

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 380 Thursday, November 19, 2020

## Elections office issues interim results update

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino County Elections Office put up an update Friday, showing progress in counting and reporting the vote from the November 3 election.

These are not official results, Voter Registrar Katrina Bartolome stressed. She estimated that probably about half the 15,501 vote by mail ballots and 1,800 provisional ballots announced as left to review and count in a November 3 press release remain to be processed.

Read the rest of Election  
Over on Page 13

## Little Lake Fire Protection District update

Joanne Moore  
Reporter  
joanne@willitsweekly.com

No big news at the November meeting of the Board of Directors of the Little Lake Fire Protection District.

Unless ... it's all good and getting better at the fire department is big news.

Specifically, that news would be ... new acquisitions, upgrades and procedures, funding looking good, and ongoing good work in and for the community.

First off, the new fire-house.

"The concrete slab is completed; you can walk out on it and get a feel for

Read the rest of Update  
Over on Page 11

## Brooktrails Township board update

Barbara O'Reardon  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The full Brooktrails Township Board of Directors met on November 10 via Zoom. When President Rick Williams asked if there were any changes or additions to the October 27 minutes, Director Tony Orth pointed out that the newly acquired used squad "attack" vehicle replacement that Fire Chief Jon Noyer was going to travel to Fortuna to purchase and pick up last week, apparently, was found, by the seller, to be in need of a new pump and that repair is being made

Read the rest of Brooktrails  
Over on Page 11



Above Willits Community Services and Food Bank's Ruthanne Volz, left, Larry Garber, on stairs, and Dan Bebe, center, smile with food bank volunteer, Diane Carter, right, and in front, Parlin Fork officers, B. Vielbig, left, and R. Smith, right. Below: Bebe holds the cart getting loaded up by Willits Police Officer, K. Kersmarki with donated hams from Willits Police and Little Lake Firefighters associations.



Below: The usual Turkey Toss was a little different without the Parlin Fork inmates, but officers B. Vielbig, left, and R. Smith were still happy to oblige to keep the tradition strong. At bottom: One of the 10 hams that was escorted to the Food Bank via patrol car by Willits Police Officer K. Kersmarki in time for the Thanksgiving dinner.

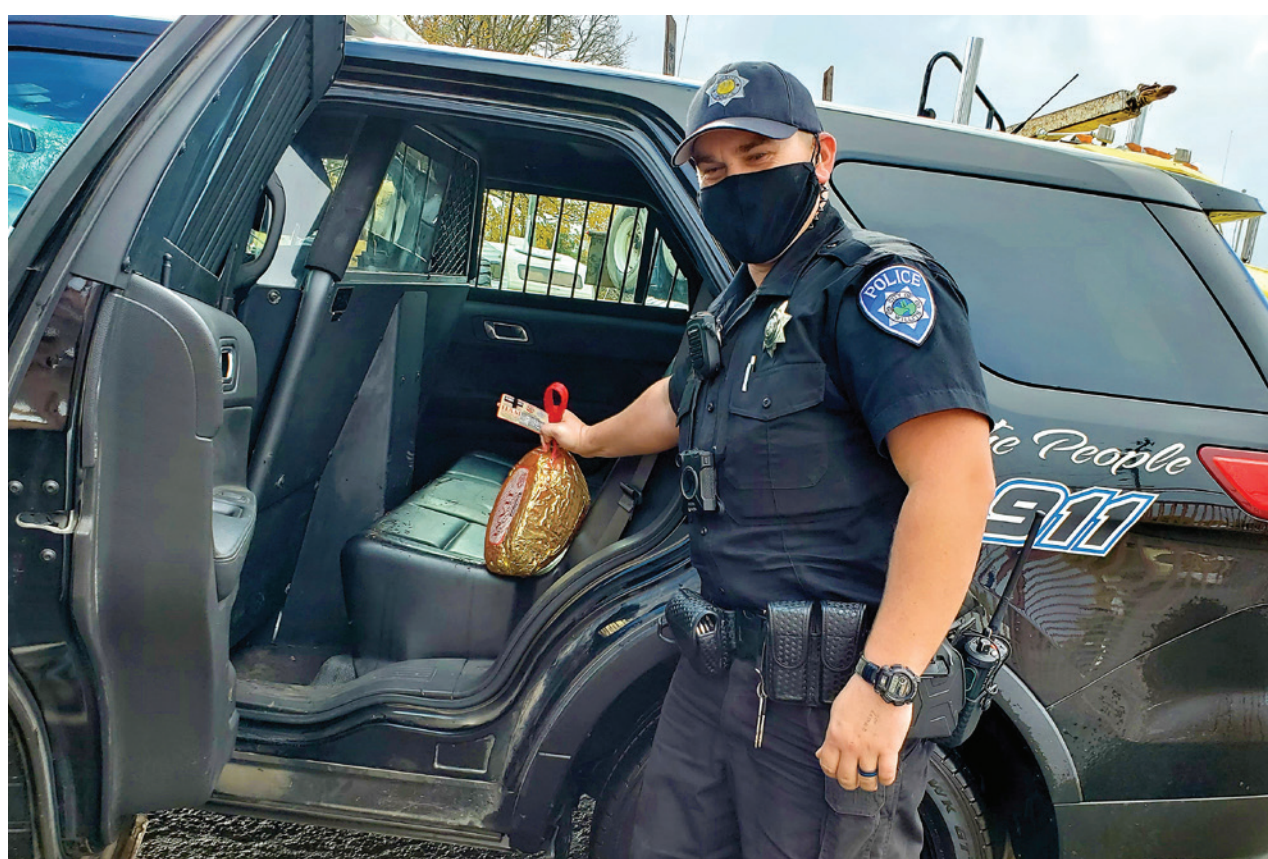
Photos by Maureen Jennison

## Turkey Time

### Drive-thru event planned for Thanksgiving day

Everyone being able to enjoy a warm meal on Thanksgiving will happen – corona or not – and the teams at Willits Community Services and Food Bank and the Willits Senior Center have come up with a plan to make it happen: a drive-thru dinner for the 31st annual event.

Read the rest of Thanksgiving  
Over on Page 13



## County goes back to purple COVID tier

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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Mendocino County has been placed back in Tier 1, the purple tier, in which the extent of COVID-19 is called "widespread." One result of that decision is that efforts by county school districts to reopen in-person learning are back on hold, since the purple tier does not allow in-person learning.

This decision was made Monday by the state's Department of Public Health, and is based on a 69 percent increase in the

Read the rest of Purpled  
Over on Page 10

## EDFC has given out \$1 million in loans

Forrest Glyer  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At the November 10 Willits City Council meeting the Economic Development and Financing Corporation gave their annual report detailing their successes in helping local businesses around Mendocino County during this tumultuous last year.

The EDFC is a local nonprofit financial institution which specializes in giving loans to small businesses. And as detailed by Interim Executive Director Jesse Burnett, they also help in other ways, like partnering with the Willits Chamber of Commerce for the "Mask Up Mendo" program to help educate the community and distribute masks and hand sanitizer during the

Read the rest of EDFC  
Over on Page 11

## CalFire reports on fuel reduction program

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

CalFire Mendocino Unit Chief George Gonzalez spoke to the board of supervisors on Tuesday, reporting on his plans to implement fuel reduction projects in this county over the next six months.

According to Gonzales, CalFire will burn between 30,000 and 40,000 acres by next summer, most of it on property north of Covelo owned by Redwood Empire, which owns sawmills in

Read the rest of CalFire  
Over on Page 11



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Against expanding grows

To the Editor:

Thank you, John Haschak, for the only vote against expansion of cannabis grows in Mendocino County. I do not understand why the other supervisors voted for it. It seems it is a current trend in government everywhere today to ignore the experts.

Have any of you driven around the county in a while? There is an epidemic of grows – most of them are illegal. People need to be managed, that is why we have laws. The illegal grows flaunt the lawlessness that seems to be pervasive. What other activities are they doing that are illegal? Why are they not stopped?

In my neighborhood, we have one grower that is trying to be legal. The others are all illegal. How do you know? They do not have an address posted at their sites, they drive around on their ATVs night and day. They suck water out of the dying streams, piles of trash, and chemicals everywhere.

They do not have phone numbers that you can call and complain. How do you stop the 2 am music blasting without worrying about being confronted by the end of a gun or vicious dog? How do I tell the police where to go? "Follow the dirt road down to that place on the left?"

I recently rode my horse over to my neighbor to talk with him, for it seemed the only way to connect. He was not onsite, and I was appalled at what I saw. He is cutting down trees to create larger patches. He has wire and junk everywhere. Is he above the law? How do you stop him? Why are you letting him continue to ruin the land and my quality of life?

Now the BOS are voting in favor of expanding this? Who will stop illegal activities such as logging, grading, water exploitation, and dumping of pesticides? For what reason? The county does not benefit from illegal grows and, we, the law-abiding citizens, are suffering from the results of this. Have you seen the number of hoop houses that have sprouted everywhere? Lights all night long. Noise, constant noise.

