See Friday, May 16 listing for more details.
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.

June Star at Shanachie: Baltimore's Andrew Grimm and Dave Hadley, "with aching vocals and plaintive folk arrangements, Grimm's rich baritone voice and Hadley's atmospheric, elegiac pedal steel, brins a time-honored aesthetic to their unique tales." Thursday, May 15 at 7 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.
FOWL Spring Book Sale: Friends of the Willits Library's Spring Book Sale opens to the general public Friday, May 16 from 10 am to 5 pm, 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.

Friday, May 16
FOWL Spring Book Sale: Friends of the Willits Library's Spring Book Sale opens to the general public Friday, May 16 from 10 am to 5 pm, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. New 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.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.
Democracy Vigil: Every Friday evening from 5 to 6 pm, Willits Indivisible at Babcock Park, South Main Street.

Waldorf School Spring Soiree: WSMC hosts the annual Spring Soiree and Super Raffle, an evening of celebration and support for education, on Friday, May 16, from 5 to 8 pm at 6280 Third Street, Calpella. Live music from Low Skies Ukiah; DJ Manderson bringing dance beats; local food and drinks from beloved community partners: It's A Bao Time, Testa Vineyards, Northspur Brewing Co. and Left Coast. Tickets, \$25 including food, available at www.mendocinowaldorf.org/event-details/spring-soiree

'The Little Mermaid' at WHS: This Willits High School production of Disney's magical under-the-sea adventure, opens Friday, May 16 at 7 pm, continues on Saturday, May 17 at 7 pm, and concludes on Sunday, May 18 at 2 pm in the Allen Garcia Auditorium at Willits High School. Directed by drama teacher Timothy Fischer, with musical direction by Daniel Cech.

The Waldorf School of Mendocino County Spring Soiree
Friday, May 16, 5:00 PM
6280 Third St., Calpella
Includes: Friends - Dancing - Fun - Live Music by Low Skies, Food by It's a Bao Time, Beer by Bao, Wine by Testa, Craft Cocktails & Mocktails. Tickets available at mendocinowaldorf.org

30 East San Francisco Street. Admission free; donations welcome. Info: 707-354-1866
Willits Gem & Mineral Society Meeting: Join the Willits Gem & Mineral Society for a free monthly meeting, on Monday, May 19 this month. Come talk rock with fellow

SoulCollage Workshop with Sue Ellen Parkinson
Soul Collage is an intuitive process in a perfection free zone. Participants create cards by combining images. These cards are excellent for personal reflection. Supplies are provided. Connect to your inner world and your intuition.
May 18, 1 - 4pm, \$40
REGISTRATION www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of this beloved film MAY 16 - 22
High Country Roofing Inc is generously sponsoring this showing of the Goonies! Thanks to their support, all tickets are just \$8. Don't miss this opportunity to reexperience this adventure classic with your friends - on the big screen - at a great price.
Showtimes to be announced. noyotheater.com

What's Happening Around Town
Willits Chamber of Commerce
299 East Commercial Street | Willits, CA | 707.459.7910

rockhounds, jewelers and lapidary artists. Special Presentation: An introduction to the art of Lost Wax Jewelry Casting. Bring a light snack to share. 7 to 8:30 pm, at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street.
Wednesday, May 21
'History Makers' Family Craft Program at the Museum: Wednesday, May 21, at the Mendocino County Museum from 2 to 4:30 pm. Tissue Paper Flowers inspired by the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. Program attendance is free with cost of Museum admission. 400 East Commercial Street. More info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365

Willits Stamp Club: The monthly meeting of the Willits Stamp Club is on the third Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, May 21 this month, from 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Bring your collection and enjoy time perusing stamps. All are welcome. Refreshments provided. Info: talsofam@pacific.net
Willits Stamp Club: The monthly meeting of the Willits Stamp Club is on the third Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, May 21 this month, from 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Bring your collection and enjoy time perusing stamps. All are welcome. Refreshments provided. Info: talsofam@pacific.net

Thursday, May 22
'A Bit and a Bite' at the Museum: Friends of the Mendocino County Museum presents light refreshments, history and conversation. Sherwood rancher Marilyn Sagehorn Russell, contributing author to "Roots and Resilience: California Ranchers in Their Own Words," tells stories from her early life as a sheep rancher, and her family's successful
Leza at Shanachie: Leza is a Brazilian psych-pop/surf rock band formed in São Paulo, Brazil by Gustavo Athayde. Leza has been sharing their music at the Pub for the past couple of years, and have become a fast favorite. Saturday, May 24 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, May 25
43rd Annual Willits Car & Bike Show: Located on Main Street in downtown Willits, extended down East Commercial Street this year. "Classic car enthusiasts, families, and friends will gather on Sunday, May 25 to marvel at a stunning display of vintage vehicles, enjoy live music, shopping from our many great retailers, delicious food from our local restaurants, activities for all ages, food trucks in the City parking lot, and NEW this year, Vendor Row located on the green of Bud Snider Park (aka: Willits City Park)." Pre-register your vehicle though May 18 to ensure your place in the show at https://members.willits.org/event-calendar/

A Bit and A Bite History at the Mendocino County Museum
Sherwood Rancher, Marilyn Sagehorn Russell, will connect stories from her early life as a sheep rancher, and will celebrate on her family's ancestral collection with the California Inland Trust to preserve the ranch in perpetuity.
Thursday, May 22, 12:30 - 2:00 PM
Copies available for \$10
Learn about volunteer opportunities, meet new friends, and refreshments.
Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95476

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Willits Farmers Market at City Park, with vendors along State Street on the north end of the park. Consider parking at the City or Skunk Train parking lots. For the freshest produce available, and much more. See Thursday, May 15 listing for more details.
Details/43rd-annual-willits-car-bike-show-1308883 Info: Willits Chamber of Commerce, Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm, at (707) 459-7910 or director@willits.org

Arts Y'ART Sale
May 24 - 12AM - 6PM
May 25 - 11AM - 5PM
Arts & Crafting Supplies
Held in the back courtyard of Willits Center for the Arts.
716 Commercial St. Willits | willitscenterforthearts.org

Magician and Mentalist Robert Goleman at WCT
Fort Bragg magician and mentalist Robert Goleman appears in a return performance at the Willits Community Theatre on Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31 at 7 pm, and Sunday, June 1 at 2 pm. For an experience witnessing the impossible, the local master presents an evening of mind-bending magic and amazing mental skills, with lots of audience participation. 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are available online, scroll down, at www.wctperformingartscenter.org/buy-tickets-online



At top: Representatives from the City of Ukiah and Pinoleville Pomo Nation join in the ground-breaking celebration.

Above: A rendering of the new Ukiah courthouse posted on the Judicial Council of California's website last fall, along with more information about the project. Visit: <https://courts.ca.gov/facilities/mendocino-county-new-ukiah-courthouse>

At right: Presiding Judge Faulder welcomes the community to the April 30 ground-breaking ceremony.

Below, left: Judicial Council and Superior Court representatives are the first group to place their shovels in the ground.

