

## 2020 census effort gearing up

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

The U.S. Bureau of the Census is gearing up to get out the count in the upcoming 2020 census. According to information found online, an introductory mail blitz to people living in homes with mail service will hit the mails on March 12, 2020, and postcards advertising census jobs have already been mailed in Mendocino County.

The 2020 census will be different from past censuses because it will be the first time that U.S. residents will have an opportunity to respond to census questions online. People will also be able to respond to census questions by phone or by cell phone or they can fill out a paper form. People will also be able to respond to census questions in person at the regional census office. The North Coast's regional office is in Rohnert Park.

However, people who get their mail at a post office box are still posing problems for the census. According to information found on Mendocino Counts!, the

Read the rest of  
**Census**  
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## Library report praises Measure A

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

A new 12-page report prepared by the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency focuses on the changes to the library system wrought by the 2011 passage of Measure A, the one-eighth of 1 percent sales tax passed by county voters in 2011.

The 1st Annual Mendocino County Library Report offers some background on the passage of Measure A, noting that libraries began to be built in this county in the early 1900s, in Ukiah and in Willits, and were incorporated into a county-owned and operated library system in the 1960s.

"Over the years there have been periods requiring budgetary restrictions, and this happened again during the recession in the [first decade of this century], wrote Cultural Services Agency Director Karen Horner. "The funding crisis was so extreme that by 2010 the library director considered closing branches and eliminating the Bookmobile altogether."

Horner noted that the Library Advisory Board,

Read the rest of  
**Measure A**  
Over on Page 6



Above, from left: Victor "Tata" Cabrera talks trees with a potential customer at Scoops. "Tata" carries the trees to the cars. Scoops gals Brie Evans, left, McKenna Buckingham, and Samantha Haydon, front, hang with Frosty in the tree lot. Below: The Scoops group, from left: Owner Lisa Davis, Samantha Haydon, Victor "Tata" Cabrera, Brie Evans and McKenna Buckingham.



## Tannenbaum Time

Scoops offers fresh foliage for winter decoration and merriment



Above: Victor "Tata" Cabrera, left, and daughter Lisa Davis, owner of Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli, smile together in front of the store. At right: McKenna Buckingham peeks through one of the \$25 wreaths for sale as a fundraiser for the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County.

The scents drifting from Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli are even more captivating this time of year; not only is the essence of espresso wafting on the wind and the baking of waffle cones blowing in the breeze, but now, the amazing aroma of fragrant conifers and bouquets of bay also floats through the air from the Christmas trees and wreaths at their outside tree stand.

The 125 trees were selected and cut on Thanksgiving Day from Alex Dixon's Salem, Oregon family farm and brought to Scoops by owner Lisa Davis' husband, John Kvasnicka. Kvasnicka and Dixon worked in construction on the coast together and when offered the chance for the ice cream business to offer trees, the pair agreed to make it happen.

"We are happy to carry on the tradition of Oregon trees over here," laughed Davis. "We heard that the trees that used to be sold in the Vassar's Pizza parking lot used to be from Oregon, too. We started selling them our second

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



## Toy Run

Annual motorcycle parade through town and party at the Grange collects toys and funds for the Willits Kids Christmas Program



Above: The Little Lake Fire Department and bikers ride down Main Street on the Toy Run.

Mathew Caine  
Features Writer  
mathew@willitsweekly.com

The intrepid motorcycle enthusiasts once again braved the "liquid sunshine" on Saturday to help bring joy and Christmas spirit to the less fortunate children of Willits through the Willits Kids Christmas Program. With the roaring, throaty sounds of mostly Harleys and the shrill sirens of the Little Lake Fire Department engines, the procession of biker friends from several clubs wended through town.

Starting at the Evergreen Shopping Center, the bikers

Read the rest of  
**Toy Run**  
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## School board OKs 2020 bond measure

Joanne Moore  
Reporter  
joanne@willitsweekly.com

It's official. At a special meeting on December 2, the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees voted to put a \$17 million bond measure on the March 2020 ballot.

The vote was 4 to 1; trustee Paula Nunez voted no.

The tax rate approved by the board is \$40 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

The measure is carefully crafted to protect the residential and commercial property owners in the district who will be paying for it against any rise above that \$40 per \$100,000 amount.

The protection derives from the process; instead of selling all \$17 million worth at once, a smaller amount, projected to be \$4.3 million, would be sold at two- to three-year intervals over the course of nine years.

This rate assumes 3 percent growth; if growth is less than that – the economy tanks ... property

Read the rest of  
**Bond**  
Over on page 6

## Climate committee holds first meeting

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

At the first meeting of the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee, which took place on Thursday, November 21, the committee selected former City of Fort Bragg Community Development Director Marie Jones as its chair and determined that it would have its next meeting in Ukiah at noon on January 10.

Committee members spent about half of the two hours allotted for the meeting introducing themselves and discussing their vision for the work of the committee, and about half of the allotted time attempting to understand the group's method of procedure.

Acting County Counsel Christian Curtis was present at the meeting, and informed the committee that it would be subject to the Brown Act open meetings law. Curtis also stated it was probable that the focus groups, which are the more or less informal subcommittees by which most committee members

Read the rest of  
**Climate**  
Over on Page 6



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Ambulance service tragedy

To the Editor:

Our family has suffered a tragic loss. Joan Davis aka "Lil Mama" passed at approximately 2:30 am on December 2, 2019. While we love our community, we believe this may have been prevented if she was able to get transportation to appropriate and timely specialized care. We would like to tell you a little bit about our family and what happened. We were so pleased with the staff at Howard Memorial hospital and would like to thank them for the loving care they provided to our Lil Mama, after she suffered a major heart attack.

The Hosford family originally moved to this beautiful hometown of Willits, California in 1991. We have loved living in our wonderful little community all these years. Myself (Paul) and my beautiful wife Diana have raised two wonderful boys – Tim, who enlisted in the Air Force and served for 14 years, and Andrew who went on to get his Ph.D. at Texas Tech.

Both our sons have come back to this community to work at Sparetime Supply, Andrew and wife Laurin are raising their boys here in Willits, and Tim represents Sparetime at its new location in southern Oregon. Joan came to live with us in Willits in December of 2016, and brought with her beloved dog Mandy, and cat Wendy. She was very independent and spent her days caring for her animals, reading and spending time with family.

At around 2:15 in the afternoon, Joan was sitting in our living room, and started to feel off. She complained of nausea and dizziness. Soon after, she passed out for a short period of time, then woke up complaining of severe chest pains. Our initial thought was to call 9-1-1, but we realized it would be significantly faster to drive her ourselves, as we live about a two-minute drive away from Howard Memorial Hospital.

Upon arrival at Howard, the staff stepped into overdrive and immediately took care of her. By the time she got to her bed, she was suffering from extremely low blood pressure, shortness of breath, and severe chest pain. They initially thought it was probably a heart attack, but proceeded to run tests to determine the exact nature of what was going on. While the tests were taking place, the staff of Howard Memorial proceeded to provide expert medical care, and stabilize her blood pressure and breathing. This was all to prepare her for transport to Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital's Cardiac Cath Lab.

This is where tragedy struck and left our family heartbroken. While we understand that it was never guaranteed she would survive at age 87 from a massive heart attack, we, like all of the families in our little community want our family members to have the best chance of survival after any major medical condition that our local hospital does not have the ability to treat.

At around 5:30 pm, with Joan still in stable condition, Howard Hospital got approval from Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital for the transfer. The next 5+ hours were torture for our family. Plan A was to get her on the REACH Air Ambulance as fast as possible (our family has had to use this service multiple times, and are continually thankful for its availability), but at some point, we were informed that the REACH Air Ambulance was not able to fly in the current stormy weather.

So, Howard was forced to resort to Plan B, and the staff let us know that they would have an ambulance to transfer her as soon as possible. We did not know what the timeframe

for this was, but waited anxiously. We were informed that there was an ambulance that became available for the transfer, we just had to wait for it to arrive. After about a half hour, we learned our ambulance was re-routed to a priority 9-1-1 call.

This meant we had to move to Plan C. Although they couldn't fly, the REACH Air Ambulance staff were committed to providing transport care via ambulance for her, which we were ecstatic about. Now we had to find another ambulance. Our amazing nurses at Howard Memorial explained that they were calling all locations they knew who would potentially be able to provide an ambulance: Fort Bragg's Coast Hospital Ambulance, I believe there was another call to a Sacramento company, as well as to Ukiah Valley.

We even tried to use our own resources, by calling our family member CHP officer, to see if he could do anything. We sat there waiting, watching our sweet Lil Mama gasping for air, for multiple hours. Hoping and praying that an ambulance would appear.

When the ambulance and the REACH critical care crew finally arrived somewhere around 10 pm (7 and a half hours after her heart attack), Joan's blood pressure had dropped again. The staff at Howard Memorial, and the crew from the REACH unit tried to get her stabilized for transport.

Eventually at around 11 pm, the decision was made that they could not wait to transport her any longer, and that she would be moved in the fragile condition she was in.

My wife and I left to meet the ambulance in Santa Rosa prior to their departure. Unbeknownst to us, in between Willits and Ukiah, Joan went into cardiac arrest. They diverted to Adventist Health Ukiah Valley, where they continued lifesaving measures and re-established a pulse. As soon as possible, they continued towards Sutter SR.

Unfortunately, shortly after her arrival, for the second time that night, she went into cardiac arrest. We were led to her ICU room where we witnessed the lifesaving efforts they were performing. This image will never ever leave us. At this point, we asked them to discontinue resuscitation efforts, and now we are mourning the loss of our Lil Mama. We cannot help but think, if the weather had been fine, and she was able to take that flight, and get to Santa Rosa, and have her surgery she would still be here. Or if there had been more than only one ambulance available in our city, she would have been transferred in a timely manner to make it to surgery.

It has become apparent that our community is unknowingly suffering from a major ambulance shortage issue. And in our Lil Mama's legacy, we are determined to share our story, and we will not sit silently until our community has the resources it needs to seek medical care in a timely manner.

We want to reiterate, our Lil Mama received amazing care by the Howard Memorial doctors and nurses, and we are whole heartedly thankful for the REACH Air Ambulance staff as well. But we all had to sit and wait due to a logistical issue, an ambulance shortage. Why is there an ambulance shortage? How does Willits deal with more than one emergency at a time? What if your 4-year-old had some sort of major accident, and was not able to get the care he needed because there was no ambulance available to transfer? Four years old or 87 years old, it doesn't matter. Willits is in dire need of fixing this issue, especially heading into the winter, when the air ambulance may not be able to fly.