What farmer protects his crop with guns and threatens everyone around them?

Please try and reason with BOS to change their minds on this very important issue.

Shari Fisher, Willits

## Reopening schools? Yes!

To the Editor:

This is in response to a letter in the November 5 edition of Willits Weekly on reopening schools. The author of the letter, Tessa Ford, ponders whether reopening schools is worth the health risk to our community due to COVID-19.

The CDC recently published that there is over a 99.5 percent recovery rate from COVID-19 for people under 69 years of age. The recovery rate for those 70+ with underlying health conditions decreases to 94.6 percent. Interestingly enough, the survival rate of most health conditions decreases significantly with elderly and those with underlying health conditions. COVID is no different.

Do we need to protect our elderly? Absolutely! Is the best way to do that by continuing to lock up our youth? We don't think so.

The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters 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.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. 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. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

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learned "nothing but how to be anxious and stressed" since online learning started.

It's likely that teachers who are home teaching their own kids while trying to distance teach are struggling too. They are fortunate enough to be able to be in the safety and comfort of their own home and teach their own kids while continuing to distance teach.

Many families in Mendocino County are not that fortunate. Many of us still have to get up every morning and go to work, leaving our kids to learn through Zoom meetings that require a ridiculous amount of internet, screen time (something we should be limiting), and very little support. Regardless of what some might think, email support is not cutting it.

Many of us come home after working eight- to 10-hour days to do two or three hours of school work with our children. If we're going to be doing the bulk of the teaching, we might as well unenroll our kids and homeschool! If you think this is learning from the safety and comfort of our own home, you're sadly mistaken.

The stress this has put on families and children is unprecedented. It's only reducing the confidence we have in the public school system. And what about students who find that the teaching staff and social interactions they have at school are the only positive interactions they have in a day? What will become of them during this time of isolation?

Lisa Damour, an adolescent psychologist states: "Teenagers are in a developmental space where it is critically important that they have regular contact with their peers and are able to develop close and ongoing relationships with adults outside the home, such as their teachers, their coaches, their advisers."

Damour goes on to say: "I worry very much about what it means for that to be disrupted by the pandemic." Kids need to be in school!

Many private schools are operating with no problems at all (several in this county), and they've been operating since August! Children are permitted to attend Head Start, five days a week.

How is this different than operating a school? They simply use common sense precautions, masks and/or face shields, temperature monitoring upon arrival, and smaller class sizes. They have learned to adapt – the public schools need to do the same.

Even some sports have resumed – which is great – kids need sports, interaction with adults outside the home, and interaction with their peers. Why do schools remain closed if these other programs are able to adapt?

Studies show that children are not learning well with this model and are possibly a grade-level behind at this point ("Research shows students falling months behind during virus disruptions," New York Times article, June 5, 2020).

Additionally, the amount of "spare" time the kids have under this model is exorbitant – many students are depressed, constantly looking for something to do. What do you think they're going to turn to?

Their mental health is at risk. The CDC has reported that one in four of those ages 18 to 25 have seriously considered suicide during the lockdowns. That's 25 percent! The mental health and well-being of our youth is at stake.

Tessa Ford stated that if the children were to return, they would have to wear masks all the time (fair enough), the desks will be socially distanced by 6 feet, decreasing the class size, and that desks will have to be surrounded by plexiglass shields on three sides....

Why would the desks have to be surrounded by plexiglass if students are wearing a mask and separated by 6 feet? The expense alone would eat up the ballot measure that just passed. Require masks for the kids and let them return!

And to think that a \$17 million bond measure was just passed to fix up schools. If the kids are not being allowed to return, divvy that \$17 million up to all the families who are enrolled to fix up their homes to include a classroom for their kids to learn in.

Is there a risk? Of course. There's a risk with anything we do. Every time we get in a car, we are taking a risk. This virus is *not* going away. We have to learn to live with it.

Originally, many of us were against returning to school with a mask requirement. We now recognize that the risk to our children is far greater keeping them locked up at home. We support a return to the classroom with common sense rules.

Superintendent Westerburg, we strongly urge you to follow common sense guidelines: Use the \$1,881,300 you received from the federal CARES Act ([www.edsources.org](http://www.edsources.org)). "Official figures released on state, federal CARES Act funding to districts to address COVID-19, August 5, 2020) to reduce class sizes, and get our kids back to school five days a week!

Shawn and Cindy Sauers, Bob and Dena Blum, Gilbert and Sandy Ruentes, Chris and April Lamprich, Steven & Natalie Spackman, Willie and Alexis England, Steve and Cara Carter, and Russ & Shelley Rountree, Willits

## CalFresh signups November 19 and 20 at Senior Center

Enrolling in CalFresh helps you and your community stay healthy! As per the CalFresh web page:

"CalFresh is for people with low income who meet federal income eligibility rules and want to add to their budget to put healthy and nutritious food on the table."

You can be on Social Security, have savings, own a home and/or cars, and still receive CalFresh benefits.

Schedule an appointment to find out more. Call Willits Senior Center at 459-6826.

## SNOW Extra yard waste pickups on Friday

Solid Wastes of Willits announces: "We will be collecting the green waste (only in Willits) on Friday, November 20 [already did November 13], no matter what your pick-up week is. Please place your green yard waste cans out at the street the night before to ensure pick-up. Please be patient with the drivers as they are doubling their pick-ups to do this service for the community."

– Solid Wastes of Willits

## Protect your holiday packages from thieves

Holiday shopping is approaching, or maybe you've already started. If you've started ordering online, remember it's also the season for package thieves, aka "porch pirates."

• Consider sending the package to your work/office instead

• Solicit help from a family member or neighbor by monitoring tracking information

• If ordering through Amazon, use the Amazon Locker option for delivery

• Or of course, buy local!

– Willits Police Department

It's prime season for porch pirates

Protect your packages from thieves

Report suspicious activity to Willits PD (707) 459-8122

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## A different kind of 'tom'

### Retired Sheriff Allman braves the rain in turkey suit to collect \$7,500 in donations for Thanksgiving meal and food for those in need

Some people will do anything for a buck, especially if it is for a good cause. Last Friday, at Bud Snider City Park, recently retired Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman, who has been known to take many dunk tank baths in public to raise money for charitable organizations, once again flung all seriousness aside. He donned the skinniest turkey suit ever and bade passing motorists to stop and donate to the Willits Community Services and Food Bank, who once again is preparing to provide as many as 500 Thanksgiving meals to residents of the Little Lake Valley.

After many rain-drenched selfies with generous residents, the foolishness resulted in over \$7,500 being raised to buy turkeys, potatoes (to mash), salad fixings, side dishes, and pie. Any money left over will go to help the food bank provide their twice-weekly food distribution, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1 to 4:30 pm at their facility, 229 East San Francisco Street.

As always, the turkey dinners will be distributed at the Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, from 11 am to 3 pm, Thursday, November 26. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will be strictly drive-thru only. The dinners are free to anyone, no questions asked, all are invited – donations are welcome.

Richard Baker, executive director at the senior center, said that center will be delivering dinners to seniors and others who cannot get down to the facility. "We are going to be distributing meals to our Meals-On-Wheels clients," said Baker, "and anyone who doesn't have a ride to the senior center. We have numerous volunteer drivers and myself who will be going out Thanksgiving morning and delivering to three senior-housing complexes: Redwood Meadows, Baechtel Creek, and Holy Spirit. We're up to around 80 or 90 meals that we will be delivering."

The inmates of Parlin Fork Conservation Camp will again be cooking the turkeys at their own facility and delivering the baked birds to the senior center the night before, where they will be sliced and finished in the morning, along with all of the other fixings.

"Everything is going to be cooked at Parlin Fork and then brought in Wednesday evening so the food can be cut up and prepped. So all we have to do is warm things up the next day," explained Baker.

"We're going to set up tables so the workers can get their assembly lines going. The meals will be warmed in the kitchen and brought into the dining rooms where we can add a salad, a piece of pie,

Read the rest of Turkey Over on Page 9



Above, left: Tom "Turkey" Allman doesn't mind getting wet and dressing like a turkey for a good cause.

Above, top: Tom the Turkey gets an assisted selfie with donor Ken Farnsworth.

Above: Tom Allman enjoys meeting all the people who came out in the rain to donate.

At left, top: Tom Allman elbow bumps with Bill Barker who came out in the rain to donate.

At left: Tom "Turkey" Allman takes donations at Bud Snider City Park.