Below, right: The site of the future Mendocino County Superior Court, off East Perkins Street next to the Train Depot in Ukiah.

Photos submitted by Mendocino County Superior Court



Playful Tess

This beautiful dog is friendly and sweet and loves to be around people. She walks well on leash and enjoys getting out and about. Tess loves her toys. She can entertain herself for hours. Tess loves to play, does well when left alone, enjoys car rides, and loves playing fetch and romping in water! We think Tess will be a fine companion for a home with children. What's not to love?

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



Joyful Bodie

Bodie is a happy, beautiful boy. This energetic, classic border collie mix is always looking for love and adventure. He's a friendly guy weighing around 65 pounds, who loves nothing more than running around, rolling in grass, fetching balls, playing with dogs, and getting love and pets. He would do best in an active home with fun-loving outdoorsy people so he can zoom and stretch his legs often. Bodie does have an "off-switch" and lives to please and be loved!

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



Sweet Sassy

This gorgeous mature kitty is 15 years old but don't tell her that. She looks amazing for her age and is as sweet as can be. Sassy has spent her life as an outdoor only kitty but she is ready to retire to being an indoor / outdoor cat. And she has a super cute short tail! Sassy's adoption fee has been generously sponsored by Karin Hudson.

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.

Mendocino community celebrates ground-breaking for new courthouse

Submitted by Mendocino County Superior Court

On April 30, more than 125 community members celebrated the Mendocino County Superior Court groundbreaking event to officially begin construction of a new three-story, seven-courtroom, 82,000 square foot courthouse in Ukiah next to the Train Depot.

The audience included members of the public, representatives from the City of Ukiah and County of Mendocino, current and retired judges, and court staff. More than 20 members of the design-build team, consisting of Hensel Phelps, Fentress Architects, and Kitchell were on site to mark this occasion.

The Judicial Council of California was also well represented and is providing approximately \$120 million in state funding to build the new courthouse. Judicial Council staff will be on-site throughout the construction phase to provide oversight and support.

Finally, Angela James from the Pinoleville Pomo Nation performed a blessing at the end of the ceremony and described the history of the tribal community's involvement with the land on which the courthouse will be built.

Presiding Judge Keith Faulder began the ceremony with remarks about the history of the courthouses in Mendocino County, from the mid-1800s to the present, and the 20-year journey to realize this important groundbreaking milestone. He recognized the funding challenges that have made achieving this goal often seem out of reach. He acknowledged the detailed and creative design work, already completed, by the design-build team, Judicial Council, City of Ukiah, and the court.

Chief Operating Officer Salena Chow from the Judicial Council highlighted the importance of this new courthouse. "This project represents many years of partnership between the court and council," Chow said, "working alongside our state, city, and county partners. Breaking ground on this new courthouse marks a major step toward providing a modern, efficient, and secure facility that will better meet the needs of the public and expand access to justice for the residents of Mendocino County."

Ukiah City Councilmember Juan Orozco affirmed the city's commitment to the new courthouse, highlighting its importance to the downtown area. City Manager Sage Sangiacomo added: "The courthouse has been an important fixture in Ukiah's downtown for more than a century and a half. While our community has outgrown the current building in many ways, its critical role as an anchor remains. This investment by the state in a new facility, and their commitment to keeping it downtown, will benefit Ukiah tremendously – for another 150 years or more, we hope."

Curtis Fentress, principal in charge of Design at Fentress Architects, and John Petty, operations manager at Hensel Phelps, highlighted their design and construction partnership and noteworthy features in the new courthouse in their remarks.

Petty stated, "The Hensel Phelps/Fentress Design-Build Team is honored to team up with the Judicial Council of California, the Superior Court of Mendocino County, and the City of Ukiah to deliver this state-of-the-art facility for the people of Ukiah and Mendocino County.

"This courthouse is designed to be highly efficient, durable and resilient while targeting LEED Silver certification," Petty said. "All parking stalls will be covered with PV panels providing a substantial amount of the energy required for the new facility. Additionally, the landscaping will be drought tolerant and native."

Fentress added: "The Ukiah Courthouse was designed to serve a judicial system that has evolved over the past few decades. Throughout the design process we were committed to justice, accessibility, security, and public service. We're proud to have created a landmark that will serve Ukiah and Mendocino County for generations to come."

Following the event, Court Executive Officer Kim Turner recognized the extensive collaboration among the design-build team members and the synergy that is created by developing a project that honors all perspectives.

"The design-build team, the council, and the court have been meeting weekly for nearly two years to work through every aspect of the design," Turner said. "The process has been energizing and has allowed us to 'problem-solve' design features, honoring the ultimate needs of the court for a functional, efficient, and visually stunning new facility."

Turner added: "The court is also committed to honoring the legacy of our current Ukiah courthouse and the Mendocino community by reproducing in our new facility the current courthouse's murals painted in the 1970s, depicting many aspects of life in Mendocino and our commitment to justice."

The courthouse is slated to be completed in 27 months, meaning judges and staff will be able to move into the new facility before the end of 2027. Early discussions are underway between the county and the city to determine what will be done with the current courthouse once the court vacates the building.



Willits PEO chili bowl fundraiser at Willits Car & Bike Show

Submitted by Willits PEO

Please support the Willits chapter of PEO (Promoting Educational Opportunities for young women) on Sunday, May 25, from 10 am to 3 pm at the 43rd annual Main Street Car & Bike Show in Willits.

Purchase a beautiful, locally made pottery bowl filled with chili, with a roll and a brownie for \$25. The bowl is yours to keep!

This fundraiser supports PEO's annual scholarship awarded to a young woman and high school senior. The PEO booth will be located in the parking lot of the Willits Community Center. Thank-you for supporting our local young students!

At right: Members of the Willits chapter of the PEO hold beautiful hand-crafted bowls they'll be offering – filled with delicious chili and accompanied by a roll and a brownie – at their booth outside the Community Center during the Main Street Car & Motorcycle Show in Willits.



OBITUARY |

Fran Koliner

A bright spirit left this worldly life on Sherwood Road recently. Fran Koliner rejoined the late Robert Crawford's spirit and you can bet there is music and song there.

Francis Eloise Kolinier was born June 6, 1949 to Johnny Kolinier and Betty Pasternak in Los Angeles. Music was always a part of her life growing up. She moved north to study art history, at Humboldt State College and later in life got a master's degree from Sonoma State in education. She concluded her teaching career in Anderson Valley.

She met the love of her life, Robert Crawford, at the Renaissance Pleasure Fair and they settled in Sebastopol before moving to Duck's Point on the Sherwood Road west of Willits in the mid-1970s. Daughter Rose was born in 1978 and son, Ian, in 1980. She passed away from health complications January 16, 2025.

Hundreds of musicians knew Fran from "Lark in the Morning" music camps on the coast. She formed the Willits Ukulele Club and worked behind the scenes in local theater productions. She created community connections and with Robert hosted the "Story Stick" radio show on KMUD for decades. Fran loved and volunteered at KZYX in various capacities over the years. She produced beautiful watercolor artworks and loved swimming with the Willits Pool Ladies. She loved being surrounded by creative people and music.

