

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Fund Raiser success

To the Editor:

The Grateful Gleaner plant sale was very successful once again thanks to the generosity of plant-purchasing customers who came out in numbers throughout the beautiful spring day before Mother's Day.

There was a vast array of plants available, thanks to the hard work and preparation of the Gleaner team of volunteers and many other local gardeners who willingly shared from their gardens and greenhouses.

The list of gardeners donating grows each

year and includes: Tom DeMarchi, Janae Stephens, Marisela de Santa Ana, Robin Goldner, Ellen Drell, Beth Rosen, Katie Jeanne, Don Willis, Medie Parrott, Golden Rule Gardens, Tam Adams and Kashaya, Wally Stahl, and Nancy Stipe. Apologies to anyone we may have omitted.

The event couldn't happen without the efforts and contributions of many. Thanks to the Willits Grange for loaning us their tables; Gleaner husbands, Monte Vander Horck and Ron Savarese, who helped move large numbers of plants; Gail Savarese who served as cashier; and the Dykes family members, including Hoss, Orion,

Grateful Gleaner Team

Pinched by energy bills? 'Save Energy, Save Money,' at Willits Library, May 31

Submitted by WELL

Everyone is feeling the pinch of rising costs, among them your energy bill. Fortunately, there are ways to reduce the hit to your wallet, while also reducing your impact on the environment!

WELL (Willits Economic Localization) and the Willits Branch Library are co-hosting an event "Save Energy, Save Money" on Saturday, May 31, 3 to 4:30 pm, to explore some of the options.

Join us for this kick-off event in a bi-monthly 'Sustainable Willits' series. We will hear from a panel of experts about a range of ways, from no- and low-cost to longer-term projects for saving money and electricity. Our presenters include:

- Crispin Hollinshead, a member of Climate Action Mendocino and the Sonoma Clean Power Advisory Board, on a perspective of energy issues;
- Owner of All About Energy, home energy audit services, about

- weatherization, insulation, and other home improvements;
- Joanne Moore from the Senior Center regarding utility payment assistance;
- Christopher Martineau, Eclectric Solar, on energy-efficient appliances and solar systems.

There will be time for your questions, and we will also ask audience members to contribute their own energy-saving tips! In addition, the Willits Library and presenters will have useful resources available to take home with you. Finally, there will be light refreshments.

Please join us for this FREE event on May 31 at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

For more information contact Denise Jesse at the Library, 707-459-5908, or Robin Leler, with WELL, at 707-459-0155.

Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)									rainfall since 01Oct24
location	Mon May 12	Tue May 13	Wed May 14	Thur May 15	Fri May 16	Sat May 17	Sun May 18	weekly total	
Northbrook Way	0.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.87	81.66
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.95	75.24
Valley Rd	0.37	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	56.26
Canyon Rd	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	51.97
Pine Mountain	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	53.81
South Main @ East Oak	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.61	73.83
average	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62	65.46

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

California Nevada River Forecast Center					
Six day precipitation forecast for the Willits area	Mon May 19	Tue May 20	Wed May 21	Thur May 22	Fri May 23
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

Willits Weekly Rain Box

Monday, May 12 brought what will probably be the last significant rainfall until late August or early September. An average of just over 0.6 inches fell across the Little Lake Valley, bringing the total since October 1 to 65.46 inches. This is 2.6 inches more than the same period last year.

— Tim Hanna

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

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 is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 13, Number 593
3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays
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Dead worker found on Island Mountain

By Capt. Quincy Cromer, MCSO

On Thursday, May 15, 2025 at approximately 12:50 pm, a subject in Texas who owns a property in Mendocino County contacted the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office to report an incident that reportedly occurred at a property she owns on Bell Springs Road.

The property owner received second-hand information earlier in the week about her property worker who was living and working at the remote property in the 68000 block of Bell Springs Road in Piercy (in the Island Mountain area).

The property owner learned that her worker was either in trouble or possibly murdered at the property. Nobody involved in this incident was able to reach the adult-male worker, and the last known contact with the subject living on the property on Bell Springs Road was approximately on May 5, 2025.

The property owner drove for approximately two days from Texas to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office in Ukiah to report this incident. Sheriff's Office deputies met with the property owner, who was requesting an escort to the remote property on Bell Springs Road to conduct a welfare check on her worker who she was unable to contact.

Personnel from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office obtained further information from the property owner, who advised that the property is extremely difficult to access and behind multiple locked gates so she agreed to respond and assist deputies in accessing the parcel.

It took multiple hours to respond to the property, and upon arrival, Sheriff's Office personnel searched the over-100-acre parcel for multiple hours. The property appeared to be utilized for marijuana cultivation, and deputies extensively searched the large property. As night-time hours approached, Sheriff's Office personnel continued

searching the area down the hill from the residence.

Upon further searching and investigating the area down the hill from the residence, Sheriff's Office personnel located apparent human remains. It appeared the human remains were partially concealed with loose debris and foliage in an attempt to hide the decedent.

Due to the rapidly-approaching darkness conditions, it was decided that numerous Sheriff's Office personnel would remain overnight at the property while additional resources were requested to assist in the recovery of the remains and conduct further searching of the large property on Friday, May 16.

Investigators and deputies with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Search and Rescue personnel from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, and law enforcement personnel from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office responded to the property during the early-morning hours of May 16 to continue searching and to recover the human remains.

During recovery efforts, the decedent was determined to be an adult male, but positive identification was not possible due to the advanced decomposition and condition of the remains. The remains are consistent with the general description, gender, and ethnicity of the missing property worker, but the decedent has not been positively identified at this point in the investigation.

Due to the circumstances learned during this case and the suspicious nature of the human remains recovered during this incident, this case is being investigated as a homicide and additional information will be released as it becomes available. A post-mortem examination is being scheduled for the human remains recovered during this investigation.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is requested to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center at 707-463-4086 (option 1). Information can also be provided anonymously by calling the non-emergency tip-line at 707-234-2100.