Below: Tom "Turkey" Allman collects donations with his volunteers Shailyn Brewer, Lucy Simonson, JoAnn Holliday, Serena Alexi and Amanda Kenelly.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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ASSISTANCE	CRANBERRIES	INDIGENOUS	ROLLS
AUTUMN	DINNER	NEW WORLD	SEATING
BASTE	DRESSING	NOVEMBER	SQUASH
BLESSINGS	FEAST	OVEN	STUFFING
CARVE	FOWL	PARADE	SWEET POTATO
CASSEROLE	FRIENDS	PILGRIMS	TABLE
COLONISTS	GIBLETS	PLATE	TASTY
CORNBREAD	GRAVY	PUMPKIN PIE	THANKSGIVING
CORNUCOPIA	HARVEST	RELATIVES	TURKEY

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CLUES ACROSS

- Autonomic nervous system
- At or near the stern
- Adenosine triphosphate
- Polynesian garland of flowers
- Chinese revolutionary
- Green veggie
- Large group
- Swiss river
- Semiaquatic mammal
- Wrongdoers
- Home to Disney World
- Spanish doctors
- Newborn child
- Absence of difficulty
- Large, stocky lizard
- Earned top billing
- A long wandering and eventful journey
- Water (French)
- Brew
- Winged horse
- A usually malignant tumor
- Alfred \_\_\_, American actor
- Austrian river

CLUES DOWN

- Speak up
- More informative
- Where passengers sit
- Gathered
- Supervises flying
- Home of the Blue Jays
- Public statement of regret
- Lockjaw
- Indian city
- Patriots' Newton

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!

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE LOG

November 9 to November 15  
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **184 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

**November 9**  
11:37 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of Redwood Avenue.  
1:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of North Main Street.  
6:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.  
8:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 300 block of South Main Street.

11:48 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

**November 10**  
7:52 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.  
9:55 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

**November 11**  
10:32 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Mill Creek Court.

12:18 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Raymond Lane and Coast Street.

2:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of Sherwood Road and issued a warning.

9:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:22 pm: FISKMCCARTHY, Monte Roy (29) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of School Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

**November 12**  
8:47 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.

COLUMN | Your Wellness - Naturally!  
Winter self-care

By Claudia Wenning  
Winter is upon us, and wellness self-care is worth talking about this time of the year. I'd like to mention some options we have in the Natural Medicine approach to prepare ourselves for the months ahead.

There is nothing more important than paying attention to the state of our health! Here are a few ideas about how you can create a personalized plan for your winter wellness, for yourself and your family.

First of all it is very important, more than anything else, to support your immune system, that is where it starts. We want to make sure that you assist your body to adapt to temperature and environmental changes, changes of humidity, and changes to the amount of daylight hours.

Being exposed to the wide range of warmth and cold between outside and inside means dressing appropriately, using the "onion look" for keeping your body protected and insulated. The idea is to make it easy on the body to adjust to external influences, and avoid creating addition loads for the immune system.

And when you feel cold, warm liquids, like herbal teas, are the fastest way to raise your inner temperature and bring the body from the state of contraction back into the state of equilibrium. Done right, the changes between exposing the body to hot and cold can actually be stimulating and supportive for the immune system.

At the same time, best self-care is to move your body every day. Moving your energy by walking seems to be the one thing that many people can use as a daily practice. And even if walking is not an option for you, you still may find some inspiration in the suggestions below. This is about body awareness, and flexing our joints to keep the body in a state of balance and lubrication, as best as individually possible.

A "full body walk" also means to give complete attention to how you walk, where you walk, how you hold your body, how you

Read the rest of Wellness | Over on Page 13



Above, left: The Little Lake Fire Department and bikers ride down Main Street on the Toy Run. Above, right: The toys pile up during the afternoon. Above, right: Kim "Sugar B" and Rich "Pops" Venturi call the live auction at the 2019 event.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Below: One of the two Willits Children's Christmas Program trees sits in the front window of Les Schwab Tire Center with tags bearing the requests of boys and girls in the community. At bottom: The second tree is located at J.D. Redhouse in downtown Willits. Both trees are being constantly restocked with tags for boys and girls.

Photos by Marcy Barry



Toy Run & Tag Trees

Willits Christmas Program gets head start with tags around town and hope for full fulfillment from annual Toy Run

It'll be a little more ride, a little less party for this year's Toy Run event which will be held on Saturday, November 28, rain or shine, to help families in our community have a happy holiday.

Traditionally, the Willits Wild Bunch and other bikers meet at the Evergreen Shopping Center and ride to the Little Lake Grange where a party, food and auctions are held.

This year, it's a little different. Everyone will still meet at the Evergreen Shopping Center at 11:30 am on Saturday and get escorted down Main Street by the Little Lake Fire Department. However, instead of heading to the Grange, the group will take a lap over the bypass, before ending back at Little Lake Auto for the end point.

A spacious pop-up will be set up, and Taqueria Ramirez will be on site to sell a quick bite for hungry riders, or anyone wishing to come by. All attendees are asked to practice social distancing and follow county health guidelines.

Unwrapped toys or monetary donations are welcomed at the end of the run, and receipts will be available for cash donations, as the Willits Wild Bunch is a 501C3 non-profit.

Toys and money collected will go to help fill the requests of boys and girls in the community who are participants in the Willits Rotary Club's Children's Christmas Program.

Trees bearing the tags for gift requests are already located at J.D. Redhouse and Les Schwab of Willits. If anyone would like to pick up a tag, fill the requests, and return the unwrapped gifts to either tree location, or the Willits Unified School District office, that is also appreciated.

For more information about the program, contact 354-1991 or 272-5935.

— Maureen Jennison



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Linda Matz Owner  
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We are now accepting Holiday Pie Orders  
These will sell out, make sure to get your order in ASAP!  
459-1214  
Taking orders through 11/25 for Thanksgiving!  
J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY  
A LOCALLY OWNED MERCANTILE


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CARSTAR.com


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## Thanksgiving Dinner Drive-thru


**Date: 11/23/2020**  
**Time: 12 pm – until gone!**  
**Location: In front of Willits Police Dept.**



The Willits Police Officers' Association and Little Lake Fire would like to give back!

Thanksgiving is a time for family. We hope that our donation can make it so your family's Thanksgiving Day meal is one less thing to worry about.

With generous donations by Willits Grocery Outlet, Willits Safeway, Fisher Wireless Services, and the Willits Police Officers' Association we have **40 complete dinners** to give to families in need! Dinners include: one 10-12 lb turkey, stuffing and mashed potato mixes, cranberry sauce, vegetables, rolls, and Kemmy's Pies for dessert!

*\*Dinners are on a first-come first-served basis, one dinner per vehicle*

## Imagination Station EDUCATIONAL TOY DEPOT


**TOYS & LEARNING RESOURCES**


We also have a wide selection of fun ways to help teach the basics of ABCs, 123s, shapes and colors, problem solving and more!


**FREE GIFT WRAPPING**


262 East Commercial Street • Willits (707) 459-8697  
Monday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Sundays 12-4 p.m.



The Christmas Train passes across Highway 101 at the Willits Arch.

## Discover a Winter Wonderland aboard the Magical Christmas Train

For the safety of our staff, Santa, his helpers, and you, our treasured guests, this holiday season will look a little different than the Magical Christmas Trains of the past. We've reimagined the fun so you can keep making treasured memories with the Skunk Train this holiday season.

Climb aboard to the sounds of holiday music playing in the background, and enjoy a more socially distanced train ride, with a reading of "Skippy the Traindeer" by author Shelle Hart, and a socially distanced visit from Santa as he passes through your railroad coach.

All guests are required to wear facial coverings while on the train, and instead of serving you cookies and hot chocolate, we'll be sending you home with a goodie bag to enjoy in the comfort and safety of your home.

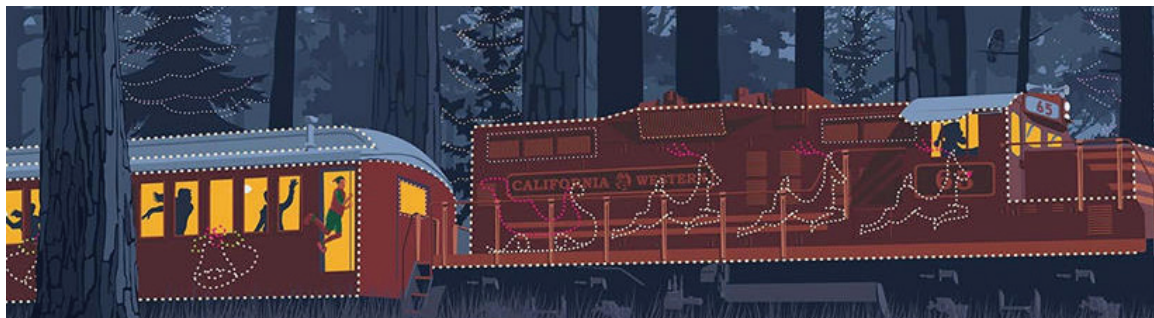
There is no assigned seating aboard the Magical Christmas Train. If you'd like to be seated with another party, please coordinate with them on boarding together.

- Please remember:
- Facial coverings are mandatory

- Please practice 6 feet social distancing
  - Wash hands frequently
  - Dress warmly
  - If you feel ill please do not make your reservation, or if already made, notify us via telephone or email
- The first day the Magical Christmas Train runs out of Willits is Friday, November 27, with three trips scheduled so far, at 1, 3:30 and 6 pm. The train runs Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through December 20, with up to five departures a day, and then on Christmas week, trains run Monday, December 21, Tuesday, December 22, and – the last Christmas train of 2020 – on Wednesday, December 23.