Our family decided to write this letter to the editor to tell our story and plead with our community to join us in our outrage at this sequence of events. We do not want to see any other family suffer due to this major issue in our county. It is unacceptable that there is a lack of ambulance services in our city; it should not be interrupted for a single day, hour, minute, or second. No one can know when that single second could cost a life.

The Hosford family implores you to join us and reach out to the following elected officials and county employees to remedy this matter as soon as possible:

- Third District Supervisor John Haschak
- Mendocino/Sonoma County EMS Coordinator Jen Banks
- Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman
- Little Lake Fire Chief Chris Wilkes

Paul Hosford, Willits

## ‘A Hot Winter’s Night’

### A holiday gift to the Willits community

You are cordially invited to attend Willits High School's 16th annual "Hot Winter's Night" extravaganza on Thursday, December 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Willits High School. Please join us in the Alan Garcia Auditorium for an evening of art, music, dance, poetry, and drama with friends, family and community!

The leadership class is hosting a delicious soup dinner fundraiser from 5 to 6 pm in the Wolverine Café. You will also enjoy free, scrumptious sweet treats during intermissions well as a silent auction.

The event is planned and produced by our very own WHS visual and performing artists, under the guidance of Carolyn Bakewell in Visual Arts, Meghan Doorty in Music, Jill Walton in Poetry, and Jessie Rees in Culinary Craft.

Join us for a small town celebration of our youth, their creativity, imagination and joyful spirits! This event is free for all!

For further information contact Meghan Doorty at WHS at 459-7700, extension 1536, or megandoorty@willitsunified.com, or Carolyn Bakewell at WHS at 459-7700, extension 1533 or carolynbakewell@willitsunified.com.

– Submitted by Carolyn Bakewell, WHS

### Third District Supervisor's Report

## November 2019

By Supervisor John Haschak

With these late first rains, hopefully the fire season is finally over.

Though we avoided cataclysmic fires this season, PG&E's public safety power shutoff certainly caused its share of pain: Medical conditions were exacerbated by the 120 hours of no electricity, people on fixed incomes lost all the perishable food they had in their freezers and refrigerators, and there was a devastating fire that couldn't be put out due to lack of hose water.

There was a public meeting at the Willits Grange on Friday, November 29 to discuss these issues as well as envisioning alternatives to the current power grid, local energy independence, and turning bankrupt PG&E into a public utility. After what we just went through with the PSPS, all ideas are on the table.

Measure B, which was passed by the voters in 2017 to develop mental health facilities and services in Mendocino County, took another step forward as the board of supervisors approved the contract for the feasibility study, design, architectural plans, and so forth except the actual construction. There was a process problem in that the proposal hadn't been approved by the Measure B Citizens Oversight Committee, so the BOS approved the contract contingent upon their approval.

Measure V, which was passed by voters in 2016 to address the nuisance and fire hazard of standing dead trees, also advanced. Mendocino Redwood Company had sent a letter to the county stating that they were exempt from the Measure V nuisance ordinance. At the board's direction, the County Counsel's Office sent a letter to MRC informing them of the county's reasoning for why they aren't exempt. I have placed on the board agenda for our Monday, December 16 meeting a discussion of the county's enforcement mechanism.

As your Third District supervisor, I would like to see positive economic development happen rather than a drawn-out legal battle with MRC over this contentious issue. Many people have innovative ideas for how to use these native hardwoods constructively. My hope is that jobs can be created and MRC's forest practice of wasting this valuable resource can be ended.

Wishing you all the best in this holiday season.



Above, from left: Elizabeth Mello looks for something to put into her "Shop Small" bag at J.D. Redhouse. Cat's Meow welcomes the Saturday shoppers. Even the Grinch gets into the spirit of Shop Small Saturday at the Imagination Station Toy Depot. At right: Kiera Dragness and Katleyn Germann were determined to have their Small Business Saturday passports stamped fully. At right, below, left: Barbara Sullivan and Diemut Bodenstein plan out their morning shopping. At right, below, right: Three vegetable quiches await Small Business Saturday shoppers. Below: Willits Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ron Moorhead and board of directors President Lisa Davis show off their Shop Small gear.



Photos by Mathew Caine



## Local Gifts

### Shop Small Saturday customers are treated to breakfast, lunch, raffle prizes and good deals

For every dollar spent at a small local business, 67 cents will remain in the local economy. Shopping at local retailers or service providers is one of the most

efficient means of helping to boost a town's economy.

In 2011, the Small Business Saturday Coalition was formed by business associations, nonprofit trade groups, municipalities, and others, to promote awareness and provide materials to further aid in the promotion of local Small Business Saturdays.

Now, American Express and nearly 100 other corporations sponsor this movement across the country with over 7,500 "neighborhood champions" who produce the event in their own communities. Since Small Business Saturday began in 2010, nearly \$103 billion (per sponsor American Express) has been generated for the local businesses across the country. The event, also known as Shop Small Saturday, is now in its 10th year.

This year, the Willits Chamber of Commerce, headed by Executive Director

Ron Moorhead and board of directors President Lisa Davis, kicked off the Shop Small Saturday event with a continental breakfast at the Willits Center for the Arts, amidst the new photography exhibit upstairs.

In addition to the promotional materials provided by American Express, shoppers could start the morning with some fresh-brewed coffee, sweet rolls from Rollin' Dough, and quiche (vegetarian with mushroom, spinach, sweet peppers and zucchini) from Scoops Deli. Post-Thanksgiving turkey and cream of broccoli soups were brought out around noon for those coming back from their shopping forays.

Shoppers were encouraged to pick up pins, signs, flyers, and the all-important passport which they were to get stamped at each participating store at which they made a purchase. When the passports were filled, they would be entered to win prizes in a raffle.

Although the rain put a damper on much

Read the rest of Local Over on Page 11

The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to 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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willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633

Maureen Moore, art director and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047

Mike A'Dair, reporter / mike@willitsweekly.com

Mathew Caine, photographer / calendar editor / features writer / mathew@willitsweekly.com

Forrest Glycer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com

Joanne Moore, reporter / features writer / joanne@willitsweekly.com

Ree Slocum, features writer / ree@willitsweekly.com

Jenny Senter, features writer / jenny@willitsweekly.com

Holly Madrigal, reporter / features writer / holly@willitsweekly.com

Danya Davis, features writer / police log / danya@willitsweekly.com

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com

Jenn Drew, ad sales / 707-354-1670 / advertising@willitsweekly.com

Jackie Cobbs, features copy editor

Justin Stephens, webmaster

Ad Inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Holiday Craft Fair

Don't Miss Our 2019 Holiday Craft Fair!

Saturday December 7<sup>TH</sup> 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 3 |   | 8 | 1 | 5 |   | 4 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 2 |   | 3 | 1 |   |
|   |   |   | 3 |   | 6 | 5 |   |   |
|   |   | 7 | 2 | 6 |   | 4 | 8 |   |
|   | 5 |   | 1 | 9 | 8 |   |   | 2 |
|   | 8 |   |   | 5 | 7 |   |   |   |
| 3 |   |   |   | 4 |   |   | 6 |   |
| 9 |   |   | 5 |   | 1 | 2 |   | 7 |
|   |   | 8 | 6 |   |   | 5 | 4 |   |



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!

DECEMBER HOLIDAYS WORD SEARCH

Y P J B D E S P D A L M I R N A L C F L E B F U O  
F I N O S I T A R T B E O L L E I N C U K A G I M M H A N  
R E S O Y L N A G F U O N S I O K Z H I G N M D C E  
E L G R M F H U C T A R A M A S D M S O O A C K  
P T H O D K I Z V A U U D I T V N E A E A  
M E L K G I A V R O B T E I K S I O S H E L  
T G H L A W C I M L F L C I L S I Z P B O  
S G Z M K A N C U V V M N A D H D C L E T H U T Y  
F A I O E A K L K P V S A G L H V C L Z T I  
A I I U Y R Y K K M D S U M I E L G R M  
T I L S J V A M T B I S U L K R U D E A A  
H E R F I S M Y B E R V A H U F E D O L T Y  
U L V V I L M A Y B E R V A H U F E D O L T Y  
L R E L I G I O N E A C Y J Y R B V L S

AFRICA FAITHFUL KWANZAA REDEDICATION  
BIRTH GELT LATKES RELIGION  
BLESSING HALLEL LIGHTS RESOLUTION  
CANDLES HANUKKIYAH MACCABEE SHAMASH  
CELEBRATION HARAMBEE MENORAH SUFGANIYOT  
CORN IMANI MIRACLE  
DREIDEL KISLEV NIA UJIMA  
EIGHT KUJICHAGULIA OIL UMOJA  
EVE KUUMBA PARTY YULE

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| 15 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 16 |    | 17 |    |
|    | 18 |    |    |    | 19 |    |    | 20 |    | 21 |    |
|    |    |    |    |    | 22 | 23 |    | 24 |    |    |    |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 30 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 31 |    |    |    |    |
| 32 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 37 |
|    |    |    |    |    | 38 | 39 | 40 |    | 41 | 42 |    |
|    |    |    |    |    | 43 |    |    | 44 |    |    |    |
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| 48 |    |    |    |    | 49 |    |    | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 |
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| 59 |    |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |
| 62 |    |    |    |    | 63 |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |

CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull-god  
5. America  
8. Type of field (abbr.)  
11. Reagan's Deputy AG  
13. Negative  
14. Mother of Hermes  
15. Summer and Winter Olympics gold medal winner  
16. In shape  
17. Oh my goodness!  
18. People of Guinea or Sierra Leone  
20. A form of 'to be'  
21. Succulent plant  
22. Estranges  
25. Honest  
30. Showing conviction  
31. High schoolers' test  
32. Implant  
33. Acknowledgment  
38. Cash dispenser  
41. Transferred to another  
43. Superhero group  
45. Photographers  
48. Small, rich sponge cake  
49. Power to perceive

50. Heavy cavalry sword  
55. Israel's first permanent UN delegate  
56. Everything  
57. Afflicted  
59. Language spoken in Chad  
60. Pioneering MC Kool Moe \_  
61. Jewish spiritual leader  
62. Keyboard key  
63. Soviet Socialist Republic  
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of degree  
2. Expression of sorrow or pity  
3. Large, predatory lizard  
4. River in Romania  
5. Biased  
6. Parties  
7. TV's used to need one  
8. Philly football player  
9. Recognized ethnic group of China  
10. Gradually disappear  
12. Large, dark antelope  
14. Vegetarians won't eat it  
19. Takes the energy out of

23. Body part  
24. Succeed in achieving  
25. Where golfers begin  
26. Computer memory  
27. One who buys and sells securities  
28. Midway between north and northeast  
29. Quiet and rather dull  
34. A limb on which to walk  
35. It precedes two  
36. Of she  
37. Commercials  
39. Necessary for sewing  
40. Infectious viral disease  
41. Expression of good wishes  
42. Some are contact  
44. More plentiful  
45. Secret political clique  
46. Behind the stern of a ship  
47. Supernatural force  
48. Altar in Orthodox churches  
51. Swiss river  
52. Impartiality  
53. 'Luther' actor Idris  
54. They resist authority (slang)  
58. Criticize

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE LOG

November 17 to December 1

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 370 incidents in this 14-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

November 18

2:11 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.  
6:58 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.  
11:40 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.  
4:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Alice Drive.  
8:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 200 block of School Street.