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 22: BBQ Chicken,, Baked Beans, Veggies, Combread

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

Monday, May 26: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Tuesday, May 27: Italian Sub Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

Wednesday, May 28: Fish Tacos, Rice & Beans

Thursday, May 29: Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, May 30: Sweet & Sour Pork over Rice

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

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

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

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



Above, from left: There is a good selection of mystery and suspense books to be had. Olga O'Neill and Nikki of the FOWL board of directors are present on the final day of the sale. Romance is almost gone by the final day of the sale, as is sci-fi and fantasy. At left: Members of the Friends of the Willits Library take advantage of the ability to get in early and select the books that are of interest to them. Below: Library Assistant Tobin Steiskal takes the opportunity to come in early and find some books to take home. At bottom: Joanne Moore looks for books her grandkid will enjoy.



FOWL Book Sale

Library anticipates cuts in federal funding – FOWL helps fundraise by selling used books

Like many of the country's institutions, the Willits Branch Library (and all Mendocino County libraries) are losing funding due to government austerity programs currently in effect. In order to make up for these shortfalls, libraries' staffs and supporting entities are having to be creative in the manner in which they allocate their monies.

The Willits Library is fortunate to have a librarian, Denise Jessie, who is creative and detail-oriented in her approach to obtaining the needs of the institution and using the resources expeditiously. In addition, the Friends of the Willits Library has been raising money to assist the library in maintaining its collections of books and other materials, as well as providing funding for special programs.

To raise money, FOWL runs a series of book sales during the year, two major sales and a couple of pop-up markets. Last weekend, beginning on Thursday and running through Sunday, FOWL produced their Spring Book Sale, allowing the public to fill out their collections with used but in good condition books, at some amazingly low prices (from \$.50 for paperbacks to \$3 for coffee table and special books).

Thursday's section of the sale was exclusively for the some 200 members of FOWL to obtain their books prior to opening the sale to the public on Friday. Sunday's sale encouraged readers to fill bags with books for only \$3 each.

"A friend of mine talked me into joining FOWL but I've loved books all my life," said Lotus Baker, a fairly new member of FOWL who volunteered to work the sale on Thursday. "I thought I'd be a librarian when I was a kid but

Below: Members of FOWL peruse and purchase books a day before the general public.



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NOYO Theater Willits, CA.

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

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

LILO & STITCH

(PG) 1hr 48min

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

MENDOCINO FILM FESTIVAL SHORTS

WOMEN WHO DARE

(Not Rated) 1hr 18min

Thur: 4:45, 7:15

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: THE FINAL RECKONING

(PG13) 2hr 49min

Fri: 6:15
Sat, Sun, Mon: 2:30 & 6:15
Wed-Thur: 6:15

AMERICAN GRAFFITI

(PG) 1hr 50min

Fri: 4:45 & 7:15
Sat, Sun, Mon: 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15
Wed-Thur: 4:45 & 7:15

THEATRER ONLINE LUXURY RECLINERS LASER PROJECTION, AGES 16+

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

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

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

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
•A University for Soul
•Spiritual Living Courses
•Spiritual Discussions
•ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadan
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at
707-459-2252
https://saintanthonywillits.org/
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

St. John Lutheran Church
Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
Facebook.com/stjohnswillits
ALL ARE WELCOME

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

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort where all are welcome
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@outlook.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook willits umc

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

COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

End-of-season games and senior nights wrap up WHS spring sports

WHS Varsity Softball makes the playoffs

Wolverines Varsity Softball made an impression, winning two out of their last three games of the season. On May 12 they faced off once again with Calistoga High School on their home turf. This was the biggest and most anticipated game of the season.

Sheri Dockins
Sports Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com
The Wolverines' strategically consistent pitcher Lisa Arkelian spent all seven innings on the mound, surrendering four earned (and four unearned) runs on four hits, and racked up 11 Ks. She hasn't tossed less than six strikeouts the entire season.

As far as hitting went, Ava Holmen and Ava Dockins-Kline stepped up to the plate with fire. Holmen got on base on all four of her hits, with four stolen bases and two runs. Dockins-Kline caught the eye of the crowd with a stellar three-for-three with three RBI, one stolen base, and one double. Chloe Wright, with a notably nice performance, went one-for-three, with two stolen bases and two runs.

Willits rallied hard and played an amazing game of softball. Unfortunately they lost by just one point. The final score was 7-8, leaving Calistoga in the running for champions of the league. This was also Senior Night. The Wolverines lined up to say some witty and funny farewell sentiments to their teammates. Chloe Wright, Gloria Gutierrez and Ava Holmen gave speeches that spread love, laughter and tears throughout the team and parents to their senior teammates, Captain Mia Chavez, Ava Dockins-Kline and Jocelyn Galvan. Your community wishes you the very best in life after high school Mia, Ava and Jocelyn. We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments in the last four years at WHS. We know you will do great things!

Next up on May 15, Willits travelled north to take on the Laytonville Warriors. Willits won the last time they played LHS, and not much was different this time around. Willits dominated the field. As always, pitcher Lisa Arkelian made a big impact on the mound, as well as the plate this game. She got on base every time she showed up at the plate with two runs, one stolen base, and two RBI.

Sophomore Abigail Sherf added shine to the plate, pitching strong the rest of the game. Chloe Wright had a great game, going two-for-three with two stolen bases, four RBI, and two runs. Addie Jones was another key player, getting on base in all five of her hits with three runs and one RBI. Willits finished the game with a 17-2 victory, and a batting average of .417, and a third consecutive win on the road!

Willits Softball traveled the long and winding road to Point Arena for their final season game. Willits won Point Arena in their last faceoff. Once again, the very reliable Lisa Arkelian was on the mound to pitch a steady game, striking out 13 batters over seven innings, while giving up just two earned (and seven unearned) runs off 13 hits. She was solid in batting, getting on base with all four hits, with three RBI. Alexandra Ramos had a standout game; she went two-for-four with five RBI, one run, and one double, giving her a new career high. Addie Jones had a stellar game, getting one base with four-out-of-five hits, three runs, one stolen base, and one RBI. Willits played a great game that led to a dominating win against the Pirates, final score 12-9.

