

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
Donations Accepted Edition No. 383 **Thursday, December 10, 2020**

## BOS asks for COVID enforcement against large gatherings

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

On Tuesday, the board of supervisors approved a resolution that affirmed support for state and local health orders and urged county law enforcement agencies and other county agencies to make COVID enforcement their "highest priority."

The vote was 4-1, with Supervisor John Haschak voting no.

The resolution reviews the current status of the local pandemic and

Read the rest of **Enforcement**

Over on Page 4

## Virtual Cannabis Cultivation Town Hall set for December 16

Submitted by the County of Mendocino

On Wednesday, December 16 at 4 pm (rescheduled from an earlier date), the Board of Supervisors Cannabis Cultivation Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Supervisors John Haschak and Ted Williams will host a virtual Cannabis Cultivation Town Hall Meeting.

The supervisors will give an update on their current efforts with state agencies and provide an opportunity for the public to participate by asking questions and providing public comment. Planning and Building Services Director, Brent Schultz, and Planning and Building Services staff will

Read the rest of **Town hall**

Over on Page 4

## 6 arrested in Covelo murders

Six Covelo residents have been arrested and charged in connection with the deaths of Kyle James McCartney, 34, and Traci Lynn Bland, both of Covelo. The two victims were first reported missing on November 19, after a reported assault and possible kidnapping.

Two bodies found on November 23, along Halls Valley Road in a remote area northeast of Covelo's valley floor, were later identified as McCartney and Bland.

On December 1, Mendocino County District Attorney C. David Eyster formally charged several

Read the rest of **Murders**

Over on Page 4



Above, from left: Santas and more Christmas decor fill the tables at the Willits Senior Center's Christmas Store. Jane McCabe picked out a wonderful Christmas wreath and bag full of other goodies. Glenda Brown shops in the rack of Christmas clothing. Below: Center volunteers including, from left: Dorothy Roediger, Sue Sawyers, Richard Baker, Earlene Gleisner, Goldie Hilkey smile at the shop.



## Regional ICU capacity remains above lockdown trigger

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

In the face of a possible COVID lockdown, intensive care unit bed capacity in the state's "Northern California" region remains above the 15 percent lockdown trigger, with ICU bed capacity on Tuesday at 26.5 percent.

Mendocino County Public Health Officer Andy Coren gave that number on Tuesday in a report to the board of supervisors.

On Friday, December 4, while speaking at an online press conference on the

Read the rest of **Capacity**

Over on Page 11



Above: A lovely angel gets a halo from the center's lights. Below: Glenda Brown shows off her filled basket. At right: The center's dining hall is filled with goodies.



## Holiday Takeover!

Willits Senior Center's dining hall converted to Christmas craziness for annual holiday store

Maureen Jennison  
Graphics & Photographress  
maureen@willitsweekly.com

One apparent perk of the coronavirus indoor dining change: The Willits Senior Center's Christmas Store is bigger and better than ever as it has taken over the center's dining hall, spreading out over the wide-open space to offer a plethora of holiday goodies. The store usually gets side-room billing, but with the lack of meals being able to be served, the main hall has created a wonderful display.

Read the rest of **Shopping**

Over on Page 6



Photos by  
Maureen  
Jennison

At right: Christmas shoppers Carmen, left, and Alejandra, right, smile with kids Santiago, Melissa, Cesar and David at the store. Far right: Lighted trees are also available for sale.

Below: See's Candies are also being sold as a fundraiser for the center. Below, right: The checkout line was hopping, but everyone was sure to maintain social distancing and mask wearing!



## County to explore new option for pot impasse

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

In the second to last meeting of 2020, the board of supervisors agreed to direct the Mendocino County Planning and Building Services to suspend work on three of the directives that the board gave it on September 22, and to limit work that will be going into a fourth directive.

In addition, the board agreed to direct planning staff to pursue a new initiative that holds a slim potential of giving the county a way out of its impasse with the state, over the state's CEQA requirements with regard to cannabis cultivation.

Read the rest of **Option**

Over on Page 11

## Suspect in parking lot pot robbery arrested after high-speed chase

Submitted by Willits Police Chief Fabian Lizarraga

On December 8 at approximately 5:30 pm, Willits Police Department officers were dispatched to the Burger King at 1355 South Main Street in Willits. The call originated from a retired Sonoma County Sheriff's Office deputy who observed two suspects in a black SUV take a bag of possible marijuana from the occupants of a white SUV while they were in the

Read the rest of **Robbery**

Over on Page 11





# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Holiday Lights

To the Editor:

We love to host the Holiday Lights at the Commonwealth Garden across from Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital with the Frank R. Howard Foundation and many volunteers, but it has become necessary to adjust for safety this year.