November 19

8:41 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.  
12:18 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.  
1:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.  
1:55 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.  
7:18 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Holly Street.  
8:53 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

November 20

8:17 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.  
9:02 am: COLLINS, Xavier Lafurest (31) of Sacramento was contacted in the 100 block of Northbrook Way. He was arrested pursuant to 11550 (A) H&S (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance).  
11:56 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 200 block of South Main Street.  
1:27 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.  
1:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 200 block of North Main Street.  
4:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 300 block of South Main Street.  
9:59 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

November 21

1:43 am: Officers responded to a report of a prowler and a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of Pine Street.  
4:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of South Lenore Avenue.  
6:24 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of South Main Street.  
8:08 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.  
11:41 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Main Street.

November 22

8:49 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.  
12:10 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Robert Drive.  
6:21 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of West Van Lane.  
6:45 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

7:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:5 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 500 block of Railroad Avenue.

10:18 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 400 block of South Main Street.

10:31 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Main Street.

11:56 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of California Street and Penn Street.

November 23

1:20 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.  
11:05 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.  
11:59 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Shell Lane and Baechtel Road.  
3:06 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.  
4:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Madrone Street.  
7:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1600 block of South Main Street.  
10:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

November 24

9:01 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.  
2:04 pm: MELOY, Marcus Anthony (29) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of Elm Lane following a report of an assault. He was arrested pursuant to 242 PC (Assault and Battery), on felony charges of elder or dependent adult abuse resulting in great bodily harm or death, and on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance.  
3:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Magnolia Avenue.

November 25

8:59 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 200 block of Shell Lane and issued a warning.  
10:27 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.  
11:07 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.  
2:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of West Valley Street.  
4:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of Northbrook Way.  
5:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

6:25 pm: SQUIRES, Corey (30) of Ukiah was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street following a report of a prowler. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (H) PC (Loitering), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (loitering on private property).

8:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

11:01 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

11:26 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Main Street.

11:27 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Pine Street.

November 26

10:53 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

Read the rest of WPD Over on Page 13



Above, left: A local chef peels apples for the 2018 Good Farm Fund Winter Feast. Above, right: A table at last year's Winter Feast is topped with appetizers and decorations. Below: Bridget Harrington from Patrona and Caroline Radice from Black Dog Farm Catering smile while looking over the meal that they helped prepare for last year's Good Farm Fund Winter Feast.



Good Farm Fund celebrates local food at 6th Annual Winter Feast

Submitted by the Good Farm Fund

The Good Farm Fund is proud to bring the 6th Annual Winter Feast to Barra of Mendocino, 7051 North State Street, in Ukiah, on Tuesday, December 10 from 5 to 9 pm. This always-popular event is one of the highlights of the local holiday season and includes a family-style, farm-to-table dinner developed by a team of top local chefs.

This year's dinner will be prepared by: Olan Cox from Mendough's Catering; Bridget Harrington from Patrona; Nicholas Petti from the Mendocino College Culinary Program; and Caroline Radice from Black Dog Farm Catering.

The dinner will feature locally produced cheeses and locally raised meats, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms and grains. Local beers and wines will also be available for purchase. A silent auction perfect for holiday shopping, live music from Jason Wright, and of course, great company will help make this a memorable event.

According to Chef Nicholas Petti, Culinary Arts Management instructor at Mendocino College and Good Farm Fund board member: "Last year's event was genuinely heartwarming and truly one-of-a-kind. It's rewarding to be involved in

an event that celebrates delicious, locally grown food and invests in the future of the farmers behind the beautiful food highlighted that night."

This year's one-of-a-kind feast will focus on the theme of reducing food waste. By incorporating "seconds" from local farms, foods that maybe aren't pretty enough for grocery store shelves, this year's chefs will wow diners with a creative, top-quality dining experience.

The Good Farm Fund will also announce their 2019 grant recipients during the evening. With over \$50,000 in funds being distributed, there will be a lot to celebrate.

This is the fifth year the Good Farm Fund is awarding capacity-building grants to local small farms that are made possible by farm-to-table events like this one, as well as from the generous support of this year's foundation sponsors: Frey Winery, Redwood Credit Union, Sonoma Clean Power, and Flow Kana.

"These grants have a real, tangible impact for local farms," says Good Farm Fund Co-Founder Caroline Radice, a farmer herself. "As a kid, I used to go berry-picking with my

Read the rest of Farm Over on Page 11

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Out on the Ice  
Adventist Health sponsors free community skate party December 8 in Ukiah

Submitted by Cici Winiger, for Adventist Health

In the spirit of the holiday season and giving back, Adventist Health Ukiah Valley and Adventist Health Howard Memorial are inviting the community to a free community skate party on Sunday, December 8, from 12 to 5 pm in the Ukiah on Ice Holiday Skating Rink.

Admission will be free to the community during the event, sponsored by the hospitals, along with fun holiday activities for the whole family, including a craft station and a hot cocoa bar.

"It's our way of spreading some holiday cheer to the community and giving back as our thank you for their support to our hospitals and clinics all year round. And the free family skate events give families a safe, convenient activity to celebrate the season," share Jason Wells, president for both Adventist Health hospitals.

Adventist Health has been supporting the Ukiah on Ice Holiday Skating Rink since it started in 2016 as part of the hospital's 60th anniversary celebration. "The holidays are all about community, bringing everyone together and making memories. It's important to us to be able to support family-friendly activities especially during the holidays," concludes Wells.

Aside from free ice skating, families can enjoy kid-friendly activities such as crafting holiday ornaments, face-painting, snacks and refreshments.

The free community skate is open to anyone in the community and is located at the Alex Thomas Plaza in downtown Ukiah.



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working with various Friends of the Library groups, ran the Measure A ballot measure in 2011, which was approved by 75 percent of the voters. Today, Measure A "provides approximately \$2 million a year in dedicated annual funding to the library," Horner wrote.

The report notes that Measure A has had a significant positive impact on the county's library system. The libraries are open 68 percent more hours; have 273 percent more full-time staff; and have 272 percent more items available in the library catalogue than before Measure A.

In addition, there are 20 times the number of programs available now, as compared with 2011, and 14 times as many people attend those programs, as opposed to what the numbers were like in 2010 and 2011. The Bookmobile makes about 80 stops each month, as opposed to 48 stops a month before the passage of Measure A.

The libraries recently purchased an outreach van, which library staff can use to increase the libraries' presence in the community. According to the report, library staff uses the van to provide story times and crafts at local farmers markets, to travel to local schools, to visit nursing homes, and to set up booths at local events such as Paul Bunyan Days, Pumpkinfest, Mendocino College Career Day, Earth Day, Pride Day, the Whale Festival, the Mendocino County Job Fair, and various and assorted First 5 activities.

The report contains a bar graph on page 9 which shows both revenues and expenses for every year since 2011. According to the graph, the first year that Measure A made a noticeable difference to the library was in 2013, when revenues increased to some \$2.75 million, and expenses increased to roughly \$2.1 million. Over the next four years revenues hovered around the \$3 million mark, and expenses averaged about \$2.7 million, until 2017, when both revenues and expenses were about \$3.1 million.

values go down – the tax rate could be kept at the \$40 limit by holding off on the sale of the next installment or selling less than \$4.3 million dollars worth of bonds.

The system is adaptable to fine-tuning. "You control the impact to taxpayers and never go over \$40," explained the district's director of fiscal services Nikki Agenbroad.

"You can recalibrate if growth doesn't equal 3 percent," said Adam Bauer, the district's financial advisor and CEO of Fieldman, Rolapp & Associates, Inc.

"The board controls it," agreed WUSD superintendent Mark Westerburg.

Most of the money will be used to "fix and repair," which Westerburg said provides "more bang for the buck."

He explained that it avoids the "soft costs" of new construction, which are generally equal to 35 percent or more of the total cost.

Think "tons of paperwork," permits, architecture, inspections, engineering ... anything not labor and materials.

And "contracts with local vendors" will be the name of the game whenever possible.

Another increased bang for the buck: Bond money can leverage the district's ability to make use of state "modernization" funding.

There's not a whole lot of this modernization funding available to the district because of the last bond measure in 2010, which used up most of the access without, apparently, utilizing it for actual construction or repair.

Only the high school cafeteria and auditorium and Blosser Lane school qualify for the funding now.

"We have the paperwork in," said Westerburg.

He explained further that the "modernization" funds are not free money; it's a 60/40, state/school district split.

In other words, using modernization funding to pay the \$400,000 price tag for a roof at Blosser Lane would cost the district \$160,000.

"With our budget the way it is now," said board president Alex Bowlds, "we couldn't pay that 40 percent."

But with money from bonds, the district could.

Specifically, the district would use the funds for the following purposes: "repair aging classrooms and school facilities, fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing heating/cooling, and electrical systems, improve student safety and security, and upgrade, acquire, construct, and equip classrooms, labs and facilities supporting college and career readiness."

More specifically, Westerburg provided the board with lists of actual projects and their associated costs.

"Round one proposed items" came in at \$3

According to the graph, in 2018, expenses were more than revenues, with revenues at \$3.35 million, and expenses at about \$3.5 million. In 2019, that trend continued, with expenses at about \$3.75 million, and revenues at \$3.45 million.

The report did not offer a direct explanation for why expenses should outweigh revenues for two years in a row, but it did allude to a policy in recent years when the county was dipping into library reserves in order to complete needed facility upgrades at the Ukiah Library.