"Good ending to the regular season," said Head Coach Ray Britton. "The last two games of the season ended well for us. On Tuesday against Laytonville, we came out strong offensively, scoring every inning, and defended well, holding them to two runs. We got some good innings out of starting pitcher Lisa Arkelian, and closed out with sophomore Abigail Sherf. At Point Arena – it's always tough to make the ride to Point Arena, get out and play. But the team responded well and we got an early lead. We kept it up for the remainder of the game. There were a couple innings Point Arena came close, or tied at one point in the game, but we had some good hits that kept our momentum going to finish the game."

WHS Varsity Softball's successful season-ending record of 12-9, and overall record 11-3 season, sent them right into the NCS Playoffs at Dublin High School on May 21 against Valley Christian. Congratulations on an amazing season! Best of luck in the playoffs! We are so proud of you and are rooting for you!

Willits Wolverines Baseball ends season unexpectedly and honors seniors

Willits Wolverines Baseball ended their season with a league record of 7-2 and overall record of 9-11. The last stretch of games were on the road with big wins against

Tomales, final score 12-11, South Fork, final score 9-8, and Calistoga, where they scored an epic 10 runs in the first inning, with a final dominating score of 13-1.

They did not get a chance to honor their seniors with a hometown crowd as their last home game was canceled due to weather. Landon Honeycutt and Kolbe Bufardeci were two key players on the team this year. They added finesse to the team, with hitting and great energy. We wish you the best in your future endeavors, and we are proud of you!

These boys worked very hard this season and improved greatly. Corey Rockey, Jakoby Kirby, Adrian Lopez and Jordan Shull were impressive on the mound, with solid and consistent pitching. Ryan Carter, Grady Cooley, Rickey Ramirez and Adrian Lopez all stepped up in a big way on the plate, with runs, stealing bases, doubles and RBI's.

Congratulations on a great season, Willits Varsity Baseball! We are sorry your community didn't get a chance to see your last home game or honor your seniors on senior night. We can't wait to see you on the Dave Kline Field next year!

Track places at CMC Championships and local senior makes Meet of Champions

On May 12 the Willits High School track team traveled to St. Helena to compete in the CMC Championships. Amatou Ndoeye and Cruz Oltjenburns both placed in their events, but because they performed in the JV division, they did not qualify to move on to the Class A Championships. Senior athlete Leo Moratti, performed and qualified for varsity in the 100mm dash and triple jump, while also getting first place in the long jump for the fourth straight year.

The long jump is Moratti's main event in track. He has the school record with a jump of 21'11". He has been accepted, and has signed his letter of intent to run track at Cal Poly Humboldt.

Moratti competed in the North Coast Sections Class A Championships at Montgomery High School this last Saturday, and won the long jump once again with a jump of 21'10". This win qualifies him to move on and represent Willits High School at the Meet of Champions at Dublin High School on Saturday, May 24. The top three in each event will move on to the CIC (state championships) in Los Angeles.

"I'm happy about how I performed when it mattered," said Moratti. "I'm feeling like I'm peaking at the right time. I'm excited to be competing with the best jumpers in the state. The North Coast Section has the highest marks of any section in California. It's going to be an awesome atmosphere and a big crowd to perform in front of."

Your community is extremely proud of your big accomplishments, Leo. We all wish you the very best at Humboldt State. We know you will excel in life!

Willits Golf prides in NCS Championships experience

Five of our talented athletes from the Willits Golf Team traveled to Foxtail North in Rohnert Park to compete in the NCS Championships: Zahyr Lopez, Brody Bowen, Cole Lane, Nikolai Ritchley and Torin Fraser. There were 144 players from all over the North Coast. Only 18 advanced to the division-one finals. While none of our golfer athletes moved on as they played against tough competition from very big schools, they learned a lot. They really enjoyed the experience. Lopez, a senior, had a phenomenal season, winning the individual championship of the whole division-two league!

"NCS was big. Warming up is the hardest part," said Lopez. "The place is packed with a bunch of people you don't know. The nerves get to you when you're not sure if you had a good warm up. But, after that, you remember you're there to play golf, do your best, and I think that's all I asked for from my team. It's always been fun getting to play at our last tournament together. I've shared a lot of memories with friends. I'm going to miss golf and can't wait to play later in life."

Fantastic job, Zahyr! Willits is proud of you! We wish you all the good life has to offer after high school, and on the course!

We also want to take the time to congratulate our golf team for receiving a \$1,000 dollar golf grant from the NCS / Touchstone foundation. This awesome award was presented to Head Coach Jeff Yokum at the NCS Championships. Nice work, WHS Golf Team! You are putting Willits on the map with your outstanding accomplishments!



Un desayuno y almuerzo saludables se brindan GRATIS a niños de 0 a 18 años, inscritos en WUSD o no, independientemente de sus ingresos. Disponible de lunes a viernes, del 9 de junio de 2025 al 8 de agosto de 2025, en la Escuela Primaria Brookside Elementary School.

- Desayuno de 08:00 a 09:00
 - Almuerzo de 11:00 a. m. a 12:30 p. m.
- *Almuerzo caliente en el lugar o comida fría para llevar**



A healthy breakfast and lunch are provided FREE to children 0-18 years old, **enrolled in WUSD or not**, regardless of income. Available Monday-Friday, June 9, 2025, through August 8, 2025, at Brookside Elementary School.

- Breakfast 8:00am-9:00am
 - Lunch 11:00am-12:30pm
- *Hot lunch on site or a cold meal to go**

Questions? Please call the WUSD Food Director at (707)459-7700 ext.1554

Closed 6/19 and 7/4



The rest of FOWL From page 3

in July. Anything that the California library used to give us for free is going to be stopping. So, our digital collection is going to look a lot smaller."

County employees have been given the option of taking a buyout and ending their work with the county. As of yet, none of the Willits Library workers have taken this route so the library will continue to operate with the same schedule for now. They are open 10 am to 7 pm Tuesday through Thursday, 10 am to 6 pm Friday, 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday.

Longtime FOWL board member Olga O'Neill enjoys helping the library to provide services and special programs and helping people obtain books that meet their interests. "People mostly come in here for the mysteries," said O'Neil. "That is our biggest seller. But they come for a little bit of everything. A lot of people come for the kids' books. Today, we had a woman and her mother who bought eight bags of books off the mystery table. They had a whole list of authors they were looking for. They were very excited.