Fares for the Magical Christmas Train departing Willits are: Adult: \$52.95 (ages 13 and up); Child: \$42.95 (ages 2-12); Infant: \$10.95 (under the age of 2); and Dog: \$10.95. Copies of "Skippy the Traindeer" book are \$6.95. Fares include an 8 percent Historic Preservation assessment.

You can find more information and purchase tickets at our website, [www.skunktrain.com](http://www.skunktrain.com) or call the Fort Bragg Depot at 707-964-6371



## Holiday Herbal Marketplace

Shop for locally crafted herbals and seasonal gifts direct from the makers, on Sunday, December 6 from 11 am to 3 pm. An exciting, unique opportunity to support local herbalists and artisans, while finding that special handcrafted, locally made gift for the ones you love, and certainly for yourself. A raffle, too!

Located outside the old Rexall building, 90 South Main Street in Willits (or in the Grange in case of rain).

Sponsored by the Mendocino County Herb Guild: We invite you to partake in community, whilst we go through these unprecedented times together. This is a COVID compliant event.

– Mendocino County Herb Guild



## CalFresh signups November 19 and 20 at Senior Center

Enrolling in CalFresh helps you and your community stay healthy! As per the CalFresh web page:

"CalFresh is for people with low income who meet federal income eligibility rules and want to add to their budget to put healthy and nutritious food on the table."

You can be on Social Security, have savings, own a home and/or cars, and still receive CalFresh benefits.

Schedule an appointment to find out more. Call Willits Senior Center at 459-6826.

## Sparetime Garden Center to open holiday store stocked with locally crafted gifts

Exciting things are happening at Sparetime Garden Center. "We are pleased to announce we will be opening a holiday store in the back of the property!" read a post on Sparetime's Facebook page. "Starting Black Friday (November 27) through Christmas Eve, the community is invited to bring their family and come check out our on-site winter wonderland!"

The store is decorated inside and out. "We hope the kids (and adults) enjoy all the lights, decorations and even a 9-foot Santa out front!" wrote Sparetime. There will even be a holiday photo backdrop amidst the decorations out front where families can take photos.

The store is stocked with amazing gift items from Kershaw, Revelry, Nebo, and so many more. Along with gift items from regular vendors, they are bringing in locally crafted items from members of the community.

"We know that there are limited options this year for people to sell their handmade products and for people to be able to purchase these items," Sparetime wrote. They have over 15 local vendors bringing in beautiful items such as handmade jewelry, hand-poured soy candles, Christmas decor, hand-sewn dolls, crocheted items, healing salves, photo prints, pottery, woodcraft, hand-sewn bags, and much more. "We hope to showcase a little bit of everything and help bring some joy to this holiday season," they added.

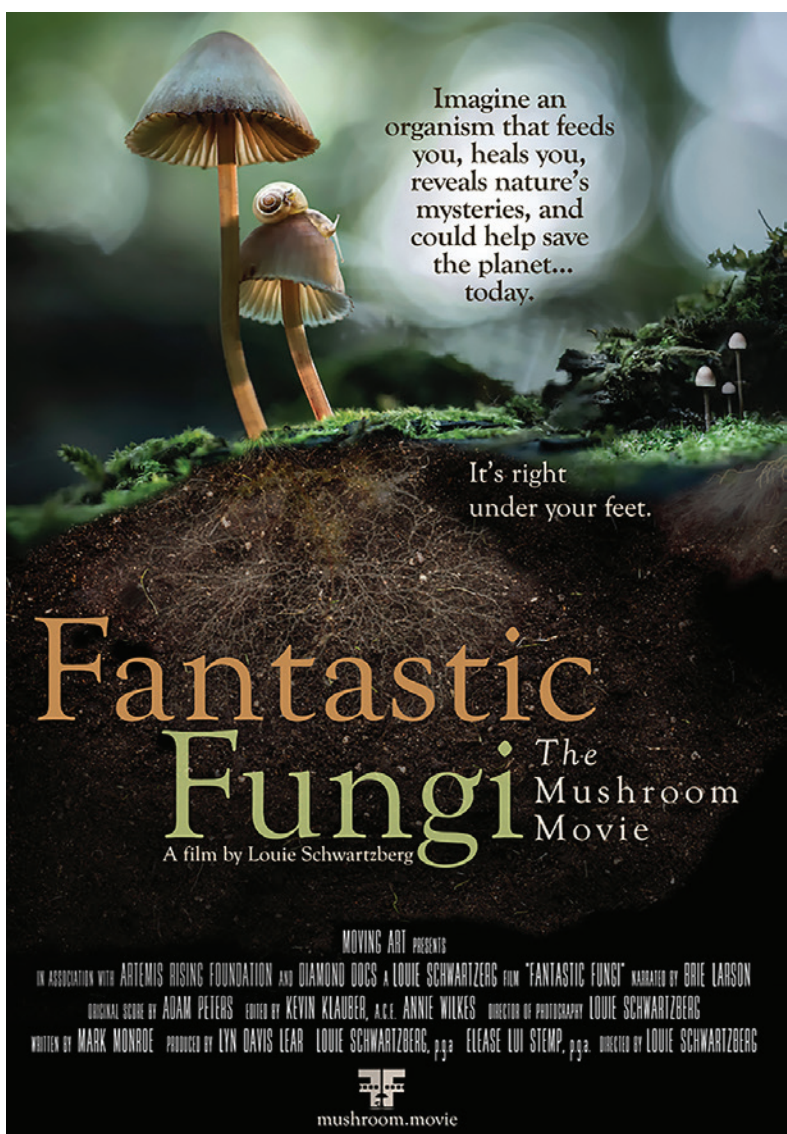
Gift wrapping is being offered for free with a request for a donation to the Rotary Club. Strict COVID-19 guidelines will be followed to ensure it will be a safe place for people to shop and enjoy. The cut Christmas trees will be available starting November 21, and live trees are available now.

"We can't wait to open up the holiday store," Sparetime concluded, "and we hope to see everyone soon! Stay tuned for daily giveaways and prizes posted to our page! Stay safe, and happy holidays to all."

– Sparetime Garden Center



Christmas decorations are being set up in the new holiday-themed store at Sparetime Garden Center, which carries gifts from regular vendors and local craftspeople.



## 'Fantastic Fungi'

The Now and Then Film Series presents a showing of "Fantastic Fungi," on Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12 at 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

"Fantastic Fungi" starts out as an amazing nature film and morphs into an impassioned screed on how mushrooms can – essentially – save the world. The central figure is Paul Stamets, mushroomist extraordinaire!

With spectacular footage of growth and decay and impassioned speeches about the magic of mushrooms, this documentary is a treat for the eye and ear. As visually dazzling as it is thought-provoking, Fantastic Fungi sets out to make audiences see mushrooms differently – and brilliantly succeeds.

See the magical world of fungi and their power to heal, sustain and contribute to the regeneration of life on Earth. Psychedelic discussion is a part of the film also. To learn more about the film, directed by Louie Schwartzberg, visit <https://fantasticfungi.com/>

Your donation of \$10 will be used to support the showing of these films of import. Grange rules on COVID compliance are in place – you are asked to wear a mask and social distance. Limited seating on a first-come basis. Trailers and short films start at 6:30 pm. Not serving popcorn during COVID – please bring your own snacks and edibles.

## Come get your October Rewards & enter to win...



**3X ENTRIES ON TUESDAYS**  
200 POINTS = 3 ENTRY TICKETS

# ONE UGLY MUDDER

## 2020 Jeep Gladiator Giveaway\*

**Earn Entries Daily for Weekend Drawings**  
**Oct 1 – December 26**  
200 points = 1 entry ticket

**WEEKEND DRAWINGS**  
**Sat & Sun 5PM – 10PM**

Two winners each hour will receive **\$100 Free Play** and an entry into the Grand Prize drawing on December 26.

\* Jeep provided by Thurston Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and customized by DC Customs.

## SENIOR THURSDAYS NOON – 5PM

It's Super Seniors Day and guests age 55+ who earn 75 points that day will receive **\$15 in Free Play** and a **50% Off** meal coupon to the Creekside Café.



# SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

100 Kawi Place • Willits, CA 95490 • Tel: 707-459-7978

Nontransferable. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Player's Club Members are required to present their passport with valid I.D. and Player's Club Card. Management reserves the right to cancel or modify any promotion at any time without notice. For complete rules and details please visit the Player's Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.



## Stuffing the Stockings

Willits Frontier Days Juniors fill stockings for community children at Christmas

707.459.5193

# JOHN FORD RANCH

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

Members of the Willits Frontier Days Juniors program, including, from left: Elena Arkelian, Hazel Cooke, Lisa Arkelian, Walker Klee and Danielle Barry, help make Christmas (stockings) bright for families in Willits again this year, stuffing 200 stockings with goodies in partnership with the Willits Rotary Club's Children's Christmas Program.