According to the report: "Library reserves have been used for major facility projects such as Ukiah Library's renovation. Future major facility plans include the removal or upgrade of kitchen areas and new carpet at the Willits Library, and roof replacements for the Willits Library and the Ukiah Library."

The brochure offers a brief account of library finances on page 10, showing that Measure A revenues account for 56.57 percent of the library's revenues, with 37.51 percent coming from property tax revenues and the other 6 percent coming from grants, fines and fees, copies and donations.

The report states that 56 percent of the county library budget is spent on salaries and benefits for the division's employees, 11 percent on capital improvements, 11 percent on library collections and programs, 9 percent on A-87 reimbursements back to the county, and the remaining 13 percent on an array of smaller expenditures.

According to the report, the library currently has just over a million dollars in its reserves "available for future expenses and capital improvements."

The report mentions the controversial creation, in 2018, of the Cultural Services Agency, which combined the administrations of the library, the county museum, and the

county-owned parks, under one department. This section was written by CSA Director Horner and puts a very positive spin on the move.

"While some may have been concerned about this organizational change," Horner writes, "CSA staff carefully monitor and allocate all revenue and expenses, ensuring that library funds are not commingled with museum and parks funds. The past year has shown that combining three departments under one director and administrative staff not only reduced administrative overhead, it also provided a collaborative advantage. The library has benefited from having a wonderful partnership with the museum and parks. The CSA has experienced growth in enhanced outreach and services," Horner concluded.

The report concludes with a statement by First District Supervisor and 2019 chair of the board of supervisors Carre Brown.

"Since the passage of Measure A, the Mendocino County library system has flourished, providing indispensable educational, informational and recreational support to our communities," Brown said. "Through the dedicated, hard work of the staff, volunteers, and with the support of the community, our libraries are thriving and have become cultural centers of our county, delivering quality services, outstanding programs, and access to vital resources and materials. The board of supervisors is pleased at the continual enhancement of services that our libraries provide, as highlighted in this report, and we look forward to the continued success of our libraries in many years to come."

Copies of the report are available online for viewing or downloading at <https://www.mendolibrary.org/home/showdocument?id=31225>. A limited number of printed copies will be available at the branch libraries.

had previously presumed the committee would get the majority of its work done, would also be subject to the Brown Act.

Curtis said it was possible, if the focus groups were created carefully and in a certain way, that the focus groups might not have to be Brown Act compliant. It appeared that several committee members were interested in that option.

The committee also was told that it as yet has no by-laws, and no agreed-upon rules of operation. Third District representative to the group Ellen Drell suggested that a by-laws committee be formed, and Chair Jones appointed Drell and Tess Albin-Smith to that subcommittee.

Possibly the most interesting aspect of the meeting occurred when various members shared their "vision" for the work of the committee.

Drell said she felt the most important function of the committee was to foster awareness and to build "buy-in" from the community. "I'm seeing the action as bubbling up to buy-in and commitment and enthusiasm from the public, rather than creating all these priorities and then somehow getting stuck," Drell said.

"I think what we really need is, in the beginning, is, maybe, a hand-full of smallish groups who are especially endowed with self-discipline and commitment, because of their commitment to each other, or because they think it would be fun to try and achieve this goal. And I'm hoping if we can nurture that, and support it, and get accolades from the supervisors for that kind of thing, it will begin to build. Goals and policies are great, and we need them, but where we really get stuck – like in Fort Bragg – is in, 'OK: let's see it. Let's measure it.'"

One of the three representatives from the Fifth District, Jennifer Mayne, spoke right after Drell and appeared to disagree with her. "I think it's important to take action, but I think we're at a point where we don't need small action," Mayne said. "I think we need big action, and I think we need to leverage the power we have in the community, to take bold action. It's not about recycling anymore. It's about getting windmills on the tops of the hills. We need to look at, what are the top things that are actually going to make a difference? And then do it," she said.

Chair Jones offered a sobering dash of realism to the mix. "Our goal is to inform the supervisors. They're the people who appointed us," she said. "And so I feel our role should be to inform them on, what can the county do? And part of what the county can do is educate. But I think we need to be focused."

Jones alluded to a white paper she wrote a few years ago for the City of Fort Bragg on reducing its emissions of greenhouse gases. "I think the challenge in Fort Bragg was, we did a really good document, but, at the end of the day, the administration wasn't interested in implementing it, so, I think, on some level, it doesn't matter if you get your politicians involved. Your administration has to be involved, too. I think, at some level, part of the goal has to be to get the administration on board to make this happen."

One of the three appointees from the Second District, former attorney Susan Sher, talked about her views on the purpose of the committee.

"I have this personal obsession about 'I own a vehicle,' and I've educated myself on how owning a vehicle contributes to greenhouse gases," Sher said. "But, more importantly, when I've approached people who are sitting in their cars, texting, with their engines running, on a very mild day, I generally get a blank look.

"And it's been very educational for me, and I don't want to be elitist or sound condescending, but I've been shocked by how little a lot of people know about how their everyday habits contribute to greenhouse gases. I see 40 cars lined up outside the elementary school, and that they're parents who are in to pick up their children, and their children, all these cherished children, are breathing in all these emissions – and these are parents who would lie down on a railroad track to help their children – and yet, they're poisoning their children. I don't want to be overly dramatic, but it occurred to me how we need education, community-wide education, in the schools," she said.

A question arose about to what extent the county would be able to provide staffing for the committee. Third District Supervisor John McCowen, who is not a committee member but who was attending the meeting anyway, informed the committee that the county board of supervisors had budgeted \$7,500 for staffing support for the committee for fiscal 2019-20.

McCowen mentioned that an alternative option was available: that the county would be willing to fund the committee at the level of \$110,500, which would also provide a project manager from the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District. The committee heard what McCowen had to say but did not offer an affirmative response, that being one of the questions that the committee will address further on down the road, perhaps as early as its January 10 meeting.



## Mendocino County Soccer Academy's new Youth League wraps up its first season

*Submitted by Ian Fitzpatrick, for the Mendocino County Soccer Academy*

Mendocino County Soccer Academy's inaugural season of their Youth Academy Soccer League came to a successful close on Sunday, November 17 with an exciting two-day tournament. The new league featured teams from Ukiah, the coast and Willits.

Since the beginning of August, over 80 young players, ages 8 to 11, received three training sessions per week with games on Saturdays. Volunteer coaches received professional support and guidance from MCSA staff as they guided their teams.

The growth of the new league allows MCSA to reach more kids in our community with high-quality soccer training. The club, founded in 2013, features 10 "select teams" ranging in age from U10 to u19 and includes both boys and girls teams. These teams are highly competitive and compete throughout Northern California with half their league games and all their tournaments played out-of-town.

MCSA also holds regular six-week "grassroots training" sessions for kids aged 3 to 7. Players aged 4 and 5 meet two times a week, while those aged 6 and 7 play three days a week. Young players are taught basics and have the opportunity to develop a passion for the game under the guidance of MCSA professional coaches. In total, MCSA serves over 500 children from throughout Mendocino County.

"In addition to being a

great opportunity to learn and play this wonderful game, YASL is a natural bridge from our grassroots program to our select teams," explains MCSA co-founder and President Shane Huff. "Although our select teams provide a wonderful opportunity for players at a high level, these teams are not for everyone for a variety of reasons.

"YASL allows us," continues Huff, "to provide high-quality soccer training while limiting travel to games within the county. That said, our young players were able to finish the season with a special two-day tournament in Petaluma where they had the chance to play teams from the Bay Area. Combined with local weekly training and games, tournament experiences help prepare players for a bright future in this beautiful game."

MCSA's goal is to develop master artists of the soccer ball. Coaches create safe places for players to try new things, fail, and try again. This approach results in a

Read the rest of Soccer

Over on Page 13

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## Sober Grad raffle basket winners

Willits Sober Grad is pleased to announce Tim and Gloria Westby are the winners of the raffle basket containing five Disneyland "Park-Hopper" tickets as well as many other items donated by local merchants and community members! Thank you to everyone who donated and purchased tickets!

**Extended Holiday Hours**  
**12/01 - 12/24**

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**Wednesday 9AM - 6PM**  
**Thursday 9AM - 7PM**  
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**WILLITS WEEKLY**

**The locally owned and operated newspaper in Willits, CA**



Thursday, December 5

**Twinkle Thursdays:** Thursdays through December 19. Stores open every Thursday until 8 pm with specials. Look for lit-up Mason jars.

**Senior Center Christmas Store:** The Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Their annual Christmas Store runs December 5 to December 14, 9 am to 4 pm. New items put out regularly. Christmas décor and wrapping items, candles, ornaments, holiday cards, wreaths, advent scenes, See's Candies and more. All proceeds go to senior center programs. Info: 459-6826.

**Willits Farmers Market:** Winter market at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street. Thursday, December 5, 3 to 5:30 pm. Veggies, fresh salad greens, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, savory and sweet baked goods, including pies and handcrafted bread. More: gift items, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, free herb talks, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Friday, December 6

**Santa Photos:** J.D. Redhouse, Friday, December 6, 5 to 7 pm; Saturday, December 7, 12 to 3 pm; Sunday, December 8, 10 am to 12 pm. Digital images \$5 each, 50/50 fundraiser for a community group. No appointment needed. Well-behaved pets welcome to join, or just bring yourself, your kids, your family, your significant other, everyone's welcome! Info: 707-972-7047.

**The Fratello Marionettes:** "The North Pole Review is the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit. This music-based production showcases our graceful ice skater Crystal Chandelier, the high-kicking antics of the Russian Trepak Dancers, and a trio of dazzling acrobatic penguins." Puppeteers perform in full view of the audience. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Friday, December 6, 4 to 4:30 pm.

**Art Talk:** Friday, December 6, 6:30 pm, Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. This month's free art talk will explore the art of ancient Rome "with a little bit of Greece."

Saturday, December 7

**Senior Center Holiday Craft Faire:** Beautifully handcrafted items made by local vendors, at the Willits Harrah Senior Center's annual Christmas Craft Faire, 1501 Baechtel Road. Saturday, December 7, 9 am to 4 pm.

What's Happening Around Town

**Holiday Express:** "Kick off the holidays at Roots of Motive Power with free rides on our trains. Our elves will be making cookies, goodies, hot chocolate and coffee to share. Enjoy the festively decorated engine house and train station. Raffle tickets for a wagon full of toys. Admission is free! Santa Claus arrives at noon to talk to the children and hand each a small toy. Rosella's Italian Ice and the Ice Box food trailer will be serving yummy treats!" Free admission to the Mendocino County Museum, with crafts for kids. Saturday, December 7. Train rides 11 am to 4 pm. Santa arrives around 12 pm. 420 East Commercial Street.