"This is what helps fund a lot of kids' programs, different things that the library cannot buy out of their budget. We're happy to be helping with that now. The library is not allowed to buy food for programs. We help them get extra supplies."

The Willits Branch Library, located at 390 East Commercial Street, can be reached at 459-5908. For more info, visit www.mendolibrary.org/visit/willits or their Facebook page.



At left, above: Golfers pose with pride at their championships: from left, Zahyr Lopez, Cole Lane, Nikolai Ritchley, Torin Fraser and Brody Bowen. At left: Ava Dockins-Kline takes the lead off of third base in an attempt to make it home. Above, left: Alexandra Ramos takes her place on third base, smiling at her teammates in the dugout. Above, right: Leo Moratti shows off his first-place ribbon after competing.

Photos by Ava Dockins-Kline



Above, left: The small library conference room is filled with books and shoppers. Above, right: Pamela Haselswerdt loves to read mysteries, especially those by Parker and Koontz.

Photos by Mathew Caine



WHS helpers for FOWL book sale

Thank you to the Willits High School Students from Kelley Case Brackett's 2nd period Ag class, who provided excellent community service via the Friends of the Willits Library Spring Book Sale!

They moved many boxes of books and helped set them up for the spring sale. Their wonderful help and positive attitudes made it a pleasurable experience for everyone working that morning.

– Submitted by FOWL

REDWOOD EMPIRE SPRING FAIR

THURSTON AUTO PLAZA

MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2025

***Grandstands require a ticket**
RedwoodEmpireFair.com

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY MAY 30
MONSTER TRUCKS & MUDD BOGGS 6:00pm
Wicked Strong, Enforcer, Playing For Keeps, Scattered, and Skull Crusher

LIVE MUSIC
Warehouse 21 6-10pm

SATURDAY MAY 31
MONSTER TRUCKS & MUDD BOGGS & BOAT RACES 6:00pm
Wicked Strong, Enforcer, Playing For Keeps, Scattered, and Skull Crusher

LIVE MUSIC
Black Horse Blues Band 6-10pm

SUNDAY JUNE 1
LIVE MUSIC
Banda Pacifica
Grupo SG
Elegancia RM 6-10pm

FREE FAIR ADMISSION!*

Gates open at 3pm on Friday
Noon on Saturday & Sunday

Parking: \$10
**Grandstands require a ticket*

PRE-SALE MONSTER TRUCK TICKETS
Available at all Mendo Mill Stores in Mendocino County.
ADULT (12 & UP): \$25
CHILD (3-11): \$21
Prices at the gate:
Adult \$29 / Child \$24

PRE-SALE CARNIVAL WRISTBAND TICKETS
Available at all Mendo Mill Stores
Mendocino County,
Ukiah Taco Bell, Raley's, Chavez Market, and Creative Workshop
\$30 EACH
Price at Carnival: \$38
Good for any one day

DON'T FORGET THE FAIR FOOD!

Save Money and the wait in line! Buy your grandstand show and carnival wristband tickets early!

www.redwoodempirefair.com



From far left: Waldorf School of Mendocino County in Calpella keeps its grounds beautiful and immaculate, showing the care that is taken in all aspects of the institution. Fifth-grade teacher Vanessa French and mother Alexis Silva-Doyle run the bar with its array of creative drinks in addition to wine and beer. Some of the silent auction items include a colorful quilt from one of the grandmothers.

Photos by Mathew Caine

At right: These shitake mushroom tacos, from It's a Boa Time, are a big hit. At far right: Caroline Bratt looks over the raffle bags into which the bids are placed for particular items. Below: The Waldorf Spring Soiree is a great place to meet old and new friends on a warm and sunny afternoon.

Further below, left: There is plenty to eat at the soiree, a great variety of tasty foods. Further below, right: The kindergarten class created this magnetic fishing game as part of the silent auction.

At bottom: The bar is a popular stop in the adults-only event.



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Spring Soiree

Live music, delicious food, and silent auction fun at Waldorf School of Mendocino County annual fundraiser

The Waldorf School of Mendocino County knows how to create an event. They are always fun, informative, and successful at raising money for this alternative private school to flourish. Last Sunday, the school had their Spring Soiree, a spirited all fresco event on their field, with a band, a bar, tasty creative food, a raffle with great prizes, a silent auction with many items, some crafted by the students. Most of all, there was a feeling of community, a gathering of people who are interested in quality education for their pre-k through eighth grade students.

"Today is our Spring Soiree, which is our major fundraiser," explained Renata Abbade, who is in charge of marketing and development. "We're going to do the raffle drawing. We've been selling raffle tickets. We've sold approximately 8,000 of them. One for \$5, five for \$20, 12 for \$40, 30 for \$100. There are nine prizes from coast getaways, Seabiscuit Ridgewood Ranch getaway, load of gravel, homesteader package, local food package [an Arcata family adventure at a B&B, Emdandal Farm cider-making party, mushroom foraging trip, flower bouquet every month for a year].

"We have some really amazing silent auction stuff that people donated from all over Mendocino County from very generous donors," said Abbade. "It's a mix of things but they all have a common thread: sustainable living, back-to-the-land, home, gardens, playful things, kids' things, handmade things, wool from the sheep.

"The three boats are being auctioned," said Abbade. "The kids made them with a master boat maker, Tom Seguro. The boats have been tested in the water, at Sonoma Lake and Tamales Bay. Each class – we have combined grades, four and five are together – they made a terrarium, inspired by a visit to the Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco. People are already bidding on it. Even our preschoolers have made items for the auction. The flower arrangements are made by the kids."

The buffet-style meal included shitake mushroom tacos, chicken tacos, veggie rice tacos, and a variety of summer melons on a stick, and other tasty treats.

Waldorf education is unique and international, with schools all over the world. "Waldorf School is based on the Rudolf Steiner philosophies," continued Abbade. "It is a very intentional way of educating children. You meet them with reverence. That is the number-one aspect, having reverence for the children, to educate the whole child. All the Waldorf Schools have the same kind of format. They talk a lot about the hands. You educate the hands, the heart, and the head. Everything is together. They do a lot of hand work. With that, they learn to count. It goes into the head. They play music. They feel the vibrations in their heart. There's a social aspect in Waldorf that is very important as well. It's a holistic education. We call it 'inspired education.'