Photos by Marcy Barry

## Christmas Store at Willits Senior Center opens December 7

Don't miss the ongoing Christmas Store at Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. The Christmas Store is an extension of the Thrift Shop. As items are donated to the senior center throughout the year, Christmas decorations are set aside for the holiday-themed store. The result is a multi-roomed accumulation of artificial Christmas trees, festive linens, wreaths, platters for holiday meals, wrapping supplies, candles, ornaments, holiday cards, advent scenes and more. See's Candies will also be available for sale.

The Christmas Store will be open December 7 through 12, from 9 am to 4 pm. New items are put out regularly, so come see some of the fabulous finds and check back often. All proceeds go to senior center programs. Info: 459-6826.

– Willits Harrah Senior Center



Christmas galore at the senior center's holiday store.

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SAVE THE DATE FOR 2020

# HOLIDAY PHOTOS

WITH MPHOTOGRAPHESS & J.D. REDHOUSE!

## DECEMBER 5 & 6

WILL BE A COVID-SAFE EVENT  
STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!

## BLACK FRIDAY SALE



**RECLINERS**  
start at **\$349!**



**SOFAS**  
start at **\$449!**

## FRIDAY NOV. 27th from 10 to 6

## SATURDAY NOV. 28th from 11 to 5



**SANTA WON'T MIND!**  
HE MAKES HIS LIST AND CHECKS IT TWICE IN A RECLINER FROM WILLITS. IT'S VERY NICE.



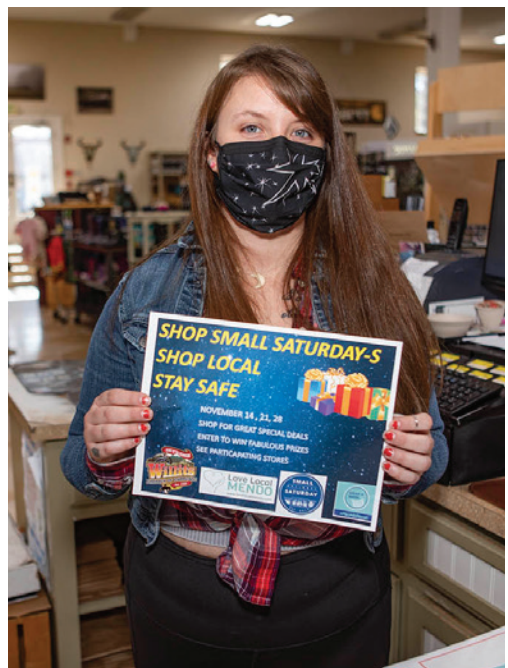
**WILLITS Furniture Center**  
775 Central Ave. Willits, CA

**FREE DELIVERY!  
INSURANCE AVAILABLE**





Above, left: Chamber director Ron Moorhead and board member Chuck Persico wave to the passing cars, as they promote Small Business Saturdays at the Willits Farmers Market. Above, right: Kiera Dragness at Monkey Wrench is offering 15 percent discounts on Saturdays this month. At right: Marissa Gutierrez and McKenna Buckingham are ready to serve customers at Scoops. Below: Owner Sara Mann and Kat Phillips of Mazahar are offering varying discounts.



# Made for more next steps

## Meet our Redwood Medical primary care team

Erica Baumer, PNP  
Pediatrics

Sam Cahill, PA  
Family Medicine

Bev Draudt, FNP  
Family Medicine

John Glycer, MD  
Family Medicine

Andrea McCullough, MD  
Family Medicine

Claudia Petrunco, DO  
Internal Medicine

## Safe, Open and Ready for you.

You were made for more. More growth. More exploration. More awe-inspiring moments with those you love most. And our team is here to help you on your journey by providing you and your family with access to whole-person care. Through our local team of providers and our extended network of Adventist Health specialty providers throughout Mendocino County, our vision is to continue to transform the health of our community today and for generations to come.

Now welcoming new primary care patients.  
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3 Marcela Drive, Suite C, Willits  
**AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org**



# Shop Local

## 'Small Business Saturday' is every Saturday this month in Willits

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to be a factor in the economy of Mendocino County, the Willits Chamber of Commerce has decided to expand the annual Shop Small Saturday program in order to encourage those searching for Christmas holiday gifts to walk away from their computers, get to town, and patronize local merchants. That way the money stays in the hands of friends and neighbors rather than contributing to the bottom line of huge distant corporations.

**Mathew Caine**  
Features Writer  
mathew@willitsweekly.com

In the past, the chamber, in conjunction with American Express, has chosen one Saturday for the Shop Small promotion. "Generally in the last few years," said Ron Moorhead, executive director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, "it's been a program that's been sponsored by American Express, and Willits merchants and shops have contributed and participated.

"This year," he continued, "we decided on our own that we would expand it to all the Saturdays in November instead of one Saturday after Thanksgiving. Because of the COVID-19 situation, most stores can't have a large number of people in the stores. So, we thought 'why restrict it

Read the rest of **Saturday** | Over on Page 13

At far left: Ryker likes holding the entry card at Buttercups.  
At left: Katlin Warriner displays one of the Shop Small posters at J.D. Redhouse.  
At right: Ticket deposit jars are at each of the participating merchants, as well as the chamber office at the Skunk Train depot and the Willits Center for the Arts.

Photos by Mathew Caine



The rest of **Turkey**  
From Page 3

and some juice, and then they'll be distributing them out the front door," Baker continued. "The police department is going to come and direct traffic, and they've also offered to help pay for supplies."

In order to facilitate the preparation and delivery of the meals, the food bank is requesting the assistance of anyone who would like to volunteer, as long as they are healthy. "Volunteers are needed to work on Wednesday, November 25, from 3 to around 7 pm," said Ruthanne Volz, executive director of Willits Community Services and Food Bank. "Food preparations will be completed, and the meals will be placed in to-go containers for the free drive-thru dinner.

"Please note," continued Volz, "all volunteers must get COVID tested. Appointments [for testing] can be made by calling 888-634-1123 or visiting https://lhi.care/covidtesting. We will use masks, no exceptions; 6 feet social distancing will be required at all times; disposable gloves along with hand washing and hand sanitizer will be required. Forehead temperatures will be taken." Those interested in helping out should call Volz at 459-3333 or 354-3960.

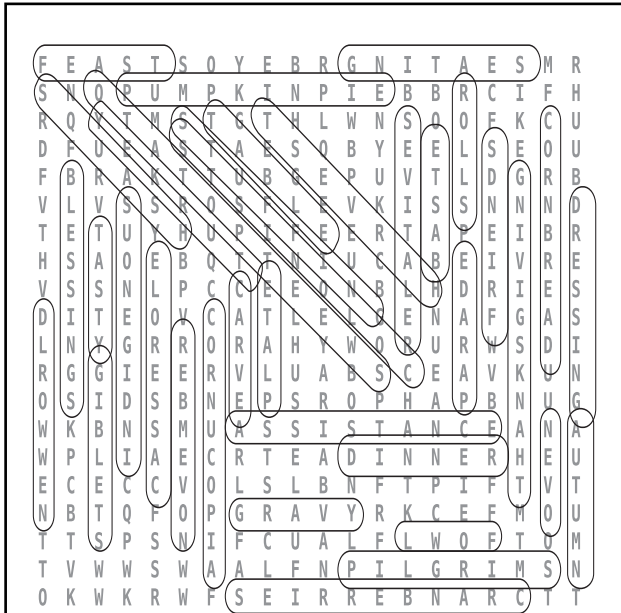
Seniors over age 60 may call the Willits Harrah Senior Center at 459-6826 to order Thanksgiving meals delivered by Meals on Wheels before Thanksgiving Day.

As the rain continued, Tom "Turkey" Allman, continued his fundraising insanity, along with his turkey helpers Shailyn Brewer, Lucy Simonson, Amanda Kennelly, JoAnn Holliday and Serena Alexi, who ran bravely out in the rain to collect money and greet the passersby.

The generosity of the citizens of Willits, as always, was very much in evidence, and even exhibited by the very young. "A very special shout out to fourth-grader Caidon Campbell," wrote Allman on his Facebook page, "who worked very hard and was able to raise \$800 for the event! He is 10 years old and posted flyers at the hospital to seek donors. You rocked it, Caidon!"

Those wishing to make contributions can send a check to Willits Community Services, 229 San Francisco, or donate via PayPal at https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/19512347.

"Tough times don't last, but tough people do," said Tom Turkey. "Our community is full of people who are tough, and we will look back at these times with lots of memories. My best memory will be the time that our community stood together for everyone."



# The Arts Council of Mendocino County announces 2020 Arts Champions

Submitted by the Arts Council of Mendocino County

Each year, nominations for Arts Champion Awards are solicited from the community at large. Honorees are selected by the Arts Council of Mendocino County's Board of Directors, and are formally recognized with an official proclamation from the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. The 2020 awards and proclamation will be presented by the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on December 15.

The 2020 Arts Champions are broken into categories. Lauren Sinnott is being honored in the artist category; the Art Center Ukiah is the pick for the arts organization category; Willits Weekly was chosen as a business; Judy Stavelly is recognized as an educator; and Gary Martin as an individual.