We will still decorate the garden fence and gazebo with twinkly lights, and our illuminated arch will be in front of the farmstand so you can take a picture with your family, but we won't be walking through. We encourage the community to drive by the Haehl Creek neighborhood and see all the lights.

In a normal year we would donate the proceeds to a local charity, and times are challenging for many local groups that were unable to hold their fundraisers this year. So, we welcome those who would have come and donated to consider giving to your favorite organization. I bet Little Lake Fire Department, Willits Center for the Arts, or Willits Senior Center could use your donations!

We will see you all out and about sharing holiday cheer or maybe driving by the Roots of Motive Power lit-up train cars. We have so much to be thankful for here in Willits and how our community comes together is my favorite part. We will see you again at the Holiday Lights of 2021.

Holly Madrigal for Holiday Lights

## Still unresolved in my mind...

To the Editor:

Weeks have passed ... and City Manager Stephanie Garabrant-Sierra, speaking of the new interim police chief, is "very excited for him to start soon."

Meanwhile, Measure K has passed in Willits to alleviate the dire condition of Willits city finances. It seems to me that a lot of our taxpayer \$ has been wasted in hiring and "firing" Alexis Blaylock. Yet no explanation has been given for her resignation except "personal reasons."

We, the taxpayers and citizens of Willits, deserve to know what really happened. I have heard (as much as I can legally be told) one side of the story, and I believe it. The fact that Ms. Blaylock is a stickler for protocol apparently was not appreciated by some of our police officers.

Ms. Garabrant-Sierra, you are putting the City of Willits in jeopardy of lawsuits

by not insisting that every police officer follow protocol to the letter every minute of every day. If we don't have enough \$ to run the city, we certainly do not have the finances to get involved in litigation.

I have heard good things about our new interim police chief, and I hope that the city welcomes him and allows him to do his job. And, Ms. Garabrant-Sierra, an explanation (apology?) is in order....

Our community does not deserve the lack of clarity that has evolved in this situation. Thank you.

Victor Hanson, Willits

## Thank you

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Willits Wild Bunch I would like to say thank you to all who supported us in this year's modified Willits Toy Run. Even though our run was vastly different from previous years, we had what we considered an excellent turn out from the biker community: Wino's Crew MC, Too Much Fun Club MC, Old Coots on Scoots MC, Mendocino County Harley Owners Group, and all the independent bikers who came out to support our cause, over 130 in all.

We also had great support from our local business community and local individuals in the way of donations to help us meet our goals in support of the Willits Children's Christmas Program: Family Tree Service (who joined the Willits Toy Run this year as an official sponsor!), Bruce Burton, Coast Hardware, Auto Mart, Mendo Mill, Brown's Corner, April-May Expresso, Loose Caboose, Myers Apothecary of Ukiah, and all the individuals who so generously donated to our GoFundMe page.

We would also like to thank Willits Weekly and the Willits News for the support with pre-run and post-run articles and photos. Again, thank you all so much in assisting us to make this year's Willits Children's Christmas Program a success.

Richard "Pops" Venturi, Willits Wild Bunch, Inc.

## Soroptimist speaker series

To the Editor:

Soroptimist International of Willits invites the public to join us next Tuesday, December 15 at noon for our continuing Zoom Third Tuesday Speaker Series.

Our speaker will be Erika Enslin, fire captain, Sacramento Fire Department. Please contact us at siwillits@soroptimist.net for the Zoom link for this meeting.

Please join us as we hear this women who faces the challenges of being a woman in a typically man's career. Thank you,

Vicki Ham, SIW, Willits

## Rotary Club of Willits forms student debt assistance program

By Jenny Senter, for Rotary Club of Willits

Rotary Club of Willits member Joe Bratt brought to the club his concern about the higher cost of education which has led to graduates leaving college with huge student loans. Added to this problem is the economic crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, lost jobs, and added medical costs, which will impact families for years to come.

The club mirrored his concern and led to the formation of a committee to research the problems that college graduates face when moving to Willits. The economic crisis, the high cost of housing, and less competitive wages are perceived to be the most pressing problems.

The Rotary Club of Willits Student Debt Assistance Program was formed in August 2020. On the committee are Willits Rotarians Joe Bratt, Jenny Senter, Holly Madrigal, Gerry Gonzales, and Allisha Rigano.