"We have 108 students this year. We have classes only up to eighth grade and then they go on to high school, but the statistics say that 94 percent of Waldorf graduates go on to college. Out of that 94 percent, 89 percent go on to earn a master.

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

REDWOOD MEADOWS
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APARTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW

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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 Hincker 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 5, 2025.

/s/ Eden Hincker Tye

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

WW538

PUBLIC NOTICE Summary Abatement

To whom it may concern,
On April 15, 2025 the City of Willits performed a Summary Abatement on a vacant commercial building located at 603 South Main Street. The property was unsecured, unsafe and open to the public

After numerous attempts to contact the owner of 603 S Main St the City of Willits for the safety of the community secured the building.

To avoid further fines and penalties the owner of the property at 603 S Main St needs to contact the City of Willits, prove ownership and pay the accrued fees of \$6,141.37.
An abatement lien will be filed by the City of Willits after 90 days of nonpayment.

Phillip Davidson, Code Compliance Officer
pdavidson@cityofwillits.org
707-459-7153

Publication Date: May 22, 2025

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

LEGAL NOTICES

WW539

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JUDI ANN MONTALVO

CASE NO. 25PR00295

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of JUDI ANN MONTALVO

A Petition for Probate has been filed by JAMES A. MONTALVO in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino.

The Petition for Probate requests that JAMES A. MONTALVO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate.

The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: June 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 No. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.

If you object to granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: JENNIFER M. O'BRIEN, NEARY and O'BRIEN, 110 S MAIN ST, STE C, WILLITS, CA 95490. Telephone: (707) 459-5551.

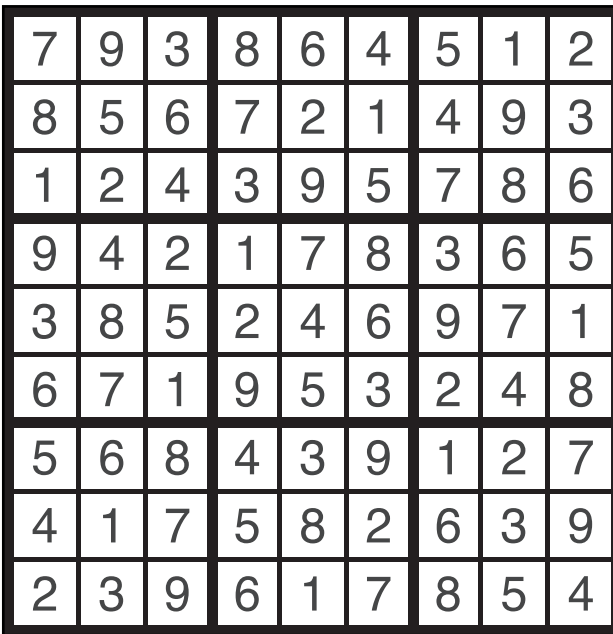
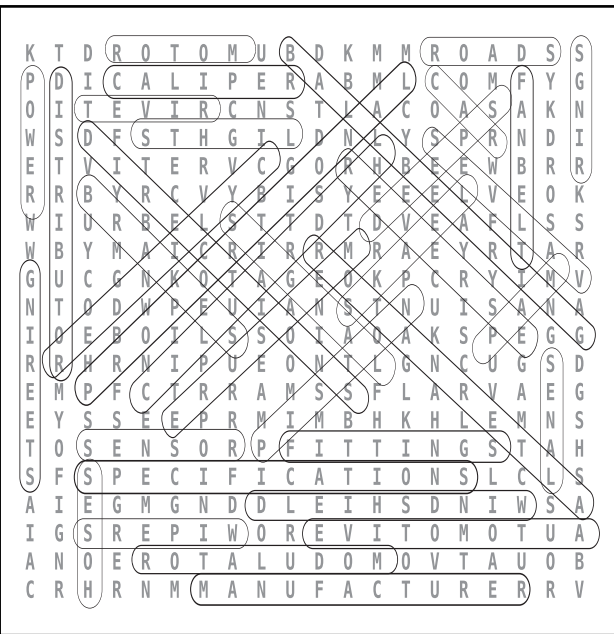
Publication Dates: May 22, 29, June 5, 2025

HELP WANTED:

Casino Controller at Sherwood Valley Casino

Benefits, Salary: negotiable

The Casino Controller directs the cashing, vault, drop and count areas in a manner that safeguards the assets of the Sherwood Valley Casino, while establishing and maintaining acceptable accounting procedures and internal controls and assures all external and internal regulations are met. Has direct supervision of Cage/Vault, Drop, and Count Supervisors. Exercises management responsibility for all activities of the Accounting/Finance Department. Activities include direct hands-on oversight of audit, accounting, general ledger, reporting, payroll, purchasing, cashing, and count room operations. Responsible for the company's overall operating and capital budgets, internal control policies, insurance and risk management programs, and relationships with financial institutions, casino's compliance with provisions of the State Compact, NIGC, Tribal ordinances, Gaming Commission regulations, cash transactions reporting, and IRS withholding and reporting requirements. Contact Human Resources at ktuttle@svrcasino.com or 707-459-7330.



CLASSIFIEDS

Do you need food?

Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 1-4:30 - Bring an I.D. (707) 459-3333

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: Rachel@mendocinofood.org; 707-615-6654.

Garage Sale

Treasures await! Garage sale this weekend. Saturday May 24th 9-5 pm & Sunday May 25th 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@willitscenterofthearts.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>

Weedeating Services

Weedeating in the Willits, Laytonville, Redwood Valley areas. Call Mike at (707) 354-5650



The rest of **Waldorf**

From page 8

"Our parents are so determined to have the best for their children," Abbade said. "The parents are very involved with the kids' education at the school. The philosophy is that you can't remove the child from the home and give them an education. Everything is together. The education happens continuously. The parents are very involved in everything. That is how it's designed to be."