Lauren Sinnott, honoree in the artist category, is an art historian and former politician in addition to being an artist. Sinnott was raised in a Wisconsin dairy farm town by an artist mother and poet father. She has degrees in art and French, and an M.A. in art history. Wanting to live near the ocean, she travelled to Point Arena – the seventh tiniest city in California – as a young parent of two boys in a school-bus-turned-tiny-home to put down roots here based, in part, on the advice of friends who told her, "Your kind of people live there."

She describes the region as exactly what she was looking for: "America has several hinterlands, and this is the hinterland of topography, of communities living in the modern era but isolated and tiny. This is the other California, where populations are dwarfed by the ridged landscape and pounding ocean."

As an artist in a small community, Sinnott's commissions have ranged from dog portraiture to designing tombstones and wedding dresses. She is currently working on a huge, historical narrative mural on the north wall of the Ukiah Valley Conference Center, Ukiah, titled "Past Present and Future."

This epic work of public art is going on year-four of production, in part because so many people stop to visit with Sinnott while she paints, to admire newly created sections and discover details they may have missed, and in some cases, to pose for the mural. The mural contains over 60 portraits so far and tells many stories of people who live here now, much of which is shared at the mural's accompanying website: www.goddess.graphics.

Art Center Ukiah is honored for their many years of inclusive and high-quality arts programming. Their exhibitions have engaged youth, veterans and artists at every level of their career, introducing visitors to the fine work of local artists. ACU was instrumental in establishing "Art Walk Ukiah" and, along with the Corner Gallery, has been a cornerstone of it. While the Art Walk is on hold due to the pandemic, it is still possible to view exhibits at both Corner Gallery and Art Center Ukiah thanks to the dedication and resilience of volunteers. (As always, please check with venues for current hours and safety protocol before visiting.)

Willits Weekly is a locally owned community newspaper, co-founded by Art Director and Chief Photographer Maureen Moore and Editor / Publisher Jennifer Poole. Willits Weekly has covered hundreds of visual and performing arts events since publishing its first edition on May 2, 2013. Inside pages boast full-color photos by feature freelance photographers and writers Mathew Caine and Ree Slocum. Willits Weekly also features the work of news freelancers including Mike

A'Dair (county), Forrest Glycer (city), and Joanne Moore (fire and school boards).

Look for the return of WW's "What's Happening" centerspread color calendar when community events resume. Visit www.willitsweekly.com to see .pdfs of all WW's regular editions and special publications.

Willits Weekly is honored by the community for being "in tune" with the arts and, "always responding with local event coverage" in the words of one community nominator.

Judy Stavelly, honoree in the education category, moved to Mendocino County in 1972 to take a job with the Mendocino Unified School District as a third-grade teacher. The majority of her teaching career was at Comptche School, a one-room school house. She always incorporated art, music, dance and theater into her classroom teaching, knowing that an exposure to the arts is important for a well-rounded education.

Upon her retirement in 2010, she "ran away with the circus," teaching classes for children with Circus Mecca in aerial fabrics and performing during the annual Circus Mecca Halloween show in Mendocino. She also began an aerial class at the Community Center of Mendocino for adults over the age of 50.

The class expanded when younger people saw how much fun was being had by the over-50 crowd and "wanted in," and now it is an adult class of students ages 18 to 80, who were meeting twice a week before COVID. Stavelly feels strongly that the "circus is for EVERY body."

She enjoys encouraging students of all ages, body types, and abilities to challenge themselves and become successful at things they never thought possible.

Stavelly enjoys playing the fiddle for fun, and has taught at several music camps including Lark in the Morning. She also plays the accordion, most recently with the Hot Club of Comptche. During the last few years, she has become a volunteer in border work in both Arizona and Tijuana. She has three daughters and five granddaughters, who are the most important parts of her life.

Stavelly is honored for her "constant volunteerism" and is described by a community nominator as someone with, "a gift for helping people find a means to belong ... an upstanding Mendocino citizen without whom, we would be much less rich."

Honoree Gary Martin works tirelessly to bring quality art and arts education to Willits and the rural North County communities of Mendocino County. In the words of one of his many community nominators: "His efforts amplify the importance of art to the diverse populations in our community, making sure that school children, young adults, townspeople, ranchers, Native Americans, Hispanics, and all who have the interest have access.

"He also reaches out to artists and craftspeople to give them an avenue to show their works, and harvests a great deal of support and philanthropy from the community to keep the center afloat and thriving.

"Most recently," continued the nominator, "he has spearheaded the development of an online gallery for the arts center in the face of the COVID-19's debilitating effects on center operations and artist venues to share and sell their works. He deserves to be recognized for keeping the arts alive in our little corner of the world."

Gary Martin has lived in Willits for the



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**Firewood For Sale**  
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## Willits Food Bank Open

Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

## Freezer Empty? We can help!

Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual package orders) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.



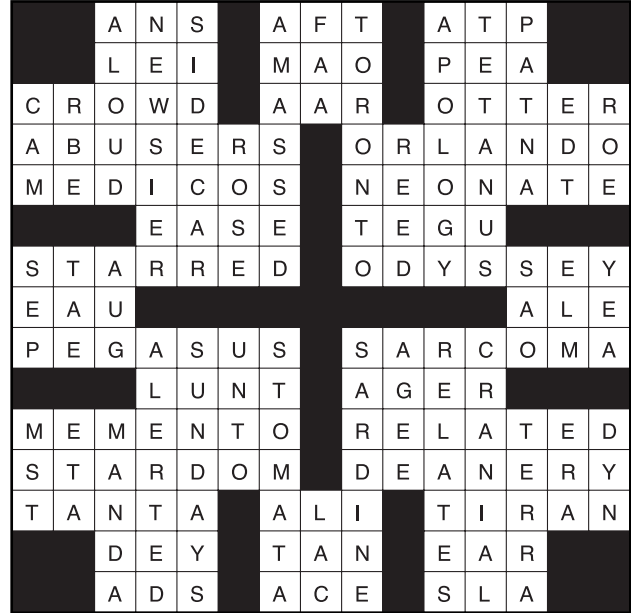
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Director of Cultural Services  
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For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
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EOE

past 20 years. He attended San Jose State University's Master's Program in visual arts, and after four more years of schooling, graduated with a MA in interdisciplinary art history and humanities curriculum.

After teaching for a short time at Mendocino College, he began presenting art history lessons to students in grade schools and high schools in Willits. He now reaches 2,500 students monthly with presentations on art and art history, covering Laytonville, Covelo and Willits. Since the COVID-19 virus hit, he has been presenting lessons to students via Zoom and is sponsored by the Willits Center for the Arts, where he is also the curator.

The Mendocino County Arts Champion Awards are annually announced in the fall to coincide with a coast-to-coast celebration of culture in America. For more information about the Mendocino County Art Champion Awards and other Arts Council of Mendocino County programs and services, visit [www.arts.mendocino.org](http://www.arts.mendocino.org) or call 707-463-2727.









At right: The play structures at Bud Snider City Park are still cordoned off for now. But new signs in Spanish and English have been set up near playground equipment.

Below, left: Signs using pictures with words, like this one, are being posted around the parks making it easier for children and adults to understand the park rules.

Below, right: Colorful signs now posted at Bud Snider Park and the Rec Grove remind and inform park users about how to stay safe from COVID-19 infection.

At bottom, left: Willits City Public Works Supervisor Kenan O'Shea poses next to one of the signs being placed in Rec Grove. At bottom, center: Brian Framke of Willits Public Works is ready to sanitize the playground equipment and attach signs in designated places. At bottom, right: Orange plastic barrier fencing remains around Bud Snider City Park for now.

Photos by Ree Slocum



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# Playground Preparation

## City of Willits getting ready to reopen playgrounds at City Park and Rec Grove

At last week's Willits City Council meeting, it was announced that playgrounds at Bud Snider Memorial Park (aka City Park) and the Rec Grove were going to be open soon, after nine months of being shut down due to COVID-19 restrictions. A happy Willits City Public Works crew, headed by Kenan O'Shea, would start implementing their plan to safely reopen the playgrounds soon.

When Monday morning rolled around, Supervisor O'Shea and Public Works employee Brian Framke were working early, putting up signs, cleaning playground equipment, and installing sanitizing stations.

O'Shea told councilmembers the

Read the rest of **Playgrounds** *Over on Page 13*



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## The rest of **Playgrounds**

*From Page 12*

plan included daily sanitization and thorough cleaning of the bathrooms, picnic tables, and touched surfaces of the playground equipment with "a product designed to neutralize virus and bacteria, especially COVID-19."

The cleaning will take place every morning before the restrooms are opened at 9 am, and the restrooms will generally close around dusk.

Benches and single-family size picnic tables will soon be available to use at the parks, but large picnic areas with multiple tables or benches will remain closed off.

The decision to open is ultimately up to Mendocino County along with City of Willits Manager Stephanie Garra-brant-Sierra, O'Shea cautioned. "We hope the public can bear with us," he said, "and be patient, and that we [Public Works] ultimately can't make those decisions. The last thing we want to do is open the parks up for three days and have to close them again. It's just too much of a roller coaster to put people through."