**Santa Photos:** Saturday, December 7 from 12 to 3. See December 6 listing for details.

**Mendocino County Museum Extended Hours:** Saturday, December 7, 12 to 5 pm, in conjunction with Roots of Motive Power's Holiday Express Event.

**"Macramé – The Art of Tying Knots":** Saturday, December 7, 1 to 5 pm. Learn the

ancient art of tying knots, history of macramé, material prep, and five basic knots. Also for farmers and gardeners, who can use the skills to make drying racks, shade netting, trellises, and other endless possibilities. No tools necessary. All materials provided. Ages 10 & up. School of Adaptive Agriculture, 16200 North Highway 101. Visit [www.adaptiveagriculture.org](http://www.adaptiveagriculture.org) for info and registration.

**Members Small Works Show:** Willits Center for the Arts is holding its annual Members Small Works Show. Opening Saturday, December 7, 6 to 9 pm. Runs through December 27. This show continues to be a favorite place to shop during the holidays. 71 East Commercial Street. Info: Gary at [gtn1950@gmail.com](mailto:gtn1950@gmail.com), 707-972-3326.

**Christmas Tree Lighting:** follows Roots of Motive Power's "Holiday Express," Saturday, December 7, after dark, at the museum. Christmas/Holiday carols. Hosted by the Willits Chamber of Commerce.



Sunday, December 8

**Laytonville Christmas Bazaar:** Annual Arts & Crafts Fair: "Keep your holiday shopping local." Features local art, hand-crafted gifts, artisanal goodies and more. Over 50 vendors. Refreshments and photos with Santa. Sunday, December 8, 10 am to 4 pm, Harwood Hall, Laytonville. Info: 707-954-8089.

**Santa Photos:** Sunday, December 8, 10 am to 12 pm. See December 6 listing for details.

**LocalLights:OpenMic++:** Willits Center for the Arts presents Slithy Toves, Sunday, December 8, 5 pm. Multi-talented Michael Charnes and his friend since high school, also multi-talented Alan Phillips, and a school colleague, Isaac Hillhouse, team up for an eclectic set of mostly original songs from a wide variety of musical influence, to deliver a fun, danceable show. Suggested donation: \$5. To sign up for open mic: 459-7054. Family-friendly.



Slithy Toves presented by LocalLights:OpenMic++

**32nd Annual Willits Community Christmas Choral:** Sunday, December 8, 6 pm, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 265 Margie Drive. This year's event is being coordinated by Dawn McClelland and will include performances by Emandal Choral, Madge Strong, Diane Smalley and many others.

Tuesday, December 10

**Tightwad Tuesdays:** Select films in their 2nd or subsequent weeks are discounted to \$6 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad Tuesday movies are "Frozen II," "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," and "Knives Out." Visit [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com), call 459-6696 or check the ad in Willits Weekly for show times. 57 East Commercial Street.

**Grand Opening:** Kure Wellness Willits. Tuesday, December 10, 10 am to 7 pm. 1788 South Main Street. [www.kuremendocino.com](http://www.kuremendocino.com). Ribbon cutting at 10 am. Regular hours will be 10 am to 7 pm daily. "A locally owned, community-focused independent dispensary."

**"Financing for Business Success":** Mendocino County's non-profit Economic Development and Financing Corporation will be offering a "Financing for Business Success" workshop at Little Lake Grange, Tuesday, December 10, 4:30 to 6 pm. Covers the different ways to finance your business, how to spot and avoid predatory lenders, deciding how much to borrow, and how banks and business lenders evaluate a business loan. Contact EDFC ahead of time at 707-234-5705 or [robert@edfc.org](mailto:robert@edfc.org) to receive a personalized credit consultation at the event.

**Art Workshop:** Paper Ornaments: Make unique ornaments to decorate your home, tree, or to give as gifts. Supplies provided. Ages 4 and up. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Tuesday, December 10, 5:30 to 6:30 pm and Friday, December 13, 11 am to 12 pm.

Wednesday, December 11

**Empowerment Event, "Creative Process":** Speaker Chris Martell, Cultivate Wellness Studio, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 4. Free admission; donations shared with speaker. Hosted by Michelle Cummins and Claudia Wenning. Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Thursday, December 12

**Twinkle Thursdays:** Thursdays through December 19. Stores open every Thursday until 8 pm with specials. Look for lit-up Mason jars.

**Willits Farmers Market:** at the Little Lake Grange for the winter, 291 School Street. Thursday, December 12, 3 to 6 pm. See Thursday, December 5 listing for details.

Friday, December 13

**Art Workshop:** Paper Ornaments: Friday, December 13, 11 am to 12 pm. See December 10 listing for details.



**Wreaths Across America:** Saturday, December 14, starts at 9 am, at the Willits Cemetery, 1200 Highway 20, and continue to Little Lake and Sherwood cemeteries. "The countdown begins! Let's cover every single veteran grave this year! Please sponsor a wreath!" Info at: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/41833/overview/?relatedId=15557>

**33rd Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair:** Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Saturday, December 14: 10 am to 7 pm, and Sunday, December 15: 10 am to 4 pm. The Kids Craft Fair is upstairs in the Willits Art Center, 10:30 am to 3 pm on Saturday: An opportunity to buy handmade, creative and reasonably priced crafts from young craftspeople, and also features "Enchanted Elf Crafts" for making crafts, too. Live music at the Community Center, featuring talented local musicians: Saturday: 10 am: Twining Time; 12 pm: Richard Toofreese and Jacqueline Morninglight; 2 pm: BubbleGun; 4 pm: Emandal Choir; and 5 pm: Cosmic Family Band. Sunday: 10 am: Dorian May;



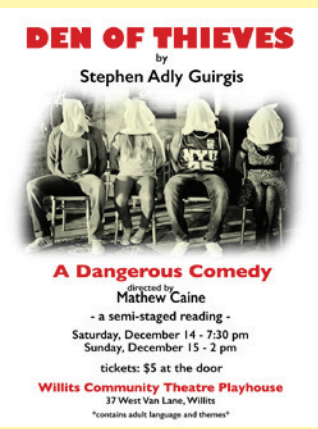
12 pm: Greg Schindel; 1 pm: Mitchell Holman; and 2 pm: Kyle Madrigal. Plus food and goodies from the Willits Charter School's Culinary Program. Benefits the Willits Art Center.

**Holiday Bazaar:** Brookside Elementary School, 20 Spruce Street. Saturday, December 14, 10 am to 3 pm. Pictures with Santa, 11 am to 1 pm. 50/50 raffle. Prizes from local vendors. Info: 707-272-9319, [brooksidepto@willitsunified.com](mailto:brooksidepto@willitsunified.com).

**Gift of Winter Holiday Stories:** Saturday, December 14, 3 to 4 pm. Winter is a time to come together and tell stories. Join Linda Pack and local actor R. Bobby as they share tales to warm your heart and get into the holiday spirit. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

**Christmas Party:** John's Place, 377 South Main Street. Saturday, December 14, 6 pm. Potluck – bring your best dish. Free music and pool. Gift Exchange: "If you want to be included in the gift exchange, bring a gift of \$20 value". Men should bring gifts for men, and women should bring gifts for women. Everyone welcome.

**"Den of Thieves" staged reading:** Willits Community Theatre's "semi-staged reading" of the 2002 comedy, written by Stephen Adly Guirgis and directed by Mathew Caine. Saturday December 14, 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 15, 2 pm. Tickets \$5; available only at the door. Tells the story of a heist gone terribly wrong, with hilarious results. With Devin Skaggs, Jeff Shipp, Elizabeth Dellett, Sarah Coons, Joey Duenas, Ben Strasser and Rod Grainger. Contains adult language and themes.



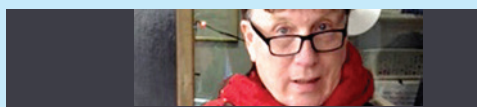
Sunday, December 15

**33rd Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair:** Sunday, December 15: 10 am to 4 pm. See December 14 listing for details.

**"Den of Thieves" staged reading:** Sunday, December 15, 2 pm. See December 14 listing for details.



AT THE MOVIES



‘Knives Out’

**The Story:** Agatha Christie-style whodunit murder mystery in an old mansion. A multi-millionaire mystery writer (Christopher Plummer) is found dead – his throat slit! Apparent suicide? Yes. But was it really suicide, or was it murder! The dead man's family all have motives. And when master detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) questions the family members – they all lie! And what about the maid, or the nurse?

**Dan Essman** *Columist* Suspects and shadowy movements raise doubts about everyone. This is a tangled web that wants unraveling. It's suspense, with a bit of humor to boot.

**My Thoughts:** I was suspicious of this flick because movies that feature so many stars are generally choppy and boring. Consider the list: Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Jamie Lee Curtis, Michael Shannon, Ana de Armas, Don Johnson, Michael Shannon, Toni Collette, and fergawdsakes Christopher effin' Plummer. And that's only the "A" list. That's too many famous faces vying for screen time. But that's no problem for writer/director Rian Johnson. He pulls it off smoothly, and highly entertainingly.

"Knives Out" is a r e c o m m e n d a b l e addition to the catalog of movie whodunits such as "Ten Little Indians" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles."

**Parents:** This is a fine movie, but it is not for children. They would not enjoy it. Children don't need to see movies featuring murder, greed and sleaze.

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



Kure Wellness Willits

GRAND OPENING

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1788 South Main St in Willits

[www.kuremendocino.com](http://www.kuremendocino.com)

'Den of Thieves' Staged Reading December 14 & 15

The Willits Community Theatre offers a "semi-staged reading" of the 2002 comedy, "Den of Thieves," written by Pulitzer Prize winner Stephen Adly Guirgis and directed by Mathew Caine. Saturday December 14, 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 15, 2 pm. Tickets are \$5 and available only at the door. "Tells what happens when temptation raises its ugly head. Two members of the local self-help group Shoplifters Anonymous try for one last heist with an ex-boyfriend and his new girlfriend, a stripper who will do anything to survive. Of course, the heist goes terribly wrong; danger and hilarity ensue." Features performances by Devin Skaggs, Jeff Shipp, Elizabeth Dellett, Sarey Coons, Joey Duenas, Ben Strasser and Rod Grainger. Contains adult language and themes.