Ian McNeil Joseph Crawford, Fran and Robert's son, passed away from multiple medical issues January 16, 2025 with his sister Rose at his side.

Fran Kolinier is survived by daughter Rose Orland, her husband, Noel, granddaughters Uma and Milla, all living in Felton CA. Also survived by her brother Dave Kolinier.

In memory of Fran Kolinier the family asks for donations in her honor to KZYX radio.

There will be a celebration of life at the Willits Grange May 17 at 12 noon in Fran's honor.



From left: Jen Drew, Rick Williams, accepting the donation for the Willits Food Bank; Richard Baker, accepting for the Willits Senior Center; Cindy Savage, accepting for Willits Daily Bread; and chair of the Rotary Club's Grill & Give Winter BBQ, Andrew Hosford.

Rotary Club donates \$9,500 each to 3 local food groups

Feeding our community was Andrew Hosford's focus when he volunteered to organize a Rotary Club of Willits fundraiser using his skills to create the popular Grill & Give Winter BBQ. He organized a committee, including his "Meat Crew" to smoke and barbecue chicken and pork butts. He added beans, salad, and bread to the menu to make a special dinner for a March evening.

The auction of handmade desserts was a popular addition to the fun. This event sold out and Willits Rotarians were kept busy meeting the needs of our guests.

This first annual fundraiser raised \$9,500 each for Willits Daily Bread, Willits Food Bank, and Willits Senior Center.

Rotary Club of Willits wants to thank the community for its support through sponsorships and generous donations to the silent and live auctions. We truly couldn't have done this great event without our community's support!

– Willits Rotary Club

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www.agapebiblechurch.com

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Acts 2:37*
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Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-
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Wednesday Bible Study-
7-8:00 p.m.

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10:30 a.m. - Spanish
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saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
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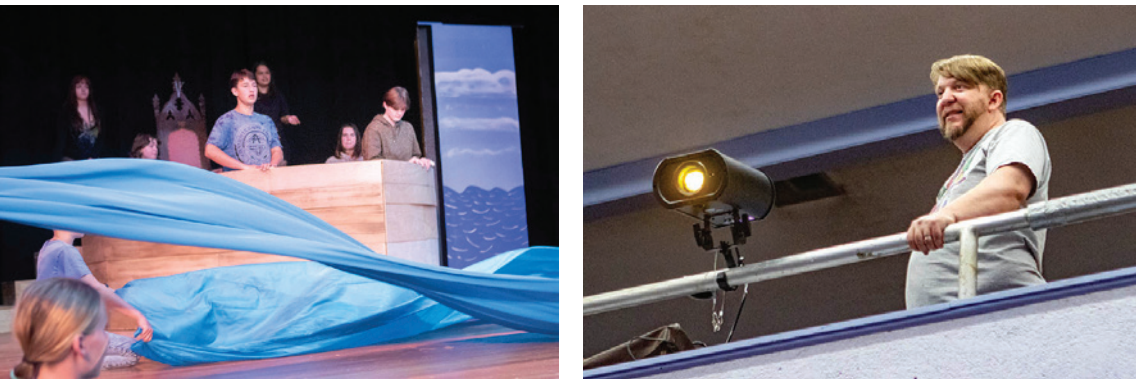
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wumc@outlook.com
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Facebook: facebook willits umc

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



‘The Little Mermaid’

Willits High School musical production of classic fairytale presented this weekend only after months of hard work

On Friday, May 16, Willits High School will open “The Little Mermaid,” directed by drama teacher Timothy Fischer, with music direction by Daniel Cech. “The Little Mermaid” is a timeless tale, penned originally by Hans Christian Andersen. In 2008, the classic fairytale was turned into a musical with music by Alan Menken, book by Doug Wright, and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater.

The intricate, adaptable sets were built by the stage construction class of Ken Pedersen. This is a production months in the making. “We’ve been working on this production since January,” explained Fischer. “We have a big mix of high schoolers and middle schoolers, and we even have some charter school kids. It’s really open to everybody and I think we’re going to be pretty successful. Last year, we did ‘Little Shop of Horrors’ which was very tight in terms of single set and a large puppet of Audrey Junior. This one has more set changes and comings and goings, so it’s been an interesting experience. We’ve taken on a challenge.”

Fischer, who has been seen on several stages in the Willits / Ukiah area as an actor and recently appeared as Clarence Darrow in a one-man show, finds working with young people to be quite satisfying, although challenging.

“So much of this is about the process,” Fischer continued. “I’m really trying to focus on them building an appreciation for what they’re doing and the art of theater. So, I’m also teaching them about commitment, things like following through. We have middle and high schoolers. Some of them, it’s the first time they’re really putting forth a real commitment. We’ve had challenges in that, but we’ve also had

successes. People are learning and I’m really pleased with where we’re at in the process.”

The set is cleverly constructed with periaktoi, triangular three-sided forms on rollers, which allow quick set changes by revolving the pieces to create underwater, ship and sea scenes. “This set was 99 percent student-built. I’m just here to give them some advice and direction. This year, we have a big show. I’m glad that I had two semesters to teach because this set is quite complex. A lot of students have been involved in this and the reactions we get from the students have been awesome,” said Pedersen.

The students have been having a great time working on the production, even though it has been a challenge for these mostly novice performers. Sophie Anderson, who plays Ariel, has a great singing voice. She says she is having a fun time, although she is a bit nervous.

Timothy Southwick portrays the young Prince Eric. “Ariel falls in love with me and then I fall in love with her at the end,” Southwick muses. “It takes like the whole play. At first, she sings but then she gets her voice taken and I search for the girl with the voice, and he realizes that it’s her in the end, but I fall in love with her just because of her personality. It’s going to be fun. Hopefully, a lot of people show up.”

Junior Emily Enright plays Grimsby, “Prince Eric’s formal butler that serves him and follows him wherever he goes,” Enright explained. “I fall in love with Ariel’s maid. I’m having a lot of fun.”

D. Fainer is enjoying his role as Sebastian, the crab. “Sebastian is an advisor to King Triton,” said

Read the rest of
Mermaid Over on page 15

At left: In a spirited dance number, the cast of middle and high school students go airborne. At left, below, from left: The cast creates a sea scene as Prince Eric, played by Timothy Southwick, ends up falling overboard and is saved by Ariel. Director Timothy Fischer adjusts some of the lights from the balcony.



Above, from left: Rachel Cash finds a plant start in a cup to bring back to her garden. Richard Jeske has several varieties of grape cuttings for sale. Jamie Chevalier brought her display of Quail Seeds for those who wish to grow from seed. Ambria Miller and Oreana Campbell came down from Motherland in String Creek to offer healing herbs. At left: The early attendees enter, eager to shop. At left, below: Necole Aguilar Barnes attends the Grateful Gleaners Sale to find quality plant starts. At left, bottom: Haley Morse finds some plant starts with the help of Prana. Below: The plants are arranged by type so that the attendees can easily find what they are looking for.