On Tuesday, Garra-brant-Sierra said that the playgrounds will be open as soon as the cold and rainy weather lets up, "unless we hear otherwise from the county."

Outdoor playgrounds are allowed – with the required restrictions – no matter which COVID "tier" a local area is ranked under. But in Governor Gavin Newsom's press conference on Tuesday that rolled back 42 counties to more restrictive COVID tiers, there was mention of potential further restrictions.

The Public Works crew is continuing to set up the sanitization stations, clean playground equipment and bathrooms, and install the signs with hopes that, when the rain stops, they'll be "ready to cut the ribbon [on the orange plastic barrier fencing] and open them up."

For right now O'Shea hopes that people will get used to seeing and understanding the signs. In particular are the new ones by each of the playground structures that place a limit on the number of children that can play on the equipment at the same time.

A lot of the new signs were created by the City of Ukiah, which they freely shared with Willits. "As a big-sister city to us, we kind of look to them for guidance," O'Shea said. "They have more staff and more tax base, so a lot of times we borrow signage and procedures from them. I can't thank them enough. Their staff was very sharing of information they've developed. I give them credit for doing some of the groundwork," he added.

When the playgrounds do open up, there isn't funding or staffing to make sure people follow the "rules." So, O'Shea suggests: "It's up to the individual to evaluate and use their discretion as to the safety of their children at the playgrounds and on the equipment. They may load up their kids and get down there and realize the park is overcrowded. They'll have to make the decision whether they want to go home and use the park at less peak hours."

The California Department of Public Health has some other requirements: Do not use the playground when different households are unable to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet or when the capacity limit has been reached; no eating or drinking in playground, to ensure face masks are worn at all times; wash or sanitize hands before and after using the playground; and limit visits to 30 minutes per day when others are present.

How will you know the park facilities are officially open for use? O'Shea says with confidence: "When the orange plastic barrier fencing is down, it'll be open season to play on the park equipment again. And please follow the simple rules on the signs that are in English and Spanish."

For more information, visit [www.covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance](http://www.covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance) and scroll down to the "Outdoor recreation, including campgrounds and playgrounds" section.

## The rest of **Saturday**

*From Page 8*

and restrict those numbers?" So, we expanded to Saturdays, November 14, 21, and 28.

"The stores that want to participate," Moorhead explained, "offer specials on those days. If you buy something in the store, you get an entry form, a card that you put your name and phone number on it. You put it in the bin."

"The first week of December," he continued, "we'll take all of those cards and draw the lucky winners of a host of fabulous prizes. Stores are giving us themed baskets of goods. Others donating are gift certificates for a meal or sandwiches at Loose Caboose, etc. Every store that is participating has a poster that says 'Shop Small Saturdays.'"

Moorhead added that participating stores in Willits, Ukiah, and areas serviced by the Mendocino Coast Chambers are all offering great discounts and prizes.

According to Moorhead, participating merchants should provide at least one \$25 gift card and at least one gift to be included in a basket to be awarded as one of the grand prizes. Or if the business wishes, they may donate a full basket to be awarded.

Merchants wishing to participate should hang a "Shop Small" poster on their storefront and have specials for shoppers each Saturday in November, with the grand finale to be the official Shop Small Saturday, November 28.

Stores will hand out entry cards to those shoppers who purchase in the store, collect completed cards from shoppers, and pass them along to a Willits Chamber representative, or direct shoppers to the Willits Center for the Arts or the Chamber of Commerce to drop off their cards.

Willits Weekly will provide special advertising rates for this program for members of the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Contact Maureen Jennison at 707-972-7047 or the Willits Chamber office at 459-7910.

"The Willits Chamber of Commerce is not charging fees to participate in the Small Business Saturday program," wrote Moorhead. "It is our belief that more, the businesses in our town, have had struggles through the COVID-19 ordeal, and this is our way to help you through the heavy shopping season, and perhaps soften the effects."

Some of the available discounts include: a 15 percent discount statewide at Monkey Wrench, a draw-your-own discount at Off the Cuff, and negotiable bargains at Mazahar. Other participating merchants include Willits Power, Moon Lady, Kemmy's Pies, Cat's Meow, Buster's Burgers and Brew, Brickhouse Coffee, Buttercups, Flying Dog, Wood Fired Pizza and Vinyl, Imagination Station, El Mexicano, Loose Caboose, J.D. Redhouse, Unique Boutique, Scoops, Les Schwab Tire, Tango, and The Book Juggler.

Moorhead would also like it to be known that the chamber's "Mask Up Mendo" project is still going strong. The program provides free masks, hand sanitizer, and education in cooperation with all the chambers in Mendocino County and assisted by generous contributions from the Economic Development & Financing Corporation, which provided the masks and hand sanitizer. The project has fomented a new spirit of cooperation between the Willits Chamber, the Ukiah Business and Tourism Alliance, and the Mendocino Coast Chambers, which Moorhead believes will continue long after the promotion has ended.

## The rest of **Wellness**

*From Page 4*

beliefs, your philosophy, and your lifestyle.

Maybe you have a dog to take a walk with. Maybe you just want to walk and observe yourself breathing deeply and feeling rejuvenated.

Maybe you simply walk and observe your posture: Are your shoulders relaxed, is your neck loose, are you freely moving your head around and observing your environment

Do you enjoy observing the horizons and the vastness of the ever-changing skies above?

These walks can be a part of your winter wellness plan, moments of self-care, time out and tuning in, moments of reflection and communing with nature.

Moments with family, outside, just being in nature, chasing and catching falling leaves.

A walk is an opportunity to ground into the very moment, connect with the planet that carries us all, and to feel the connection, right there under your feet.

Next time I will write about herbal preparations that can support your winter wellness.

Please stop by the upcoming "Holiday Herbal Market" in Willits, December 6, 11 to 3 pm, at the old Rexall parking lot, 90 South Main Street.

*Claudia Wenning can be found at the Little Lake Grange in Willits, where she and Michelle Champion (Cummins) are at your service with Complimentary Healthcare, Natural and Functional Medicine, Naturopathy, Acupuncture, Acupressure, Flower Essences, Herbal Remedies and Supplements, Body treatments and much more. To learn more about in person or video appointments, visit [www.claudlawenning.com](http://www.claudlawenning.com) or call 707-371-6103.*

## The rest of **Thanksgiving**

*From Page 1*

Even though diners won't be able to join one another in the dining room at the senior center, the free dinner will still take place on Thursday, November 26, Thanksgiving Day from 11 am to 3 pm.

Anyone wanting a meal is welcome to drive in to the center and pick up a plate of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, salad and dessert – for free.

Helping raise the needed funds for this event is no small task, and this year, monies that were raised from Tom Allman's Turkey Fundraiser (see story on page 3 of this paper), along with additional donations from Thy Sumvand and other generous community members helped ensure 36 turkeys and all the trimmings will be available for this dinner.

As usual, the crewmembers at Parlin Fork Conservation Camp will assist by cooking the turkey, stuffing, potatoes and more and, while they also usually serve the meal back at the senior center, this year, the COVID restrictions prevent them from leaving the campus.

Officers noted the strict COVID guidelines

## The rest of **Election**

*From Page 1*

The November 13 update shows the results of 36,586 ballots processed so far, or 69.19 percent of the total 53,651 registered voters in the county. Bartolomie estimates when every vote is reported turnout for this election will be somewhere between 76 and 78 percent, not quite as high as the 80.01 percent turnout in the 2008 presidential election.

In local races, the interim update hasn't changed results much from the final election night report. Measure I, the Willits Unified School District bond measure, with a total of 5,660 votes reported, is still passing, with 59.73 percent "yes" to 40.27 percent "no." Final election night results, with 3,595 votes reported, showed 59.97 percent voted "yes" and 40.03 percent voted "no." Measure I requires 55 percent of the vote plus 1 vote to pass. If passed, the measure will add an additional tax levy of \$40 per \$100,000 in assessed value on district property owners for repair and improvement of school district facilities.

As of Friday's update, the "yes" votes for Measure K, the three-quarter cent sales tax designed to fund essential services in the City of Willits, are maintaining a strong lead at 66.59 percent (1,180 votes), with "no" at 33.33 percent (587 votes). Measure K requires only a simple majority to pass.

In the race for two seats on the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees, as of Friday's update, challenger and former teacher Dianne McNeal is in first place, with 2,324 votes (28.50 percent), and incumbent trustee Alex Bowlds is in second place, with 2,163 votes (26.52 percent).

Of the other two candidates, Tracey Douglas has received 1,915 votes (23.48 percent), and Bryan Mann has received 1,753 votes (21.50 percent).

All three incumbents running for reelection on the Willits City Council were reelected, with Friday's update reporting that Gerardo Gonzalez got 1,162 votes (35.85 percent), Saprina Rodriguez received 1,054 votes (32.52 percent), and Madge Strong got 1,025 votes (31.62 percent).