Wreaths Across America December 14

Willits 4H is currently rallying wreath sponsorships for the Wreath Laying Ceremony at our local cemeteries on Saturday, December 14. Every year the Willits 4H Club assists the local American Legion Post 174 in honoring the fallen veterans and covering each Willits veteran grave with a wreath. Starts at 9 am at the Willits Cemetery, 1200 Highway 20, and then moves on to the Little Lake and Sherwood cemeteries to cover those veteran graves as well. Please join us; everyone is welcome! If you'd like to sponsor a wreath(s) please visit <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/41833/overview/?relatedId=15557>

Boys Basketball Alumni Game

Boys Basketball Alumni VS Varsity Team

Saturday December 21st

Any former Wolverine players are welcome to participate. We are asking for a \$20 donation a player. To enter or if you have any questions, please contact Tim Conrad at 459-770 ext. 1559.

Free Community Skate and Holiday Fun December 8

In the spirit of the holiday season and giving back, Adventist Health Ukiah Valley and Adventist Health Howard Memorial invite the community to a free community skate party Sunday, December 8, 12 to 5 pm, at the Ukiah on Ice Holiday Skating Rink, Alex Thomas Plaza, 310 South State Street, Ukiah. Free to the community, sponsored by the hospital, along with fun holiday activities for the whole family, including a craft station and a hot cocoa bar. Aside from free ice skating, families can enjoy kid-friendly activities such as crafting holiday ornaments, face-painting, snacks and refreshments.

Grace Hudson Annual Holiday Crafts Fair and Open House December 6 & 7

Friday, December 6, 5 to 8 pm and Saturday, December 7, 10 am to 3 pm. The work of local artists and artisans will be displayed, including holiday wreaths and swags. Before or after holiday shopping, visitors are invited to walk or bike the "Caminata de Luces," a trail lit for the season that extends from the Museum to the Rail Trail. The Grace Hudson Museum is at 431 South Main Street in Ukiah. For more information please go to [www.gracehudsonmuseum.org](http://www.gracehudsonmuseum.org) or call 707-467-2836. Part of the First Friday Art Walk on Friday, December 6.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of December 9 through December 13

**Monday:** Chicken Mushroom Pasta Florentine  
**Tuesday:** Pigs in a Blanket (hot dogs)  
**Wednesday:** Teriyaki Chicken Stir Fry  
**Thursday:** Country Fried Steak  
**Friday:** Italian Sub

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older, \$6.50 per meal, under 55, \$8 per meal. Includes soup, salad, entrée, vegetable, and dessert and drink. (Salad Bar available all year). 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

LocalLights:OpenMic++ presents: WCA

SLITHY TOVES

Michael Charnes vocals, guitar, cittern  
Isaac Hillhouse percussion  
Alan Phillips bass, guitar, keyboard, vocals

SUNDAY, DEC. 8 AT 5:00 PM  
WILLITS CENTER, FOR THE ARTS

Suggested donation: \$5 – Open to all ages

21st Annual Community Solstice Sing for Peace December 17

People of all ages, voices and traditions are invited to sing along on old and new songs of the season, calling forth peace, hope and light! This free event is hosted and led by Inland Valley Women's Chorus. The evening ends with hot cider and cookies. Info: Madge, mstrong@willitsonline.com, 459-1493. Tuesday, December 17, 7 pm, at the Mendocino Ballet, 205 South State Street, Ukiah.

Ongoing Events

**"Art Expo":** featuring drawings and paintings by Alma Soleada. Revolution Gallery, 15 West Mendocino Avenue. 11 am to 6 pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

**Friday Night Live:** Vendors, food and entertainment. 1722 South Main Street (Evergreen Shopping Center). Starts at 5 to 8 pm.

**Linda Posner's "Word Buffet":** KLLG-LP, 97.9, "Poems and Sayings to Start Your Day." Sunday, 10 to 10:30 am.

**"Close to Home":** Local artist Linda Corben's paintings inspired by the natural world, now featured at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. Through December 31.

**Meatless Mondays:** at Roots Restaurant at Adventist Health Howard Memorial, 1 Marcella Drive. "Serving delicious plant-based options every Monday." 7 am to 5 pm.

**Collective Care:** A Holistic Support Group: Fridays, 10 to 11:15 am. 44650 Highway 101, Laytonville. Holistic community support and information. Children welcome. By donation. [www.ninesistersbotanicals.com](http://www.ninesistersbotanicals.com)

**Eight to the Bar with Les Terr:** Radio active blues programming for tragically hip and twisted. Fridays, 9 pm to midnight. 97.9 FM, KLLG.

**Willits International Folk Dancing:** Class meets every Thursday, 7 to 8 pm. Willits Charter High School. New dances taught 7 to 8 pm. \$0 - \$5 sliding scale. Info: megster158@yahoo.com

**Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club:** Mondays, 7 pm, upstairs gallery of the Willits Center for Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Siding scale \$0 to \$5/class. 707-484-3385 for info.

**Little John's Place:** Every Thursday Pool Tournament, 6 pm, \$5 buy-in. "We'll buy the pizza, you buy the beer." Saturday nights: Free Pool 9 pm to 12 am during December. 383 South Main Street. 459-5636. facebook.com/littlejohnsplace

**Free Herb Talks:** at the Mendocino Herb Guild. Every Thursday, 4 pm, at the Willits Farmers Market, indoors for the winter at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

**Roots Engine House Tours:** Dozent-led tour of the Engine House most Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Join a Roots of Motive Power docent to view classic motorcars, a steam train engine, and more – up close.

**Marijuana Anonymous 12 Step Meeting:** Every Tuesday at 6 pm. Meeting place is the Mendocino County Courthouse, located directly behind the United Methodist Church, which is at the corner of School and Pine, right across from the Grange.

**Brown Bag Lunch Program:** Lunch served to the hungry in the City Park across from the Willits Police Station every Saturday at 1 pm, served by various community-minded organizations. For information, call the Food Bank at 459-3333.

**Boomer's Friday Night Karaoke:** 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of every month, Boomer's Saloon, 45020 Highway 101, Laytonville, 9 pm to 1 am. No Cover. 21+ Please bring I.D. Hosted by DJ-Ken Steely Entertainment with KJ/DJ-Ken Steely & Anna. Come for dinner, stay for the fun.

**Willits Farmers Market:** Winter Market starts at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street, from 3 to 5:30 pm, on Thursday, November 7. The last of the summer veggies, fresh salad greens, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, savory and sweet baked goods, including handcrafted bread. More: gift items, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, free herb talks, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**Emandal Choral:** The Choral is open to all who wish to sing a cappella songs of peace and justice. Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: 367-1573.

**Friday Potluck Bingo:** Harrah Senior Center presents Potluck Bingo on Friday nights. Doors open at 5 pm; games begin at 5:30 pm. Minimum bingo buy-in \$5. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

**Weekly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group:** Every Thursday, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941.

**Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group:** Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or honemang@yahoo.com

**Willits Community Drum Circle:** 7 to 10 am at the Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Friday. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932.

**Willits Library Activities:** Wednesdays: 3:30 to 4:30 pm "Lego Club" (bring your imagination and start building! 11 to 11:45 am "Play Group" Self-directed playtime, with toys, ages 0 to 4); 2:30 to 3 pm "Storytime" (Books, songs, rhymes and movement, ages 3 to 6); 5 to 6:30 pm "Stamp Club" (Bring your collection); Thursdays: 11:00 to 11:30 am "Wiggle Time" (Explore movement and self-expression. Ages 4 to 7); 2:30 to 3:30 pm "Storytime and More" (with coloring and board games); Fridays: 3:30 to 4:30 pm "Therapeutic Coloring" (Bring a friend and relax with a coloring book); 5:30 to 5:50 pm "Calming Stretches"; Saturdays, 11 am to 12 pm "Write Live" (We provide a prompt and a space to create writing); 2:30 to 4:30 pm "Drop-In Knitting" All skill levels. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

**Willits Seed Lending Library:** Offering information on seed saving and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted.

**Drop-In Knitting Circle:** Saturdays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and/or help you learn to knit or crochet. Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in." Info: Lotus Bar at 456-9037, or lotusb3@earthlink.net.

**Soroptimist International of Willits:** Women's service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets the second Tuesday at 4 pm and the third Tuesday at noon each month at St John's Lutheran Church Hall, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

**Weekly Life Changes Discussion and Support Group:** Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 am. In the Conference Room at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Free Sheriff's Activity League programs:** at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5 pm. Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5:15 to 6 pm. Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 to 7 pm; Twines to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: "Mendocino Sheriff's Activities League" on Facebook or Mike Tobin: 354-0665.

**Shanachie Pub:** Mondays, 7 pm: "Monday Blues & Beyond" with Blue Luke & Special Guests. Tuesdays, 8 pm: "Wabi Sabi" with host Mitchell Holman, formerly of It's a Beautiful Day ("Whitebird") features different artists every week. Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 7:30 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Laytonville Farmers Market:** Mondays, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

6TH ANNUAL WINTER FEAST

GOOD FARM FOOD FUND

FARM TO TABLE DINNER

by Patrona, Mendocino College Culinary Arts Management Program, Mendocough Catering, Black Dog Farm & Catering

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2nd Annual HERBAL CRAFT FAIR

WHERE: CASPAR COMMUNITY CENTER 15051 CASPAR RD. CASPAR, CA

WHEN: DECEMBER 8, 2019 | 10AM - 4PM

WHAT: TEAS, TINCTURES, VINEGARS, BOUTYCARE, CRAFTS, FREE HERBAL TALKS AND MORE!

Support Local Herbalists and the Mendocino County Herb Guild









Above, from left: The Senior Center dining room on Thanksgiving, the place to enjoy a hearty dinner and meet with old and new friends. Volunteer server Chris Martell brings plates to the tables. Dahvi Hooper, volunteer coordinator for the Willits Community Services Thanksgiving dinner. Below, left: Pianist Ed Reinhart entertained diners on the Senior Center's piano. Below, right: The Senior Center kitchen was a busy place as the Parlin Fork inmates worked diligently to get out Thanksgiving dinner. At bottom, left: A photo honoring the late Jim Marill, longtime director of Willits Community Services and Food Bank. At bottom, right: A hearty plate of ham, turkey, green beans, mashed potatoes, yams and a dinner roll is ready to leave the kitchen.