Spring Plant Sale

Grateful Gleaners annual fundraiser stocked full of vegetable starts, herbs, and more

The Grateful Gleaners, which has been operating for several years, finds fields and yards which require someone to come and harvest or finish harvesting fruits and vegetables and then donates the produce to community organizations in need of food. Each year, the group puts on the much-awaited plant sale on Tuttle Lane. Townsfolk rely on this fun and comprehensive array of plant starts and seeds to begin their gardens, carrying away boxes or rolling away wagons full of tomato, zucchini, and herb starts, and a myriad of other plants which they wish to grow.

“We glean,” said Gail Savarese, a gleaner for several years. “We go out to peoples’ gardens where they have too much fruit or they just don’t want to pick their fruit or excess garden veggies and then we distribute them to the Senior Center or Nuestra Alianza or the high school or the Kids Club. It’s great to take them to the schools. Gleaning is an old tradition. It’s sad to see food go to waste.”

The Gleaners utilize the money from the sale to “raise money to buy new tools and to give scholarships to different organizations that are farm-related or small local farms. They are basically grants that farmers can apply for,” continued Savarese. “People begin growing for this sale a couple of months before. There are a lot of exciting varieties you don’t normally see.”



At left: John Haschak loads up with some tomatoes and other plant starts.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, from top: D. Fainer is Sebastian the crab, who is an advisor to King Triton. Timothy Southwick tries on his costume for his part as Prince Eric who ends up falling in love with Ariel. Alex Miya rehearses for his part as King Triton. At left: Sophie Anderson as the Little Mermaid and the ensemble rehearse one of the production numbers.

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Dharma Talk at The Muse
Tibetan master Lama Lodu Rinpoche returns to Willits to give a talk on “The Four Noble Truths,” one of the foundational teachings of the Buddhist path.

Monday, May 19, 6:00—8:00 pm
The Muse, 30 East San Francisco Street, Willits
Admission free; donations welcome 707-354-1866

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FALL 2025 - NORTH COUNTY CENTER CLASSES

ART

- ART-228A-4380 Beginning Painting I
- ART-228B-4381 Beginning Painting II
- ART-228C-4382 Intermediate Painting I
- ART-228D-4383 Intermediate Painting II
- ART-522-0524 Watercolors for Older Adults
- ART-542-0842 Ceramics for Older Adults

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

- ASL-200-0202 Sign Language: Level I

BUSINESS

- BUS-107-4264 Customer Service

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- CDV-101-2367 Curriculum in Early Education
- CDV-200-0220 Child Growth and Development

COMPUTER SCIENCE

- CSC-520-4384 Beginning Computer Skills I
- CSC-526-4385 Beginning Computer Skills II

ENGLISH

- ENGL-210-4356 Creative Writing
- ENGL-212-4357 Intermediate Creative Writing
- ENGL-503-4358 Writing for Older Adults
- ENGL-560-4359 & 4360 Basic Reading & Writing
- Formerly ENG 200:
- ENGL-C1000-4354 & 4355 Academic Reading & Writing

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

- ESL-3C-4344 Communication Skills C
- ESL-503C-4345 Communication Skills C (No Credit)
- ESL-507A-4343 Beginning ESL A (No Credit)
- ESL-7A-4342 Beginning ESL A

ETHNIC STUDIES

- ETH-202-0227 Racial and Ethnic Relations

HEALTH

- HLH-214-4298 Foods and Nutrition

HUMAN SERVICES

- HUS-152-4277 Basic Skills for Service Workers

MUSIC

- MUS-230A-0223 Beginning Voice
- MUS-230B-0224 Intermediate Voice
- MUS-230C-0225 230C Singers' Repertoire I
- MUS-230D-0226 230C Singers' Repertoire II
- MUS-281-4278 Concert Choir I
- MUS-530-0305 Singing for Older Adults
- MUS-580-4279 Chorale for Older Adults

PSYCHOLOGY

- Formerly PSY 200
- PSYC-C1000-4300 Introduction to Psychology

STATISTICS

- Formerly MTH 220:
- STAT-C1000-4297 Introduction to Statistics

THEATRE

- THE-234A-0253 Tap Dance: Beginning
- THE-234B-4388 Tap Styles and Performance
- THE-236A-0066 Yoga: Beginning
- THE-236B-0067 Yoga: Advanced Beginning
- THE-268-4387 Dance Rehearsal
- THE-536-4379 Yoga for Older Adults

WORK EXPERIENCE

- WEE-196-0194 Work Experience Education

For days and times, and a current listing of all classes, visit: www.mendocino.edu/schedule

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All classes are Late Start classes.

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- CDV-200 #0220 Child Growth and Development
- ETH-202 #0227 Racial and Ethnic Relations
- PSYC-C1000 #0250 Introductory to Psychology
- HLH-214 #4298 Foods and Nutrition



Summer Classes Start June 8, 2025
Fall Classes start August 18, 2025
REGISTER NOW!
WWW.MENDOCINO.EDU/SCHEDULE



The rest of Beebe | From page 1

communication,' let's call it – its legs were bent."

Communication across multiple layers in a school district is important, Beebe said: "Parents seek it, teachers and staff, students want to be in the know."

Beebe said he aimed to create more of an open atmosphere for communication. "Typically district offices can at times seem kind of intimidating to people. We wanted to create a more hospitable and customer-service friendly atmosphere."

Improving communication "would be the most important," Beebe said, but that led into another issue: "There was tension and a bit of chaos that was here, and just a general – I wouldn't say it's a negative sentiment, but wanted to bring some stability and joy to this environment."

"Just being consistent in your approach, always showing up, consistent in your decisions, making it about the human beings in the business," Beebe said. "It filters down, if it's done right, creating stability, expecting it at the school site level, it flows to the kids.... Students operate better when it's calm."

Beebe also mentioned the need he saw for a facility upgrade when he arrived in Willits. "We've done a really good job of making our spaces look better – curb appeal – and function better," he said.

"The last thing is just creating a sense that Willits Unified is one of the strongest districts in Mendocino County. I think we have created a place, where if you come here, you're going to be very comfortable knowing your students are going to be well taken care of and educated for those 13 years they are here."

Superintendent Beebe had one general piece of advice for the new superintendent. "I think the one thing that seems to be elusive in our society these days is to listen to each other, and then everything underneath that is important, listen and understand each other, listen to each other's needs and connect. Listen together positively not with a negative eye – so many things

can get done if you just listen.... Listen and continually ask, what is best for the students and staff of Willits Unified? I ask myself that question every single day."

Asked about the effect on Willits schools of reports that President Trump's administration proposes to cut mental health funds for students, Superintendent Beebe said, "It hasn't impacted us, we don't have federal grants for mental health, so as long as we continue to make mental health a priority...."