Voter Registrar Bartolomie says state law gives her office 28 days to certify any election – that deadline would be December 1 this year. At present, she's hoping the voter office will be "done and certified by Thanksgiving," announcing final official results by the end of this week or the beginning of next week.

In general, the election went well this year, Bartolomie said. Overall, she thought having the official ballot drop-off boxes at Willits City Hall and elsewhere around the county was "great." Voters returned a couple thousand ballots to the Willits drop box, and in Fort Bragg, more than 4,000 ballots were dropped off.

One difference to note in this election, she said, was that her crew had counted "over 25,000 ballots by Election Night – that's double the amount that we usually do." Why? Because people sent in their mail-in ballots early, she said.

To see the full November 13 elections results update, visit <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/current-election-results>.

for the inmates and crew at the camp explaining they felt lucky to have not had any cases at the Highway 20 property yet, and hoped to limit contact as much as possible to help them remain COVID-free.

Thankfully, the two officers, B. Vielbig and R. Smith, who came to pick up the food that the inmates will cook were willing to uphold the turkey toss tradition, something we've been photographing to promote the Thanksgiving dinner for over a decade.

Willits Police Officer K. Kersmarki also got in on some photo fun as he delivered the 10 hams donated to the food bank from the Willits Police Officers Association and the Little Lake Firefighters Association.

Willits Food Bank and Community Services Executive Director Ruthanne Volz expressed her thanks to the generous community for helping make this event happen and also explained that if any home-bound seniors aged 60 and over would like a meal, they are also welcome to contact the Senior Center at 459-6828 – before Wednesday – to schedule a Meals on Wheels delivery.

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## Happy Cherry

Cherry is a people pleaser – she adores humans! All humans, whether familiar or strangers – makes no difference to this sweet girl! Cherry is a happy dog, playful with people, though not so much with toys. Cherry will want to be a part of the family and spend as much time as possible with her new guardians. This sweet-as-a-bowl-of-cherries girl is 5 years young and 58 adorable pounds.

To see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, events, and updates about COVID-19 and the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: [www.mendocinoshelter.com](http://www.mendocinoshelter.com). For information about adoptions please call 707-467-6453.



## Sir Humps-a-lot

Meet the small but mighty Sir Humps-a-lot. This little compact guy was found as a stray wandering around State Street. His finder brought him to us in hope we would have better luck. Sadly no one has come forward to claim our little friend. Do you know where he belongs? If no owners are found we will be getting him neutered and start the search for a new place to call home.

Sir Humps-a-lot is full of character, 5 to 7 years old, a small mixed-breed who weighs 11 pounds. He is eager to make friends, dog-social, and was not fazed by the cat in his previous foster home. He is a silly, loving, and joyful guy. Sir Humps-a-lot will be up for adoption next week; you may submit an application now at [www.mendohumansociety.com](http://www.mendohumansociety.com). He won't be available long!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to

## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email [catteam@hsmc.org](mailto:catteam@hsmc.org) and, for dogs, you may email [dogteam@hsmc.org](mailto:dogteam@hsmc.org). Visit

"Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit [www.mendohumansociety.com](http://www.mendohumansociety.com) to learn more.



## Handsome Faunzy

Meet this handsome cat Faunzy. Faunzy is a 1-year-old tabby male who weighs about 7 pounds. He came to us in November of last year as a stray, when he was only a month old. He has lived pretty much his whole life with us. We

would love to get him a home so he can experience the good life.

Faunzy is neutered and up-to-date on his vaccines. If you're interested in adopting Faunzy, you may fill an application out on our website at [www.mendohumansociety.com](http://www.mendohumansociety.com).

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email [catteam@hsmc.org](mailto:catteam@hsmc.org) and, for dogs, you may email [dogteam@hsmc.org](mailto:dogteam@hsmc.org). Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit [www.mendohumansociety.com](http://www.mendohumansociety.com) to learn more.

## OBITUARY |

### Bobby Anderson

Robert "Bobby" William Anderson, born and raised in Willits, passed away November 7, 2020 at the age of 61. Bobby was born to Leonard William Anderson and Edna Irene (Spence) Anderson on June 7, 1959. Bobby was



always proud to be working. In his youth he did yard work, later collecting cans and bottles from all around town, then 15 years at the Noyo Theatre, and at the time of his passing he was working at the car wash.

Everyone knew their day was going to be better when Bobby arrived to brighten it. He enjoyed being a member of the Lions Club. He created a variety of arts and crafts, and shared them to the delight of the recipients.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Edna Anderson and his baby brother, Thomas Anderson. He is survived by sisters: Joyce (John Saulter) Huffman, Donna Alcorn, Linda (Donald) Grey; and brother, Norman (Barbara) Anderson, all of Willits; nieces: Angela, Audra, Amy, Bonnie, Heather and Maria; nephews: Jason, Norman, Oren, Will and Levi; many great-nieces and great-nephews; his very close friends, Dan and Tanna and Dennis and Randa Craighead, Kathy, and Jeff.

Graveside services were held at the Willits Cemetery on Tuesday, November 17. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

### Carol Lynn Farley

June 4, 1936 - October 16, 2020

Hamilton, MT - Carol Lynn Farley passed away at home in Hamilton on October 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM with her family by her side. Carol was born in Fort Bragg, California on June 4, 1936. Her mother was Claire Dilling and her step-father was Clifford Johnson.

She grew up in Caspar, California and later in Willits, California. Growing up she loved horses and, in those days, could ride her horse all day across the Willits valley. She married Bob Graves in 1951 and had 4 children, Stephanie, Tracy, Mark and Christy. She was active in the Willits Horsemen and Soroptimists and was a surrogate Mom to many children in the valley. Later they moved to Portland and then to Bend, Oregon.

After Bend, the family moved to Vader, Washington where they had a large property with several horses and many dogs. She always loved dogs. Over the years she had many jobs including insurance agent, flagger and bookkeeper.

After her husband passed away, she married Peter A. Farley and lived in Redondo, Washington where they owned and managed a pizza parlor. They spent many summers at a cabin in Hamilton, Montana on the Bitterroot River next to the Farley family Trout Farm. Over the years, she entertained many friends and family at the cabin for meals, good wine, and tall tales. In 2017, she moved to Hamilton with her husband.

Carol was preceded in death by her daughter Christy and her brother, Jim Johnson, of Healdsburg, California.

She is survived by her husband, her three children, as well as 4 grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Carol enjoyed looking at the mountains from her deck and the river from her porch at the cabin. She liked birds, all animals but most especially dogs. She was a wonderful and skilled lady who took good care of all who knew her. She will be greatly missed.

Condolences may be left for the family at [www.dalyleach-chapel.com](http://www.dalyleach-chapel.com)

## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

### Agape Bible Church

290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
*Where love is first and the Bible is central.*  
Sunday Services:  
9:15 a.m. - Bible Class, adult & children  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
[www.agapebiblechurch.com](http://www.agapebiblechurch.com)

### Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-5456  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Burton Jernigan  
*EVERYBODY IS WELCOME*

### 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

- Sound of Soul events
- Membership Discourses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?  
Call 707-456-9934  
[www.eckankar.org](http://www.eckankar.org)

### Grace Community Church

*Celebrating Life In Christ*  
25 Hazel Street, Willits  
Modified Worship Service  
10 a.m.  
Other ministries suspended for now.  
For appointments call:  
(707) 459-3106

### St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
*Father Aaron Bandanadam*  
Mass times:  
Confessions by appointment:  
459-2252  
Sunday Mass outside:  
8:00 a.m. English  
9:00 a.m. Spanish  
*We welcome All Walks of Faith*

### St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-272-0177  
Church Services/Communion  
by Zoom at noon.  
Call for information.  
*ALL ARE WELCOME*  
*The Rev. Betsy Bruneau*

### St. John Lutheran Church

*Karl Bliese, Pastor*  
Church Service:  
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00  
Bible Study/Sunday School  
following the service.  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
*ALL ARE WELCOME*

### Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
707-459-5714  
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
*4th Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school.*  
22751 Bray Road, Willits

### Willits United Methodist

*A Christ centered, progressive church*  
*ALL ARE WELCOME*  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
Worship Celebration  
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.  
459-2855  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

If you want to be included in this column please call:

**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
[april@willitsweekly.com](mailto:april@willitsweekly.com)

## WILLITS TOY RUN

THE WILLITS WILD BUNCH PRESENTS THE 28TH ANNUAL

MUSIC BY DJ MIKEY T

OUTSIDE SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS

FOOD AVAILABLE AT THE TACO TRUCK

**& ELVES LIVES MATTER PROTEST**

BIKERS-MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIASTS-NON-RIDERS ALL ARE WELCOME

THE COMMUNITY EVENT OF NOVEMBER DON'T MISS IT!

WHERE: Meet at Evergreen Shopping Center  
1700 Blk. S. Main Street  
Willits, CA 95490

TIME: Pack leaves at Noon with a ride through the Beautiful Little Lake Valley escorted by Little Lake Fire Engines to our Toy Drop Off destination at NAPA/Little Lake Auto Parts

## SUNDAY NOV 29 2020



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