Inge Schaefer teaches eighth grade. She loves the school and everything that makes it work for the children and the parents. "There's a lot of community here. It's been here for so long, there are other aspects. We have things happening up at Ridgewood Ranch and there are other Waldorf Schools. There is a bigger community outside of just this school.

"There are a lot of Waldorf Schools in the Bay Area," said Schaefer. "We're pretty far north from a lot of the other ones, but the schools try to come together so that students know there are other Waldorf Schools out there. There are events throughout the year and throughout the grades where the schools come together. There's a pentathlon and there is something called 'Medieval Games.' There are track meets. There are things like that where they come together and have these bigger events. It's a big worldwide community.

"The idea behind Waldorf education is that you are looking at human wisdom and you're really trying to create good human beings and so that when you're teaching them, you're teaching 'head, heart, and hand' so that it's not just the head. It's not just the academic part, but it's really coming to an understanding about things through hands-on kinds of things, through your own relationship with things, whether you're working on a play and suddenly you actually become that character or maybe you're just doing little skits, all the different ways that you really take on that kind of information and experience it. It's about having a broad range of experiences that help bring an understanding about all the different things from algebra to world history."

The Waldorf School of Mendocino is located in Calpella, at 6280 Third Street. For more info, call 707-485-8719 or visit www.mendocinowaldorf.org/.



Magician and Mentalist Robert Goleman returns to WCT for 3 shows, May 30, 31, June 1

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

Get ready once again to experience the impossible with Fort Bragg magician and mentalist Robert Goleman in his return engagement to the Willits Community Theatre on Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31, at 7 pm, and Sunday, June 1 at 2 pm.


After his appearance last November, in which he thrilled and amazed a packed audience at the WCT Playhouse, he returns to offer up his deftly performed and gasp-inducing feats of mentalism, involving cards, passages from books, and the recognition of impossible numbers and information, chosen at random by audience members.

Since he was a little boy, Goleman has been practicing magic and mentalism, and has been performing for more than 50 years, staging large-scale productions with his former magic troupe, The Fabulous Blendos, presenting big box illusions, a juggler, and a band. In his current version, Goleman dishes up a personal brand of close-up parlor magic, as well as mentalism, where he astounds with his amazing intuitive abilities.

Goleman describes his show as an experience somewhere between belief and disbelief. "For my latest show, I start with classic style magic tricks, and take a sharp turn into mentalism, making revelations with an accuracy that will leave participants scratching their heads in disbelief—witnessing what should be impossible – before their very eyes."

Imagine a riveting and intimate magical encounter that audiences have called "nothing short of astonishing," and "memorable for years to come."

Appearing for three shows, Goleman's performances are expected to sell out. Early tickets are encouraged, at \$20, available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org, or at the door if still available. Season sponsors for WCT are NC Financial Group, Community Foundation of Mendocino County, Penserra, KZYX Radio, KLLG Radio, Jerry Drew Painting, Julia Morgan Redwood Grove, and Big Fish Construction.



Experience the impossible with an evening of magic and mentalism. Robert will astound you with his mental skills and intuitive abilities, in a riveting performance that you'll remember for years to come.

MAGIC and Mentalism

Robert Goleman

"Nothing short of astonishing."

May 30 & 31 - 7:00 pm
June 1 - 2:00 pm
wctperformingartscenter.org
37 West Van Lane, Willits

CITY OF WILLITS SWIMMING POOL 2025 SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER) 8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS 10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON 12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM 4PM-5PM SWIM LESSON 5PM-6PM OTTERS 6PM-7PM AQUA AEROBICS 6PM-7PM SWIM LESSON	6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER) 8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS 9AM-10AM AQUA AEROBICS 10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON 12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM 4PM-5PM SWIM LESSON 5PM-6PM OTTERS 6PM-7PM LAP SWIM 6PM-7PM SWIM LESSON (18 & OVER)	6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER) 8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS 10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON 12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM 4PM-5PM SWIM LESSON 5PM-6PM OTTERS 6PM-7PM AQUA AEROBICS 6PM-7PM SWIM LESSON

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAYS
6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER) 8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS 9AM-10AM AQUA AEROBICS 10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON 12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM 4PM-5PM SWIM LESSON 5PM-6PM OTTERS 6PM-7PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER)	6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER) 10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON 12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM 4PM-5PM SWIM LESSON 5PM-6PM OTTERS	11AM-4PM PUBLIC SWIM

ADMISSION PRICE
PUBLIC SWIM \$5
LAP SWIM \$5
LAP SWIM PASS (20 ENTRIES) \$80
AQUA AEROBICS \$7
SENIOR DISCOUNT \$6
AQUA AEROBICS PASS (20 ENTRIES) \$125
SWIM LESSON \$50
(SIBLING DISCOUNT OF \$5.00 PER SIBLING)
(UP TO 4 SWIMMERS)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (707) 459-5778

CITY OF WILLITS SWIM LESSONS

REGISTRATION - FOR SWIM LESSON, SESSION I, WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE WILLITS POOL, ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

SATURDAY - JUNE 27TH FROM 8AM-11AM
THE FEE FOR EACH SESSION IS \$50.00 AND THERE IS A SIBLING DISCOUNT OF \$5.00 (UP TO 4 SWIMMER).
SWIM LESSON SESSIONS

-THE CITY OF WILLITS OFFERS A VARIETY OF AMERICAN RED CROSS SWIM LESSONS FOR INDIVIDUALS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS
-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE DESIGNATED SESSION
-OPENINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS
-NO MAKE-UPS & REFUNDS FOR MISSED DAYS
-ALL SWIM LESSON ARE ONE-ON-ONE AND TAILOR TO CHILD'S NEED

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (3) 30 Minute Lessons		Thursday & Friday (2) 45 Minute Lessons 5 & Over	
Session 1	June 9-11	Session 1	June 12 & 13
Session 2	June 16-18	Session 2	June 19 & 20
Session 3	June 23-25	Session 3	June 26 & 27
Session 4	June 30-July 2	Session 4	July 10 & 11
Session 5	July 7-9	Session 5	July 17 & 18
Session 6	July 14-16	Session 6	July 24 & 25
Session 7	July 21-23	Session 7	July 31 & Aug. 1
Session 8	July 28-30	Session 8	Aug 7 & 8
Session 9	Aug 4-5		

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (707) 459-5778

The rest of Detailing

From page 1

removes the mats and coverings to allow access to all the interior spaces.