"There is a trickle down effect," he said. "There's gonna be a budgetary issue at the state level, and may have an ancillary impact on the programs we run."

"The next 6 or 7 months," Beebe said, "will be interesting in terms of state budgets, especially in California. We're so big, it can create an interesting future, not negative, but different than what we've had."

Beebe wanted to thank his staff and the community, "and most importantly, the students," he said. "I think the best thing I could say is 'We're a bit better,' and that's all I could ever ask. I wanted the district to be better off than when I was entrusted with being the leader."

Regarding Willits in general, Superintendent Beebe said he had "absolutely and thoroughly enjoyed being in Willits. It's a beautiful community, and the people I work with have embraced me from almost Day 1."

"I have felt that there is a community driven desire for WUSD to be successful, and for their children to be in a garden like area, that they enjoy, and that they think is productive. I'm an urban guy, a big city person, and I was a little nervous about coming to such a small town, but I have learned just to embrace the beauty of Willits."

As a final note, Beebe said one of the things he'd really appreciated about his job in Willits was the view whenever he walked out his office door: "the view to the northeast of the mountain with the 'W' on it. I love that look, it's really cool and I've really enjoy that."

LEGAL NOTICES

WW535

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

WW536

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0218

The following person or persons are doing business as Esthetics by Eden, 23 South Main Street, Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: Eden Hinker Tye, 24900 North Highway 101, Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual..

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 5, 2025.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 9, 2025.

/s/ Eden Hinker Tye

Publication Dates: May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 2025

The rest of Burn | From page 1

during burning operations. This will be an ongoing project that set to start on June 2, 2025 and continue through July 2, 2025.

Burning will begin when the fuel has cured for burning and favorable weather conditions exist. Burning will take place Monday through Friday, starting at approximately 6 pm and concluding at approximately 11 pm daily, with smoke visible in the area.

This project adds to the significant work underway throughout the state. It brings California closer to meeting state fuels reduction goals directed by the California Fire Plan and the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. To track the progress being made, both in your community and throughout California, visit the CAL FIRE fuels reduction dashboard at www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/fuels-reduction.

This project burn will be conducted under strictly controlled weather and fuel conditions. Smoke and aircraft may be visible in the area.

The rest of Rite Aid | From page 1

Rite-Aid emphasizes some bullet points about its situation:

- Company in Active Discussions with Multiple Interested Potential Acquirors; Robust Sale Process Supported by \$1.94 Billion in New Financing Commitments and Facilitated Through Voluntary Chapter 11 Proceedings
- Stores Remain Open and Operating with Focus on Uninterrupted Pharmacy Services and Products, Including Prescriptions and Immunizations
- Key Priority Is Facilitating Smooth Transfer

During this process, the press release continues: "Rite Aid customers can continue to access pharmacy services and products in stores and online, including prescriptions and immunizations. In connection with the sale process and court-supervised proceedings, the company is working to facilitate a smooth transfer of customer prescriptions to other pharmacies. Rite Aid employees assisting with this process will continue to receive pay and benefits."

Matt Schroeder, CEO of Rite Aid, said: "For more than 60 years, Rite Aid has been a proud provider of pharmacy services and products to our loyal customers. While we have continued to face financial challenges, intensified by the rapidly evolving retail and healthcare landscapes in which we operate, we are encouraged by meaningful interest from a number of potential national and regional strategic acquirors.

"As we move forward," Schroeder said, "our key priorities are ensuring uninterrupted pharmacy services for our customers and preserving jobs for as many associates as possible."

Brooktrails firefighters seek vendors for June 28 flea market and craft fair

Submitted by Brooktrails Firefighters Association

The Brooktrails Firefighters Association is pleased to announce a flea market and craft fair on Saturday, June 28, from 7 am to 1 pm. Joining us this year. Sherwood Firewise will be providing information about fire safety community awareness in our area. Hosted in the parking lot of the Fire Department and Community Services District building, at 24860 Birch Street. If interested, please contact 707-459-4441 to book space or for more information.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW537

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2025-F0227

The following person or persons are doing business as RC Transit, 31101 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Richard James Comer, 31101 N. Highway 101, 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 May 9, 2025.

/s/ Richard Comer

Publication Dates: May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 2025

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Do you need food?

Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 14:30 - Bring an I.D. (707) 459-3333

Firewood for Sale

Firewood for sale - Fir. 1/2 cord, \$175.00 Delivered. Call 707- 354-4394.

For Sale

Office items. Costco chair, 2-drawer, mahogany letter size file cabinet, new file boxes with lids, desk items, and more. Selling separately or all together. Best offer. Call (707) 385-9333

Free Food for All Pop-Ups

Mendocino Food Network presents food pop-ups with free food for all: In Willits, every 1st and 3rd Thursday, from 10 to 11:30 am at 1250 Blosser Lane. In Laytonville, every 4th Thursday, 12 to 1 pm at 300 Cahlo 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@mendocinfood.org; 707-615-6654.

Garage Sale

Treasures await! Garage sale this weekend. Saturday May 17th 9-5 pm & Sunday May 18th 1-5 pm. Everything must go. Don't miss out! 84 School St.

Help Wanted

Willits Center for the Arts is looking for a personable & detail-oriented art-lover to work 9+ hours on weekends, engaging visitors & organizing volunteers. Please respond with resume to manager@willitscenterofhearts.org.

John Ford Ranch Beef

John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.

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 take a look.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers – starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tp>

Willits Food Bank

Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, pantry staples, hygienic products, and more, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, at their location at 344 Railroad Avenue. Food distribution is available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.

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

Pg. 11

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Willits Weekly | May 15, 2025



At top, from left: Dragon Tongue Beans are among the best fresh snap beans for our area. They have crisp, non-fibrous texture and sweet flavor. The purple stripes disappear when cooked. Some of the best-adapted zucchini for our area is called Goldini, a new, public-domain variety from author/breeder Carol Deppe. Quinoa and amaranth are both great gluten-free crops for our area. Quinoa needs to be planted by the end of May. Amaranth is a heat-lover that should be planted in June. Above, from left: No squash stores better than butternut, and South Anna is a butternut that's both disease-resistant and sweeter than most. It's a new open-source variety from Virginia that has proven itself here in Willits. It's time to plant sunflowers! Check to make sure the type you plant is not a pollen-free hybrid. The butterflies and bees will thank you! King City Pink Beans are a California heirloom that thrives in heat, is ready to harvest early, and has fantastic flavor. It's mild and creamy, perfect in soup, hummus-type spreads, salad, and pasta. Summer lettuces are a special type, and Quan Yin is one of the best. It's known for its crisp texture and high yields. Photo by Don Tipping



Above, from left: Carrots are a must for both snacking and cooking. The shorter, broad varieties like Kuroda can handle clay soil and less-than-perfect conditions. Brussels sprouts need to grow all summer, but they bear little green nuggets over a long season in winter. It's worth getting some started now. Photo by Sarah Klieger. Zapallo del Tronco is a round summer squash that is used like zucchini but is a different species with a buttery flavor and crisp texture. Above, from left: Flour corns and popcorn sprout in cool soil better than sweet corn, so they can be planted earlier. A patch of flour corn like this Cascade Ruby-Gold will provide cornbread, polenta, and cereal for the winter with no complicated threshing. Bekana adds a fresh crunchy sweetness to salad and is ready to harvest in just three weeks. If you have difficult growing conditions, Beefy Resilient Beans are your solution. They handle drought, heat, cold, and even saline soil better than any bean I've tried. And they do have a beefy, meaty flavor, too. Chard is drought-tolerant, requires almost no care, and provides more meals per square foot than anything I can think of. Rainbow chard is also pretty enough to grow in the front yard or in a container with flowers.