The committee developed an application and the criteria for choosing a Willits area college and/or career technical school graduate. The goal of SDAP is to encourage

local college or career tech graduates, who are active in the community, to stay in the Willits area.

Applications will be available December 10, 2020 and the deadline for the completed applications is February 12, 2021. For applications, please send an email to willitssdap@gmail.com.

Preliminary funding for 2021 was donated by an anonymous donor for the 2021 program, but our club welcomes donations to this fund so we can serve more Willits area residents in need of student loan assistance.

You can send checks, with a notation that they go to the "Willits SDAP account," to Rotary Club of Willits, P.O. Box 787, Willits CA 95490. Rotary Club of Willits is an IRS 501(c) (3) charitable foundation.

Please check out the new Internal Revenue Service special coronavirus tax provision for the 2020 tax year, that will allow more people to easily deduct up to \$300 in donations to qualifying charities. This provision expires at the end of 2020.

## Help give a Willits kid a wonderful Christmas

Organizers of the Willits Rotary Club's Children's Christmas Program would like to remind the public that the deadline to return tags and presents back to the donation bins is Tuesday, December 15.

"This will give our Elves a chance to fill in any tags that were not chosen, and get everything wrapped and ready to go to the families."

Those still interested in choosing a tag listing a child's Christmas wishes can find Christmas trees with tags up at J.D. Redhouse, Les Schwab, Sparetime Supply's Holiday Store, and the Willits Unified School District Office.

"Thank you to everyone who is helping make this year a success." For more information about the program, contact 354-1991 or 272-5935.

Those who'd like to make a financial donation can do so online via the fundraising page set up by the Willits Wild Bunch, which runs the Willits Toy Run every year to collect toys for the Christmas Program. Visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/willits-toy-run-and-christmas-program>

The Wild Bunch has raised more than \$4,000 of its \$5,000 goal for this Christmas already.

## Spring enrollment underway at Mendocino College

Submitted by Mendocino College

Mendocino College is pleased to announce that students can begin registering for the spring semester. The upcoming spring term, which begins January 19, will look very similar to fall 2020 at Mendocino College. While the schedule will be primarily online, there will be some hybrid classes offered (a mix of online and face-to-face).

Many online classes will include a regular Zoom session led by the instructor at a specific time as noted in the schedule. The schedule can be found by visiting <https://www.mendocino.edu/schedule> and a printed version will be mailed to homes in the district by early January.

"For the fall term, we migrated the majority of our classes to a virtual environment to address the restrictions presented by COVID-19 with the goal of continuing to meet the educational needs of our students," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Debra Polak. "For the upcoming spring, our faculty and staff once again came together to create a robust class schedule. We've focused on both the quality of instruction and the safety of our students, faculty, and staff."

The college continues to offer virtual assistance for students and has recently offered some on-ground services, such as Admissions and Financial Aid assistance, to help students prepare for the spring semester. Chromebooks also continue to be available; students in need may request one through their instructor.

"I am proud of our students, faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication as we have transitioned to various modes of instruction in order to offer our students the best and safest options for their education," said Mendocino College President/Superintendent Tim Karas. "We know that an online learning environment is not ideal for all students and we will work to eliminate hurdles as best we can."

In addition to registering for classes, students can prepare for the spring semester by applying for financial assistance, such as the Mendocino College Promise. Through the Mendocino College Promise, first-time, first-year students can receive up to two years free tuition, regardless of their financial situation. For more information about eligibility, please visit [www.mendocino.edu/promise](http://www.mendocino.edu/promise).

Read the rest of College Over on Page 4



Above: As it got darker, more families showed up to see Santa at the Roots of Motive Power's Santa Express. At right: Santa was happy that he was able to see the kids, if only in passing. At far right: The speeder, piloted by Roots' Chris Baldo, also went around the track.



## Santa Express

Roots 2020 Christmas train event was different than usual – but still delightful

On Saturday, December 5 from 5 to 8 pm, Santa Claus took a detour from his usual appointed rounds of checking whether

the kids were being naughty or nice. Mr. Claus hopped a ride on the Port of Olympia No. 2 train at the Roots of Motive Power yard, aka the Santa Express, riding in a continuous orbit around the tracks in order to delight and greet the children who brought their families to the event.

As he passed the kids on each loop, Santa waved and roared a mighty "Ho ho ho" and a joyful "Merry Christmas." He needed all of his vocal power to be heard over the hissing of the steam and the powerful tooting of the train whistle, but all the attendees knew what he was saying.