Then, with the inside ready, he starts on the outside.

"Once the inside is ready, I like to jump on the outside first," laughed San Diego. "I pressure wash the whole outside, do the wheel wells, and wash out the door jams and hinges which can get really gunked up with dirt and grime. I blow out all the cracks with compressed air and then dry the outside."

With the outside sparkling, San Diego returns his attention to the inside.

"I get to vacuuming, which always takes the longest," said San Diego. "I use the compressed air inside, too, and then that blows more stuff out to vacuum up, so I'm switching back and forth a lot to make sure to get it all cleaned out and cleaned up."

San Diego also always treats and steams out stains, and shampoos down the whole car, including the seats, floorboards, even the roof paneling sometimes – all at no extra charge. Once that's done, he carefully wipes down all the vinyl and other surfaces like doors, consoles, the dash, all the buttons, arm rests and more.

"The last thing I do is the windows," said San Diego. "I use separate, thin towels and am a big fan of the Invisible Glass spray to get a great clean. You have to get the inside and the outside to make sure to get any streaks!"

When San Diego is not detailing, you can see him spending time on the sports field, or with his young family. San Diego, who grew up in Ukiah, moved to Willits in high school and then moved to Santa Rosa, returning some 10 years ago. He met Jazmin, a well-known teacher at Imagination Station, and the two have two children, Oliver, 6, and Olivia, 1 (almost 2).

San Diego coaches his son's Little League team, and has also coached older kids and adults in basketball and baseball over the years, too. The family enjoys being out in the community, and have had fun participating in the Truckers Light Parade and Willits Frontier Days 4th of July Parade, too.

While he books out fast, San Diego suggests checking his website www.DS-Detailing.com where he has a calendar showing his availability. Clients can book from the site, or can call or text San Diego directly at (707) 391-3785. Prices range from around \$180 to \$260, with most vehicles being in the \$200 to \$220 range.

Lots of before and after photos and additional information can be found on the DS Detailing social media pages on Facebook and Instagram, and San Diego also proudly notes that if you Google "detail Willits" his business pops right up at the top – "You know, just in case you lose my card or forget how to find me!"

The rest of Gunfight

From page 1

Deputies extensively checked the area of Mina Road for the 911 hang-up. While on Mina Road, deputies were contacted by subjects in a vehicle who reported an unresponsive male was located a short distance away on Huls Valley Road.

Deputies responded to the area of Huls Valley Road, approximately 1 mile from the intersection with Mina Road, and located an unresponsive adult male on the roadway near two vehicles that were unoccupied along the road. This area was determined to be the 23000 block of Huls Valley Road.

Deputies checked the unresponsive adult male and determined he was deceased from apparent gunshot wounds at 00:42 am on May 15, 2025. There were multiple firearms located in the vicinity of the decedent and expended cartridge casings on the ground. There was also blood evidence located along the ground and deputies followed the blood trail for approximately ¼ mile where they located a large marijuana grow with hoop houses and several camp trailers.

As MCSO deputies continued to investigate the apparent homicide in Covelo, other deputies responded to the Emergency Room in Ukiah to further investigate the subject with gunshot wounds who was receiving medical treatment. Deputies interviewed the adult male with gunshot wounds and the subject who transported him to the hospital. Based on these interviews, deputies determined this investigation was related to the shooting incident and deceased subject located by Sheriff's Office personnel on Huls Valley Road.

Due to the subject's significant injuries, the adult male with gunshot wounds at the Adventist Health Ukiah Valley Emergency Room was transported to an out-of-county hospital for further medical treatment.

Sheriff's Office detectives were contacted and briefed on both incidents as they were determined to be related. Detectives prepared a search warrant for the marijuana grow property on Huls Valley Road and the shooting scene along Huls Valley Road. Additional Sheriff's Office personnel and investigators

with the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office were requested to respond to Covelo and assist with the investigation.

Deputies canvassed the area of Mina Road and Huls Valley Road in an attempt to find possible witnesses or other involved subjects. On May 15, at approximately 8:15 am, a deputy located another adult male subject on Huls Valley Road who was approximately 4 miles from the intersection with Mina Road.

The adult male had numerous apparent gunshot wounds and required emergency medical treatment. An air ambulance was requested, and the adult male was airlifted to a different out-of-county hospital for emergency medical treatment. Basic statements from the subject indicated he suffered gunshot wounds during the same shooting incident on Huls Valley Road.

The two subjects with gunshot wounds who were transported to different out-of-county hospitals are in stable condition and have been interviewed regarding this ongoing homicide investigation.

Attempts are being made to positively identify the adult male decedent located on Huls Valley Road. Once the decedent has been identified and their legal next-of-kin has been notified of their death, additional information can be released regarding their identity. A post-mortem examination is being scheduled for the decedent, and the official cause and manner of death will not be released until the pathologist completes their examination and reports.

During this investigation, deputies uncovered evidence which is indicative of illegal marijuana cultivation and sales under the control of a drug trafficking organization. Additional information related to the suspected drug trafficking organization will not be released to maintain the integrity of this investigation.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is requested to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Communications Center at 707-463-4086 (option 1). Information can also be provided anonymously by calling the non-emergency ti-line at 707-234-2100.

The rest of Cubbison

From page 1

Cubbison on Tuesday estimated she has had to spend twice what the county has to defend herself, going without salary or benefits for 17 months while facing criminal prosecution.

Morin Jacob, the lead outside county attorney from San Francisco, now wants to further delay the contentious Cubbison civil case by moving it to Marin County, where she asserts the county can obtain a fairer hearing on the narrow legal questions she insists are at issue.

Jacob contends Cubbison's counsel "and the local media have attempted to transform the straightforward statutory analysis of this writ proceeding into a sprawling conspiracy, involving gossip blogs and sensationalized claims."