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
Sun May 18st 10 am to 3 pm

Sunday all books only \$3 a bag!

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

May: Spring planting

It was great to chat with so many local gardeners at the Gleaners Plant Sale this year. Many thanks to the Gleaners for the work they do supporting local farmers and feeding local families.

Jamie Chevalier Columnist One of the most common questions I got last weekend was about when to plant. Since we're approaching our average last frost date, this is a good time to look at what planting windows are closing, which things are best planted right now, and which are coming up next.

A few crops that really need winter sowing like onions and spinach are at or past their planting deadline. You might want to skip these until fall, when short days and cool soil come again.

Cool-weather crops that take time to mature, like broccoli and peas, are nearing their deadlines. Either plant them now, or skip them until fall.

But do plant those crops that need to grow all summer to produce in fall and winter. Your future self will be so happy if you plant Brussels sprouts, winter cabbage, parsnips, and rutabagas now. May planting lets them get established before it gets too dry, and allows for the long season they need.

One of the best staple foods to grow in our area is quinoa, an easy-to-grow, super nutritious, and productive grain that is well-suited to home gardens. I have seen yields of 15 to 20 pounds of grain in a single 5 foot x 20 foot bed. Quinoa needs to be sown by the end of May.

Salad crops are something you want to have ongoing. It's difficult for lettuce to germinate in hot soil, so take advantage of spring weather to plant salads for the next couple of months. For best germination, store your lettuce seed in the fridge—warm temperatures make it go dormant. Start seedlings in semi-shade and transplant in the evening.

With lettuce, you need to match the variety to the season. Some have been bred for freeze resistance in winter, others for fast growth in spring. Only a few — like Quan Yin, Jericho, and Grandpa Admire's — are adapted to temperatures above 80 degrees.

Plan on sowing every couple of weeks, so you always have some seedlings, some half-way-grown, and some mature. Diversify your salads with Asian greens like mizuna, heat-resistant greens like orach, and specialties like pea shoots, purslane, sorrel, and arugula.

Root crops can be a gardener's best friend. They don't require much fertility and, once they are established, they are thrifty with water. Unlike many garden favorites, they don't get unpalatable if left unpicked. Carrots are there when you want them. Beets are among the most drought-

Read the rest of **Garden** | Over on page 15

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Groceries
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Pay at the Pump

7am - 10pm
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1799 So. Main St.
P.O. Box 425

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707.459.5193

Ahead of peak fire season, California adds second C-130 airtanker to world's largest aerial firefighting fleet

Posted by the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

What you need to know: California's second C-130 Hercules airtanker is ready for firefighting operations, adding to the state's arsenal that stands ready to protect communities from catastrophic wildfire.

With peak fire season on the horizon, Governor Gavin Newsom on April 24 announced the state's second C-130 Hercules (C-130H) airtanker is now ready for firefighting operations. This strengthens California's ability to protect communities from catastrophic wildfire, adding to the largest aerial firefighting fleet in the world.

Last year, California became the first state in the nation to own, operate, and deploy a C-130H airtanker for wildfire suppression. The first C-130H was a critical part of the state's firefight in Los Angeles earlier this year. Since it went into operation, the tanker has flown 90 missions responding to 36 fires and dropping 253,702 gallons of retardant.

Tanker 121, a former United States Coast Guard aircraft, has been officially placed into CAL FIRE service April 24 after undergoing precise and critical modifications. This is the second of seven planned C-130H airtankers, and is a mission-critical asset in an era of increasing year-round wildfire frequency and intensity.

These large-capacity, highly specialized aircraft deliver significant volumes of fire retardant in a single mission, enhancing CAL FIRE's ability to protect communities and natural resources.

Governor Newsom — in partnership with U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, the late U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Representative Ken Calvert — spearheaded this initiative for California to take on ownership of these aircraft, speed up the time to have them flying firefighting operations in California, and expand CAL FIRE's firefighting capabilities.

At a hangar in Sacramento, the Governor joined CAL FIRE Chief Joe Tyler, firefighting personnel, and those who helped make the C-130H possible to celebrate the milestone.

Below, from left: Governor Newsom shakes hands with CAL FIRE personnel at the Sacramento hangar where a second C-130 Hercules airtanker was announced as "ready for firefighting operations." Governor Gavin Newsom at the podium April 26, in front of a second C-130 Hercules airtanker just added to California's air attack arsenal. The governor gets a demonstration of the C-130 simulator, which helps train pilots and engineers specifically for C-130 firefighting missions.



Redwood Credit Union re-elects 3 volunteer board members

Santa Rosa — Redwood Credit Union recently re-elected volunteer board members Judy Herrerias-James, Lisa Wittke Schaffner, and Rod Dole.

RCU's board of directors sets the credit union's strategic direction and policies. Because credit unions are not-for-profit cooperatives, RCU's board is comprised of RCU members who serve voluntarily and are elected by the membership.

The three board members re-elected for three-year terms (2025–2028) are listed below.

Judy Herrerias-James has served as an RCU volunteer official since 2013. She is the owner of Stony Point Vineyard, and serves as a board member for the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, and the Redwood Credit Union Services Group. Herrerias-James graduated from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business Management.

Lisa Wittke Schaffner has been an RCU volunteer official since 2012 and is the incoming RCU Board Chair. She is CEO of the North Coast Builders Exchange, sits on the Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marin and she is vice president of the Sonoma County Grape Growers Foundation. She also sits on the boards of the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber and Sonoma County Fair. Wittke Schaffner has degrees in government and journalism from California State University at Sacramento.

Rod Dole has been an RCU volunteer official since 1978. He is the retired auditor/controller/treasurer/tax collector for Sonoma County. He formerly served as co-chair for Ygrene, trustee for CALTrust, and on the president's advisory board at Sonoma State University.

Also serving current volunteer terms on the board are David Gouin, RCU board secretary, and Debbie Watts, RCU board vice chair

Officer roles

The board has also named its officer roles for the year as follows:

- Lisa Wittke Schaffner, board chair
- Debbie Watts, board vice chair
- David Gouin, board secretary
- Rod Dole, board treasurer

To learn about the credit union's performance, community impact, technology enhancements, and more for last year, view RCU's interactive online 2024 Annual Report at <https://reports.redwoodcu.org/2024-annual-report>

About Redwood Credit Union

Founded in 1950, Redwood Credit Union is a full-service, not-for-profit financial institution providing personal and business banking to consumers and businesses in the North Bay and San Francisco. RCU has more than \$9.1 billion in assets and serves more than 489,000 members with full-service branches from San Francisco to Ukiah. For more information, call 1 (800) 479-7928, visit redwoodcu.org, or follow RCU on Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn for news and updates.