In the spirit of the season, Santa invited Willits Weekly to join him on a lap around the Roots facility, as well as granting an exclusive interview. "The reindeer are grazing right over here in the wetlands. They like to eat ticks. We're helping the environment," Santa explained. "The elves get Saturdays off. We're an employee-owned company up there in the North Pole. We don't need a union. They own the company. We're way ahead of the curve."

When asked where was Mrs. Claus (does she have a first name?), Santa responded,

"Mrs. Claus is at home, baking. That's the only way I can keep this physique up," he said, holding his ample belly.

"She's a good cook but not as good as the ladies in Willits. I look forward to those cookies every year. Ho ho ho, I tell you what. They don't let me get back on the sleigh without a big plate of those cookies. I like those ones where they stick their thumb in it and put in a Hershey's Kiss." So please remember to put out your cookies for Santa, the ones with the kisses. Santa works hard all year.

Let's you think that Santa only works one day a year, consider that he has to produce all those toys, keep the elves in line, constantly check lists, and most importantly, log in frequent flyer miles making sure the kids are behaving.

"I log about 2.5 trillion miles each year," Santa said. "I gotta go out and check on the kids every year. It's not just one night a year I'm out there. I don't have spies working for me. I do it all myself. I'm old school. I have to see for myself. I only work nine to five, so I see how they are at school and how they treat their parents, then I clock out."

Santa Claus would like to acknowledge

Read the rest of Express Over on Page 6

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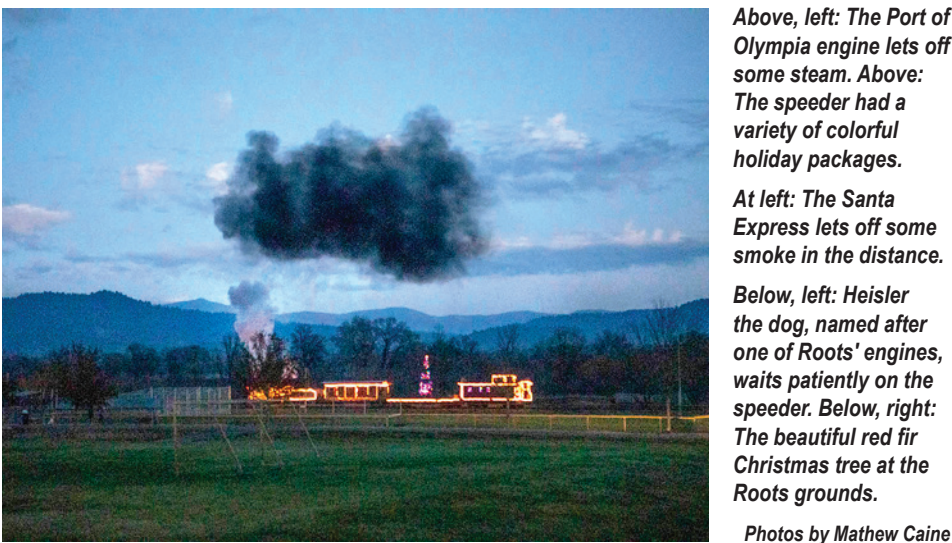
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Above, left: The Port of Olympia engine lets off some steam. Above: The speeder had a variety of colorful holiday packages.

At left: The Santa Express lets off some smoke in the distance.

Below, left: Heister the dog, named after one of Roots' engines, waits patiently on the speeder. Below, right: The beautiful red fir Christmas tree at the Roots grounds.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

**Willits Weekly**

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Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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SHOPPING DAY WORD SEARCH

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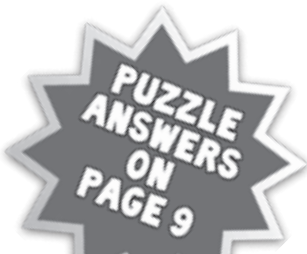
CLUES ACROSS

1. Skateboarders love them
6. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
9. Former Ohio State great Michael
13. Not dirty
14. Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
15. A Spanish river
16. Pig meat (French)
17. Famed astronomer
18. Floating ice
19. Broadcast
21. Aquatic mammals
22. Some are bath
23. Hip hop trio
24. NY Giants' #56
25. Small European viper
28. Neither
29. Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
31. Loud noise
33. Second year high schooler
36. \_\_\_ in comparison'
38. Golf score
39. Raise
41. Pastas
44. Easily manageable
45. Fathered
46. Pouch

48. Institute legal proceedings against
49. News organization
51. Unruly group of people
52. Fasten or secure
54. Sheets of glass
56. Doubled
60. Foolish person
61. Rooney and Kate are two
62. Small, rich sponge cake
63. Advice or counsel
64. Large wading bird
65. Famed British physicist
66. Narrow ridges (Swedish)
67. Field force unit
68. Lying face downward

CLUES DOWN

1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)
2. Soap ingredient
3. Blackbird
4. Steps
5. Tin
6. Books have lots of them
7. Made of fermented honey and water
8. You can get it in a bed
9. Room for communal meals
10. Early Syrian kingdom
11. Provokes dry amusement
12. Use with 'thou'



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!