Above: Parlin Fork Conservation Camp crew members Eric Jefferson, Alex Camargo, Monty Nash, Polt Mercer, Alex Reider, Mike Kittie, and Joshua Brown came to Willits to help in the kitchen. At right: Volunteers Cheyenne Dusky, Ava Mucke, Grace Aguilar of the Willits 4H Club.

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Appointments are scheduled for our patients for the **FIRST THURSDAY** of each month at the Willits Senior Center. Please call to reserve your spot!



# Giving Thanks

## 30th annual free Thanksgiving dinner at the Senior Center warms the hearts of attendees and volunteers

For the 30th year, members of the Willits community – families, friends, single people, seniors, and youth – came together to celebrate Thanksgiving at the Willits Community Services and Food Bank's free dinner at the Harrah Senior Center.

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"It was a lot of fun and very successful," said WCS director Ruthanne Volz. "It's always a special, wonderful feel-good event. It's thrilling to talk to people around the community, who say such nice things about the dinner and about dining with people whom they would otherwise never have contact with."

Volz said the crew served 465 sit-down dinners, with another 80 dinners going out through the Senior Center's Meals on Wheels program.

Although the dinner is free, the \$1,302.85 diners put into the donation box was highly appreciated, Volz said, as were the many community volunteers.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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



The rest of  
**Thanks**  
From Page 12

"There's a great deal of good will and generosity on the part of the volunteers," she said. "A number of families brought their children to volunteer; it was so sweet to see the parents teaching children how to help others."

The Willits Frontier Days Juniors and the Willits 4H Club members were also there helping to make the dinner a success.

Volz wanted to especially thank Thy Sumvan of 101 Drive-in and her daughter Dahvi Hooper for their help. "They provided 100 pies, donated a giant pot of ranch dressing and other food items, and she was in the kitchen the entire day. And Dahvi was on the floor, managing the dining hall."

Hooper wanted to extend an especial thanks to Yvonne Wagenet and Ursula Parch – and to Ruthanne Volz – "for all of their hard work."

Essential to this effort every year is CalFire's Parlin Fork Conservation Camp's staff and inmates, who cook the traditional dinner in the camp's big kitchens and come to Willits to help in the kitchen on Thanksgiving Day, too.

Parlin Fork Corrections Officer Ben Vielbig, with the help of Officer Evan Hernandez and Fire Captain Jeremy Ormelas, brought seven Parlin Fork inmates to help in the Senior Center kitchen. Vielbig said the Parlin Fork crew at the camp cooked "32 to 36 turkeys and about a dozen hams, 250 pounds of potatoes and a couple gallons of gravy."

Volunteer Steven Miller was busing tables, and greeting friends with a smile. "This is my second year helping at the dinner," he said. "My life was turned upside down this year – my family and my health – and this is giving back to the community everything they've been giving me this year. It's great."

"It's all about service," said Chris Martell, relatively new to Willits, who was volunteering at the Thanksgiving dinner for the first year. "And that's what makes us happy."

Debby and Bob Hall returned to volunteer this year, after having a great time last year. "It's a great event," Bob Hall said. The couple was going to do their own home-barbequed turkey later that afternoon.

"Thanksgiving is my favorite meal," said Betty Bird who still retains a trace of her charming Georgia accent. "It's really warm and nice here, and feels really good." Bird was sitting down to enjoy a plate of turkey and all the accompaniments, but she volunteers herself at Willits Daily Bread and the Willits Brown Bag Lunch food programs.

Volunteer Myrna Bryant was decked out in holiday attire including a pin that read: "Be Naughty: Save Santa a Trip." She was volunteering at the dinner while her husband, Scott, was home at Ridgewood Ranch baking persimmon cookies with locally picked fruit to give away to all the neighbors. "It's a recipe from his step-grandmother," Bryant said, that he bakes every year when the persimmons are ready.

Two special musical volunteers took shifts at the Senior Center piano to provide a perfect background sound for the diners: Ed Reinhart and Frankie J.

Virginia Jorge, who is now on the boards of WCS and the Senior Center, told a story about "the best time I've seen in this hall," which was the time that Willits super-centenarian Edie Ceccarelli came in, "in all her diamonds and pearls, and sat at a table of younger people who had dreads, and the conversation continued in lively fashion. That's why we don't like to do to-go meals at this dinner," Jorge emphasized, "so that people can sit down and meet people who they've never met before."

Dickey Weinkle and Jane McCabe brought a party of visiting family members to fill out their table of 10 at the dinner. Weinkle reminisced about growing up volunteering at community Thanksgiving dinners every year with his father, also a Rotarian, in greater Miami where prisoners from the Dade County Jail helped cook and serve. "For me, every Thanksgiving, that was just what we did," Weinkle laughed.

WCS Director Volz wanted to remind the community that the Thanksgiving dinner is traditionally the kick-off of the WCS Winter Fund Drive. The "thermometer" showing the goal and donation levels at the corner of East Commercial and Main streets will be going up soon, and those who would like to donate are encouraged to send checks to Willits Community Services, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits CA 95490, or call WCS at 459-3333 for more information.

The rest of  
**Census**  
From Page 1

website for the Mendocino County effort in the 2020 census: "Post office box holders do not receive mail at their home, and so will have their invitations delivered by census workers. Because there are many residential properties behind locked gates, as well as privacy concerns, distrust of strangers, and other aspects that make some homes hard to access, it may be difficult for census workers to deliver invitations to every post office box holder in the county.

"For this reason, we are encouraging people who use post office boxes to go to the census website directly and follow the instructions for submitting their form without an invitation."

Many local organizations, including the county government, are interested in the census process and have been meeting to strategize on how to maximize the count in the 2020 census.

A presentation to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors on the importance of getting a full and accurate count in the census was made in January of 2019, and some 25 organizations, political jurisdictions, and staff members representing U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman, state Assemblymember Jim Wood, and state Senator Mike McGuire have engaged with each other as the Mendocino County Complete Count Committee. The goal of the committee is to get as full and complete count in the census as possible.

It won't be an easy task. According to information found on the Mendocino Counts! website, Mendocino County has some of the highest "hard to count" tracts in the U.S. A look at a map on the website indicates that a broad swath of the county, beginning, at its southern end, from a west-to-east line running roughly from Rockport to Dos Rios to Mt. Sanhedrin and extending northwards across the northern third of the county, was in the lowest category in the country, with a census response rate of between 0 and 60 percent.

A second broad swath, running from roughly Comptche and Philo to Hopland and Yorkville and extending to the border with Sonoma County, was in the third-

lowest division, with a response rate of between 65 to 70 percent.

According to the website, based on the 2010 census, about 13 percent of the county's population, or 11,488 people, are presumed to live in these two hard-to-count areas in our county. If all of these people are not counted, the county could lose as much as \$200 million in funding over the next 10 years.

The census determines to a large extent how much money the federal government returns to state and local government. The money provides funding for many federal and state programs, including Title 1 grants for education, Medicare Part B, Pell grants, highway planning and construction, wildlife restoration, fire management, water pollution control, housing for the elderly, family health block grants, rural business enterprise grants, grants to the developmentally disabled, and the children's health insurance program.

Nationwide, the Bureau of the Census is hiring people to help with the 2020 census. People must be 18 years old to apply and must be able to speak, write and read English, although people who are bilingual are encouraged to apply, as are people with disabilities.

Norman E. Brown, a senior recruiting clerk with the U.S. Census based in Oakland, told Willits Weekly recently that the North Coast region of California will be hiring approximately 500 people to work for the census push in the spring. Online applications are available now, and the peak hiring period is winter of 2020, just a few weeks off.

Brown said the normal term of census jobs will be eight weeks, but that "can be extended depending on workload." The census website stated that census workers in Mendocino County will be paid between \$16.50 and \$18 an hour. People can apply for work online at https://recruitment.2020census.gov/

Brown advised that the North Coast regional office for the census, which will coordinate census efforts from Marin to Del Norte counties, is located in Rohnert Park. The phone number there is 707-757-6500.

The rest of  
**Christmas**  
From Page 1

year we were in business, and John makes a fun journey of it each year, heading up to Oregon the day after Thanksgiving and returning the next day with all the trees."

Once the trees hit the lot, aka "Tata's Tree Farm," they become the pride and joy of Davis' dad, Victor "Tata" Cabrera, who takes his tree lot seriously – from first tree up, to last tree down – Santa hat and all.

"Dad is Tata's Tree Farm," said Davis.

The selection of trees include Noble, Grand Noble and Fir varieties ranging from 4 to 12 feet in height. All varieties are priced the same: \$10 per foot. Wreaths are also available for \$25 each for door décor; they are hand-made by Shelley Whitely as a special fundraiser for the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County.

"The wreathes are made with bay leaves from Shelley's property and also feature decorations like dried berries, pinecones and even dried chilies," said Davis. "All the money raised from the wreath sales goes directly to the non-profit on Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We're happy to have them available for sale again this year."

Hoping for a good end-of-the-year surge (no pun intended) after PG&E's public safety power shutoff in late October, Scoops is going to be open from noon to

6 pm, seven days a week, for the holiday season.

"We were closed for a week and a half during the PSPS," said Davis. "Hard to keep ice cream frozen without power. Thankfully, the community of Willits has opened their arms to us and have really stepped in to help. We've been doing a ton of catering jobs this month, and we're excited to offer that as a service to the community in addition to our holiday trees and of course, ice cream, coffee and sandwiches at the deli."

Scoops frequently caters for Willits Chamber of Commerce events, including the Small Business Saturday event last week, but also is on the schedule for the Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty holiday party, the Willits Rotary Club's Christmas luncheon, Evelyn Persico's 80th birthday party, and the Willits Senior Center's staff Christmas party, and was hired by NC Financial's Nicolas Casagrande to cater the Willits Animal Hospital's holiday lunch. Scoops also caters weddings and more – and – a small tip from this reporter: Davis makes the most incredible chile relleno casserole one could ever imagine.

Scoops Frozen Yogurt and Deli is located at 110 North Main Street and can be reached by calling 272-9646.

The rest of  
**Soccer**  
From Page 7

creative brand of play that rewards good decision-making and resilience. These are skills that translate on the soccer pitch and in life. The next grassroots session will be in the spring of 2020 and YASL will start its new season in summer 2020.

MCSA is teaming up with the City of Ukiah for a Winter Futsal program on Saturdays from December 7 through February 29. This is a fast-paced version of indoor soccer that promotes technical ball skills and fun! For more info and to sign up, please visit: https://ukiah.recedesk.com or call: 707-463-6231.