The largest aerial firefighting force in the world is getting even bigger. Thanks to our champions in Congress — Senator Padilla, Representative Calvert, and the late, great Senator Feinstein — California's second C-130 airtanker is ready to take flight, just in time ahead of peak fire season.

Governor Newsom also received a demonstration of CAL FIRE's new C-130H simulator — the only one of its kind in the nation owned by a fire department. The simulator helps train pilots and engineers specifically for C-130 firefighting missions.

The journey to integrate the C-130H aircraft into CAL FIRE's fleet began in 2018 when California secured approval to acquire seven of these aircraft from the Coast Guard. President Joe Biden signed legislation in late 2023, officially transferring ownership of the seven C-130H aircraft to the state, where CAL FIRE would complete the work of retrofitting the aircraft for wildfire suppression operations.

"The completed transfer of federal C-130 airtankers to CAL FIRE is equipping California's firefighters with significantly expanded capabilities to protect vulnerable communities from wildfires and save lives," said Senator Padilla. "Pushing the Air Force to complete this transfer has been a top priority of mine since I joined the Senate, which is why I worked to pass legislation to get it done as quickly as possible. As we saw with the first retrofitted aircraft fighting the Los Angeles fires, these powerful planes will enable California to respond to wildfires more quickly and effectively as we face more extreme conditions and increasingly devastating disasters."

"The C-130 Hercules aircraft that have been transferred from the federal government to CAL FIRE are game changing additions to our wildfire response aviation arsenal," said Representative Calvert. "Our bipartisan efforts to secure the C-130s are an important step in better protecting Californians from dangerous wildfires. I look forward to all seven of the C-130s being operational and deployed across California in the near future."

CAL FIRE's C-130 program involved substantial contributions from multiple partners. The United States Air Force and the United States Coast Guard provided support in maintaining these aircraft, including the replacement of inner and outer wing boxes and essential spare parts. Following their arrival at CAL FIRE Aviation Headquarters, the aircraft underwent extensive modifications, including the installation of a 4,000-gallon tank and a sophisticated retardant delivery system.

"Placing the second C-130H airtanker into service is another milestone in ensuring Californians are protected from the growing threat of wildfire," said CAL FIRE Director and Fire Chief Joe Tyler. "This addition strengthens our aerial firefighting capabilities and demonstrates our continued commitment to safeguarding lives, property, and natural resources across the state."

Building on unprecedented progress

Even before this, California had built up the largest aerial firefighting fleet in the world, including the recently added — and night-time capable — firefighting Fire Hawk helicopters. These new C-130Hs will be strategically located throughout the state at CAL FIRE bases to mobilize when needed, adding to the helicopters, other aircraft, and firefighters ready to protect Californians. This follows California's leadership in utilizing innovation and technology to fight fires smarter, leveraging artificial intelligence (AI), satellites, and more for wildfire detection, projection, and suppression.

In addition to nearly doubling the state's budget for CAL FIRE in recent years, the state has also dramatically increased work to prevent wildfire. While 57% of California's forests are federally managed, the state government manages only 3% of the forestland. On state land, more than 2,200 projects are complete or underway, and in recent years, California has treated nearly 2 million acres — made possible by scaling up investments to 10 times the amount from when the Governor took office in 2019.



Redwood Region RISE awards \$9 million to regional projects

Submitted by Redwood Region RISE

Eureka — Redwood Region RISE (Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy) announced on May 1 the preliminary selection of Catalyst Fund awardees who will receive a total of \$9 million in funding to boost economic development throughout the Redwood Region.

With North Edge Financing as fiscal agent and the California Center for Rural Policy at Cal Poly Humboldt as regional convener, this California Jobs First initiative will support pre-development projects that align with Redwood Region RISE's 10-year Regional Roadmap.

The Catalyst Fund supports transformative projects to strengthen rural prosperity across the Redwood Region: Tribal Lands, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino counties

Transformative funding for regional prosperity

"The Catalyst Fund represents critical investment in the future of the Redwood Region's rural economies," says Susan Seaman, program director of North Edge. "These preliminary awards mark the beginning of projects that will leverage our key industry sectors and foster inclusive economic development and job growth for all Redwood Region residents."

About the Catalyst Awards

The Catalyst Awards support high-impact projects at two key stages: early-stage "exploratory" initiatives and near-implementation-ready "last-mile" efforts. These awards position promising projects to compete for future regional, state, private, and federal implementation funding, focusing on initiatives that advance the RRRISE Regional Roadmap's four key sectors: Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Health and Caregiving; Renewable and Resilient Energy; Working Lands; and Blue Economy.

With over 70% of the Catalyst funding directed to projects led by priority and disinvested communities, the selected awardees address critical regional challenges through sustainable food systems, renewable energy projects, affordable housing solutions, workforce training, cultural preservation, and forest management practices. Many projects specifically target priority communities to overcome persistent barriers to economic advancement in rural and Tribal areas.

Selected Catalyst awardees

The preliminary list of Catalyst Awardees includes:

- BLBS GRID Workforce Training Tiny Home Construction (\$331,702) - Building Lives By Building Structure Hoopa 501(c) (3) Non-Profit Organization (BLBS) - Combining affordable housing construction with renewable energy integration while training Native American youth.
- Career Pathways: Fire, Forest, Fish & Facilities (\$1,127,936) - Trees Foundation - Creating sustainable wage opportunities in natural resource jobs across three counties.
- Del Norte Performing Arts and Civic Center (\$268,250) - Partnership for Performing Arts - Cultural hub serving as performance venue, educational space, and emergency resource.
- Fire Lines & Fiber Bioregions: A Regional Wool Industry Cluster (\$607,856) - Kaos Sheep Outfit - Developing sustainable fiber production and exploring a Regional Wool Industry Cluster.
- Lake County Healthcare Education and Simulator

(\$650,000) - Lake County Economic Development Corporation - Enhancing healthcare education and workforce development through simulation facilities.

• Middletown Rancheria Community RISE Project (\$500,000) - Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California - Addressing Tribal community challenges through housing, climate resilience, and cultural preservation.

• North Coast Resilient Food Systems Initiative (\$2,306,574) - Connecting Del Norte Meat Processing Facility - Hmong Association of Crescent City with North Coast Food System Network - North Coast Growers' Association to strengthen regional food systems.

• Redwood Corridor SEEDS Network (\$450,000) - North Coast Opportunities (NCO) - Creating community food hubs along Highway 101 to address food security and access.