Jacob is managing partner of the San Francisco office of the statewide law firm of Libert Cassidy Whitmore, which to date has billed county taxpayers at least \$200,000 to stall Cubbison's legal efforts to win back salary, benefits, and personal damages after criminal accusations against her were dismissed earlier this year.

Jacob continues to decline repeated written requests to be interviewed about the pending Cubbison case, confining her remarks and allegations surrounding the high profile case to legal documents.

In her change of venue motion, Jacob argues, "It has become evident, through media coverage and statements made by this court that an impartial hearing cannot be conducted in this county due to local prejudice, bias, and media influence."

Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman on February 25 dismissed the felony criminal case against Cubbison, an action filed by District Attorney David Eyster in October 2023 and tried by an outside prosecutor in a move that cost the county more than \$50,000. At the conclusion of a preliminary hearing, Moorman tossed the Cubbison criminal case and castigated the "willful ignorance" of some key county witnesses. Moorman said evidence showed that Cubbison in fact was a "whistle blower" in a case that revolved around \$68,000 in extra pay for the county's former Payroll Manager Paula Kennedy. Kennedy also was charged by DA Eyster with felony misappropriation of public funds, but charges were dismissed against her too.

Moorman was also assigned to preside over the civil case, which is becoming increasingly acrimonious.

John Haschak, chair of the Board of Supervisors, sparked a new uproar with a letter written May 13 to Cubbison in which he defended county administrative actions since the elected auditor returned to office. Haschak concluded by asking Cubbison to let the board know "as soon as possible if you are unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties and statutory requirements of your position."

Cubbison appeared before the board Tuesday in response and repeated that she needs the ability to freely communicate with Sarah Pierce, the assistant county executive officer appointed to act as county auditor for 17 months before the criminal case was dismissed. Cubbison praised the work of Pierce in general but said direct talks between them are needed to understand the complex financial issues at hand.

Pierce insisted Tuesday it was her decision to restrict communications with Cubbison to written questions and not engage in direct communication because of demands of her new role as the county's purchasing agent.

The tense atmosphere surrounding the Cubbison civil case is underscored by declarations expressed in the change of venue motion filed by Jacob, the county's outside attorney.

Jacob argues in her April 28 motion that since DA Eyster filed the criminal case, "local news outlets and blogs have spent countless hours speculating, sensationalizing, and promoting unsubstantiated claims against the County in the local media."

In addition, Jacob criticizes Judge Moorman for "castigating the County in the criminal matter even though the County was not a party" to the felony prosecution, and in the companion civil litigation for not setting "boundaries considering the very narrow legal issue before it."

Jacob is claiming an obscure state law gave the Board of Supervisors the authority to suspend Cubbison without pay and benefits after she was criminally charged by DA Eyster. The statute in question, however, only specifically cites a county treasurer. Cubbison did not hold that title at the time of the alleged criminal offense.

Cannata, a noted attorney who has garnered a statewide reputation representing public management employees, ripped the county contentions in a lengthy statement provided this week.

"The county claims, for a civil action that has been pending since December 2023, that it cannot get a fair trial before the assigned judge or any other judge in its own county because of what happened in the criminal case against Ms. Cubbison," wrote Cannata.

Cannata continued, "What happened was that the criminal case was dismissed, Ms. Cubbison was exonerated, and she resumed her duties as an elected official. Until this filing in the civil action, no one—including the special deputy assigned to the case or the sitting District Attorney – has ever hinted, much less stated, that there was any error or misconduct by the attorneys or judicial officers in the criminal proceeding."

"Ms. Jacob and the Board of Supervisors sit alone on the island of imaginary facts and law in making this absurd and unwarranted claim," declared Cannata.

Cannata said as to biased news coverage, "the County was quite content with the press coverage of Ms. Cubbison being arrested and prosecuted in a criminal case for 17 long and terrifying months.

"After the press accurately reported on the dismissal of the criminal case and sworn deposition testimony obtained in the pending civil action that cast CEO Darcie Antle in a bad light, the county decided that local press coverage would somehow deprive the county of a fair hearing," Cannata wrote.

Cannata warned that her firm is prepared to "protect and defend Ms. Cubbison's rights in this civil action, and bring further actions if needed, to put a stop to any unlawful retaliation and interference with her job as an elected official."

MAY 24, 25 & 26

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Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: City Hall, 111 E Commercial St, Willits, CA

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- Learn about eligible projects
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- Ask questions and provide feedback

For more information, please contact our Senior City Planner, Swetha Venuturupalli at svenuturupalli@cityofwillits.org

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OBITUARY | Dorothy DeJung

Dorothy May Johnston DeJung passed away peacefully last November at the age of 84 while on hospice care. Born in Perth, Australia to George and Stella Johnston, Dorothy was the eldest of three daughters. She earned her teaching degree at John Curtin University and taught school in rural Dongara, Western Australia.

While traveling with two friends in 1966, she met Arden DeJung on a ship from Australia to England. Dorothy soon after traveled to California and married Arden. She lived in Willits for the next 58 years, but always maintained a close connection to Australia, traveling back several times and staying in touch with friends and family.

Dorothy will perhaps be remembered most for being a voracious reader. She loved all kinds of fiction but had an affinity for mysteries. Her favorite authors include Ruth Rendell, P.D. James, and Margaret Atwood

She also enjoyed traveling, spending time with her friends, baking, listening to KGO talk shows in the 80s and 90s, watching British television series, and attending live theater, ballet, and other performances. Dorothy was an extremely proud mother and grandmother. And until the Covid-19 pandemic she had been active in her church, St. Francis in the Redwoods.

She was predeceased by her parents, her sister Margaret, her mother-in-law, Ruth, father-in-law, Art, brothers-in-law, Jeff, Ted and Ivan, sister-in-law Arlene, and her husband to whom she was married for 49 years.

Dorothy is survived by two daughters, Alison and Jocelyn, son-in-law Jason, two grandchildren, Sam and Phoebe, and a granddog, Lily. Additional surviving family members include her sister, Georgie, sister-in-law Gretchen, brother-in-law, Steve, several cousins, 12 nieces and nephews, and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

A memorial service will be held at St. Francis in the Redwoods, 66 East Commercial Street in Willits, on May 24 at 4 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Francis or Hospice East Bay.

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