MCSA is initiating a coaches-in-training program as an effort to support the growth of its programs. If you're interested in more information about coaching please email Ian Fitzpatrick, MCSA admin director at [ian@MendocinoSoccer.com](mailto:ian@MendocinoSoccer.com). For general information and updates follow MCSA on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySoccerAcademy/](https://www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySoccerAcademy/).

The rest of  
**WPD**  
From Page 4

12:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

2:24 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

2:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

3:48 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Highway 20.

6:18 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

### November 27

9:02 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

7:12 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

7:29 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

### November 28

9:55 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1000 block of Magnolia Avenue.

12:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 700 block of Coast Street and issued a warning.

3:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of Alice Drive and issued a warning.

8:32 pm: RINCON, Teresa Denise (25) of Vallejo was contacted in the 200 block of Margie Drive following a disturbance. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of domestic battery.

### November 29

2:56 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Marcela Drive and issued a warning.

7:49 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

9:24 am: DODD Jr., James Monroe (26) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

1:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of Highway 20.

### November 30

2:12 am: **ESSEX, Lance Duane** (53) of Laytonville and **RENFORT, Jonah Erik** (45) of "California 95490" were contacted in the 300 block of North Main Street following a vehicle theft investigation. They were both arrested pursuant to 10851 VC (Unlawful Taking or Driving of a Vehicle), and on felony charges of taking a vehicle without the owner's consent.

8:51 am: **SQUIRES, Corey** (30) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11350 H&S (Possession of a Controlled Substance), 11550 H&S (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance), and 148 PC (Resisting Arrest).

10:59 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

11:22 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

2:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

11:40 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside Court.



Lance Essex of Laytonville



Jonah Renfort of "California 95490"

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Place your ad for 12/12 and/or 12/19  
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Above, from left: Don Edwards has his credit cards ready for the auction. Denise Asher of the Old Buzzards holds up a quilt she created for a separate raffle. Daniel Curtis and Nici Caldwell enjoy a hearty meal. Tiffany "Pickles" Wake and Mylinda "Bubblez" Shaul of the Willits Wild Bunch pose by the tree filled with children's wishes. Below, left: Santa Calderon serves up her chile rellenos. Below, left, bottom: The King Snakes Blues Band is back with their hard-driving music. Below, right: The bikes queue up for the run in the Evergreen Shopping Center.



Below: Tom Moore with his friend, Remy, have their toys ready for admission to the event.



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The rest of  
**Toy Run**

From Page 1

headed north on Main Street, west on Commercial, and finally south on School Street to the Grange, where they delivered their saddlebags full of unwrapped toys.

The gifts were the price of admission to the yearly Toy Run party where games, dolls, teddy bears, and other joyful goods are collected to bring a smile to kids' faces on Christmas. No Grinches were allowed or present.

Even though this was basically a biker club event, everyone in the town was invited to join in as long as they brought an unwrapped gift that a child would love. Everyone was treated to a hearty meal, provided by some of the altruistic Willits organizations and people, such as the Willits Rotary who, for the second year now, are in charge of the wrapping and distribution of the toys, under the supervision of Laura Sleeper.

The food offered something for everyone: chile rellenos from Santa Calderon, lasagna, cheesy garlic bread, various types of fried chicken and other creative chicken dishes, tri tip, pesto pasta, mac and cheese, turkey tetrazzini, baked ziti, escalloped potatoes, chili, and a vast array of sweet desserts.

Pounding hard rock blues filled the room at the Little Lake Grange, provided by the King Snake Blues Band, which added to the already upbeat atmosphere of elation of hanging out with old friends for a worthy cause.

Les Tarr, Mendocino County radio personality, introduced Rich "Pops" Venturi and his wife, Kim "Sugar B," of the Willits Wild Bunch who, dressed as Mr. and Mrs. Biker Claus, made the announcements prior to calling the live auction.

First, they had the entire room sing "Happy Birthday" to Tim "Superman" Westby, which was embarrassing, but gratifying. A more somber moment took place as "Pops" took a moment to remember and toast loved ones who were respected and loved by all but were "no longer with us": Gary Laferty, Al Robinson (who was Santa for many years), Wild Bunch member Shelley "Sugar Shaker" Revling, and Lynn Kennelly, the long-time executive director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Glasses of beer and soda cans were raised in memoriam.

This year, due to the generosity of several early donors, a silent auction was added, with 26 items, as these prime articles would have taken too long to include in the live auction. Money received through the live auction, silent auction, drink sales, and raffles at the Toy Run party go to purchase even more gifts that fulfill the specific wishes of

the children.

More Christmas wishes can be found on tags on trees in various locations throughout town. These wishes can be granted by any citizen or group who takes the wishes from the tree, and delivers the goods back to a drop-off barrel.

The gifts are collected at "Santa's Workshop" at the old Howard Hospital to be wrapped and distributed. The live auction, run by "Pops" and "Sugar B," spiced up with some colorful language, consisted of seven prime articles for which the bidding was hot and heavy and extremely entertaining. There were some who made the mistake of waving to their friends during the auction and ended up with the highest bid – temporarily.

The auction started with a table-top stainless steel patio heater which went for \$75. Next up, a Craftsman rolling two-part toolbox which was won by "Pops" son, Eli for \$145. A pit barrel cooker went for \$160. A one-of-a-kind hand-forged knife with a custom scabbard sold for \$330. A two-handed broad sword brought in \$200. A beautiful stained-glass Harley Davidson window hanger went for \$200. Last, but most stunning, a redwood table, made especially for the Toy Run auction, was bought for \$300.

In addition to the auction, a 50 / 50 raffle was won by young Sequoia Jones, who, in the prevailing spirit of generosity, gifted the \$71 back to the Toy Run. It is that spirit that encouraged a niece of one of the Wild Bunch to forgo her personal Christmas gifts this year in lieu of gathering presents for the Toy Run.

The premier gift of the day was the beautiful wine barrel ice chest for which the Wild Bunch has been collecting raffle tickets throughout the year. It was won by someone who was not present, so "Pops" tried to call him over speaker phone to congratulate him. He was able to leave an intriguing message on the winner's machine.

The attendees, no matter how much fun they had, never lost sight of the purpose of the event, to bring moments of joy to those youngsters who would like to have the kind of Christmas that most in Willits can afford to give to their own children.

For those who wish to help, additional toys and clothing are still needed. Find one of the holiday trees and fill one or more of the requests. Deposit the toys in one of the donation barrels. For more information: call Laura Sleeper, 707-354-1991.



Above: People raise their hands when asked who went to the Grange Pancake Breakfast during the power outage. At right: David Drell facilitates the opening discussion about the PG&E power shutoff, its effects on the community, and how it relates to the climate emergency. Below: Mike Burgess, who lives off the grid with his wife, Lila, talks about how the two opened their home for people who needed to charge batteries for medical devices during the power shutoff.



Above: Ellen Drell tells the group, "The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] tells us that we still have a chance, as humans on the planet, to rein in the worst of climate change." Below: Six focus groups discuss what they can do individually and as a community to reduce their carbon footprint.



The rest of  
**College**

From Page 11

According to Dean of Centers Amanda Xu: "We are excited to continue expanding our innovative schedules at all of our satellite locations. Our centers are a great way to offer educational opportunities to our rural community members."

The Coast Center in Fort Bragg is continuing to build upon its offering of pre-health track courses such as Concepts of Biology and Medical Terminology in order to serve students on the coast interested in pursuing in-demand health care careers.

The Lake Center in Lakeport is offering several career-oriented night classes designed for working adults interested in entering or advancing in specific career fields including: business, child development, administration of justice, human services, and emergency medical services.

The North County Center in Willits is continuing its "Weekends to Success" program. Weekends to Success offers high-value hybrid classes that meet once a month on Saturdays or twice a month on Friday evenings. These strategically scheduled courses are geared toward full-time working students.

Currently enrolled students can register for classes through My Mendo, which can be found by logging in at [www.mendocino.edu](http://www.mendocino.edu). New students can apply online at [www.mendocino.edu](http://www.mendocino.edu). For additional assistance or information, call the Office of Admissions and Records at 707-468-3101.

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# DECEMBER CALENDAR



## CHARGING INTO 2020

**EARN ENTRY TICKETS DAILY**  
**NOW – DEC 28 8AM – 10PM**  
 100 points = 1 entry ticket

**WEEKEND DRAWINGS**  
**Saturday & Sunday**  
**Dec 1– 28 5PM – 10PM**  
 11 names drawn each day to win **\$100 Free Play** and a ticket into the final drawings.

**FINALE DRAWING Saturday Dec 28 After 10PM**  
**WIN FREE PLAY, CASH & THE CAR**

Come play the Charging into 2020 Game Board to win more entry tickets, Free Play and up to \$1,000 Cash! And one lucky winner will drive away in the **new 2019 Dodge Charger SXT!**

Actual make, model and color may vary.

Winner is responsible for any taxes, fees and licensing. Non-transferable. See Player's Club Booth for complete details.



## GIFT OF THE MONTH

**EVERY SAT & SUN**  
**DEC 7 – 29 10AM – 5PM**


Redeem 500 points on Saturdays or Sundays to receive a **Robe and Blanket Set\*** Get a different piece each week, while supplies last.

\*For guests who did not receive a Gift of the Month postcard.



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**TUESDAYS DEC 3, 10, 17 & 24**



### BARRY'S CHARGED UP POINTS

**9AM – 9PM**

Come play day or night to receive **5X POINTS!**

Get charged up to earn Free Play faster.

**— WEDNESDAYS —**



### Holiday Spin & Win

**10AM – 8PM**

We will draw 2 hot seat winners each hour. Winners will spin the wheel for a chance to **win \$500 Free Play.** Must have 250 points earned that day to be eligible for the hot seats.

**— THURSDAYS —**

### Flurries of Free Play

**8AM – 2PM & 4PM – 10PM**

Earn 200 points to get a Flurries of Free Play Scratch Card. If you participated in the morning session, then you can get a second scratch card during the night session by earning 100 points. Or you will need 300 points for the night session only. Every card is a winner and you could **win up to \$1,000 in Free Play!**

**— FRIDAYS —**

### AVALANCHE HOT SEATS

**5PM – 10PM**

Every 10 minutes, 2 guests will **win \$50 Free Play.** Must be playing with your card in any machine. If we call your name, you'll have 1 minute to claim your prize, or that prize will be forfeited.

Must be 18 & over to play  
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