• Tribal Energy Sovereignty Initiative (\$795,316) - Pinoleville Solar Port & Renewable Energy Workforce Development - Pinoleville Pomo Nation with Red Hills Bioenergy Facility & Central Wood Processing Plant (\$345,316) - Scotts Valley Energy Corporation to advance renewable energy solutions and workforce training.

• Timber & Workforce Development Initiative (\$1,959,897) - Three interconnected initiatives: Carving a Legacy: Tribal Traditions, Woodworking, and Workforce Development - Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe; Connecting Mass Timber to Regional Housing and Building Needs - Mad River Mass Timber; and Developing a Climate Forward Workforce and Innovation Pipeline - Forest WRX Alliance.

• Community Leadership and Impact

"The California Center for Rural Policy is proud to support this process as the regional convener," said Dawn Arledge, executive director of CCRP. "These projects reflect RRRISE's 150+ organization's collaborative vision of and commitment to help rural and Tribal communities access the resources they need to thrive."

Next steps

Preliminary Catalyst awardees will undergo contracting and compliance measures before receiving funding. Implementation is expected to begin in May of 2025, with completion by September 2026. The Redwood Region RISE Collaborative and its four sector investment coordinators are committed to supporting these and the many other excellent economic development projects throughout the region.

The work of Redwood Region RISE is supported by the statewide initiative California Jobs First and has helped inform the newly released California Jobs First Economic Blueprint.

About Redwood Region RISE

Redwood Region RISE is a coalition of 150+ organizations across Tribal Lands, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino counties implementing a 10-year Regional Roadmap to bring sustainable, quality jobs to our region while advancing environmental stewardship and social equity. RRRISE envisions the Redwood Region as a healing place where everyone belongs, with stable jobs, accessible healthcare, and a flourishing natural environment. Together, we work towards a future where anyone can thrive.

Visit bit.ly/Redwood-RISE to learn more and get involved. Join our mailing list to stay updated on our progress.

Happy Special Districts Week from Brooktrails Township



Spring Creek Emergency Tank Replacement Completed January 2025



Firefighters in Brooktrails maintaining the quick attack, squad vehicle.



Brooktrails Utilities Staff is on call 24 hours a day for water and wastewater emergencies



Tank 3 Half Way Built in January 2021

Brooktrails Township Community Services District is pleased to update you on how our special district is working for you. Special Districts Week is May 18-24, 2025, proclaimed by the State Legislature with Assembly Concurrent Resolution 36. We encourage you to reach out and engage with the Board of Directors, your local government representatives, by attending our Regular Board Meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Brooktrails Community Center. Remote participation by Zoom is available for board meetings with a link on each meeting agenda.

Brooktrails Township CSD has been hard at work over the last seven years under the leadership of our General Manager Tamara Alaniz. With nearly 20 years of management experience in special districts throughout California, General Manager Alaniz is a staunch supporter of small, local government. "Special districts provide the most responsive and mission-focused form of government", says Alaniz. "We communicate directly with customers and respond to their needs almost immediately with a team of local and committed employees."

From the early 2019 addition of our first credit card machine for bill payments, up to 2025, the office now runs on a fully integrated financial/utility billing system, making interaction with ratepayers more efficient and effective than ever before. The former Brooktrails real estate building has been acquired by the district and is being improved into a modern office that will last for many years into the future. The finances of the district are sound and ratepayers are seeing positive results of the investment in their special district.

Under the leadership of Alaniz, customers in Brooktrails have seen improvements to their water and wastewater infrastructure. Utilities staff has returned to the level it was ten years ago, increasing from only five employees to six full-time utility operators. We are working on the Brooktrails Water Recycling Planning Study to bring a recycled water plant to Brooktrails that could achieve water supply security for current and future residents. Some of the major and most meaningful utility capital projects completed are:

- Replacement of Tank 3, a main tank that delivers to residents and businesses in Brooktrails' most populous water supply area;
- Repair and replacement of the water and wastewater lines damaged in severe 2017 rainstorms after a landslide knocked out Mallard Road;
- Relocation onto district-owned property and construction of the Primrose Sewer Lift Station, which had been located on private property in a hard-to-reach vault;
- Purchase of a technologically upgraded Second Clarifier at the water treatment plant;
- Repairs on the pressurized treatment vessel at the water treatment plant;
- Emergency replacement and construction of the Spring Creek water supply tank;
- Rehabilitation of pump houses, tank roofs, ongoing leak detection and leak repair; and,
- Providing back-up power supply to all of our pump sites.

General Manager Alaniz has worked to reinforce the Brooktrails Fire Department with additional revenues and staff. Brooktrails Township CSD firefighters are your first responders in a 9-1-1 emergency. Thanks to the voters of Brooktrails passing the Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Special Benefit Assessment in 2023:

- The Brooktrails Fire Department has facilities to store its apparatus and equipment; and,
- We staffed up from only two firefighters to having three full-time firefighters.

After the Oak Fire in 2020, Measures D/E and then Measure P were approved by voters, which help to fund both Brooktrails Fire Department and the Little Lake Fire District, our automatic aid partners and co-responders. This income helps us to "Protect the 95490" by supporting both of our special districts with voter-approved funding.

We support maintenance and staffing for incredible recreational opportunities that Brooktrails has to offer, including improvements to the aging Community Center. The trail network and golf course are enjoyed by people from all over the county. There are often hikers, mountain bikers, disc golfers and outdoor enthusiasts that come here from all over the world. In partnership with our trail stewards in the Willits Area Cyclists, the trail network has been improved and maintained without fees and only a small budget of dedicated district funds. Disc golf tournaments, led by the Basket Beaters Club, have become a premier event, leading to a 2023 ranking by UDisc that Brooktrails Golf Course is the second best disc golf course in the world.

Our staff is building good relationships with neighboring agencies for improved productivity and the overall betterment of the community. From our neighbors at the County of Mendocino pass-through revenues from Prop 172 funds go to fire departments, property tax and special assessments go to our district, Brooktrails right-of-way and roads are maintained, and law enforcement services are delivered. We continue to work cooperatively with our friends at the City of Willits to support high quality wastewater treatment, improve airport security and facilitate emergency vehicle access routes.

There are 49 special districts in Mendocino County and you are likely living in one or more of them! For information about special districts in our county, visit our partners at the Mendocino County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) website and look through those available Municipal Service Reviews. For more information about special districts in California, visit our associates at the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) website. For more information about Brooktrails Township CSD, please visit our website at www.btcscd.org, where you will find a trove of information about the district, including how to sign up for utility service, rent recreational facilities, build a home in Brooktrails, and more.

Tamara Alaniz, MPA is the General Manager of Brooktrails Township CSD. With a Bachelor's in Environmental Studies and Master's in Public Administration, she is also a certified water operator. A 2010 California Water Leader, she has served with numerous associations including CSDA, Association of California Water Agencies, and Mojave Environmental Education Consortium. She is currently running for Seat B on the CSDA Board of Directors to represent the Northern Network.



April 5, 2025 – Basket Beaters tournaments have raised money for the Brooktrails Fire Department.



Brooktrails Township Staff May 2025

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