The rest of Enforcement

From Page 1

concludes, "Whereas, it is necessary to prioritize our limited resources in a manner that most efficiently and effectively achieves compliance with Public Health Orders and COVID-19 safety protocols while assuring the delivery of critical services to the residents of Mendocino County..."

It then declares that the supervisors support the state and local health orders that are in effect, and encourages all residents and businesses to comply with those orders.

The resolution "Directs that the highest priority of enforcement for the Special Investigations Unit, Public Health, Planning & Building Services and other county staff shall be to assure that all complaints of private gatherings, particularly large parties, are investigated and if a complaint is confirmed that all necessary measures be taken to achieve compliance."

The resolution "encourages the sheriff's office to continue to work collaboratively with the Special Investigations Unit, Public Health, Planning and Building Services and other county staff to assure that large private gatherings, particularly parties, are not allowed to continue operating."

It states that the second highest priority of law enforcement shall be to assure compliance with protocols for masking, distancing, hygiene and improved air circulation, "particularly for businesses and other entities that interact directly with the public."

The resolution states that "all complaints of noncompliance shall be investigated and a determination made if the COVID-19 protocols are being complied with."

The resolution concludes, "Other than preventing gatherings and assuring compliance with masking and social distancing, in order to assure continuity of critical county services, Special Investigations Unit, Public Health, Planning & Building Services and other county staff shall not treat enforcement of the Public Health order as a per se higher priority than normally assigned duties, but shall instead allocate resources in such a way that ensures completion of all critical duties unrelated to COVID-19."

Both Sheriff Matt Kendall and Planning and Building Code Enforcement Division Supervisor John Burke expressed qualified support for the resolution. Both said that they supported it in principle, but both said they did not have the staffing to meet the demand for the enforcement that was being required of them.

"Where are we going to get the personnel to work on this?" Kendall asked.

The supervisors did not answer Kendall's question.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen, who together with Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams authored the resolution, tried to put the provisions of the resolution into perspective.

"There will be no expectation that county staff will be out cruising the neighborhoods, knocking on doors to see who is having a Christmas dinner with their relatives," McCowen said. "But if we get a complaint that there is party and they have a band playing and there are 50 cars parked on the street, then I would hope that county staff would investigate."



Samson Musselini Joaquin, 23.



Joaquina Patrice Joaquin, 24



Janet Faye Azbill, 34.



Joseph Joshua Hoaglen, 37.



David Lee Joaquin Jr., 26.



Britton Leonard Azbill Sr., 61.

The rest of Murders

From Page 1

suspected individuals for their connection/involvement in the deaths of Kyle James McCartney and Traci Lynn Bland.

The charging was based upon investigations and subsequent reports submitted by Sheriff's Office detectives.

The charging consisted of the following individuals:

Joseph Joshua Hoaglen, 37, was booked on charges of kidnapping, torture, murder/carjack, murder/kidnap, murder, mandatory supervision violations, conspiracy, and assault. Samson Musselini Joaquin, 23, was charged with murder/carjack, murder/kidnap, torture, murder, conspiracy, kidnapping, possession and transportation of controlled substance, and probation violations.

Janet Faye Azbill, 34, was booked on charges of torture, murder/carjack, murder/kidnap, DUI, murder, conspiracy, kidnapping, and assault.

Britton Leonard Azbill Sr., 61, was charged with kidnapping, torture, murder/carjack, murder/kidnap, murder, and conspiracy.

David Lee Joaquin Jr., 26, was booked on charges of kidnapping, torture, murder, parole violations, possession of drug paraphernalia, and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

Joaquina Patrice Joaquin, 24, was arrested in Richmond, California, on December 5, and booked on charges of parole violation, kidnapping, conspiracy and murder.

This report was based on several press releases from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

The rest of Town hall

From Page 1

also be participating.

How to attend:

To join via Zoom, click the link: <https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/89835755017>

To join via phone, dial: +1 669 900 9128 and enter the webinar ID: 898 3575 5017

The webinar will also be streaming live on the County's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/mendocinocountyvideo>) and the County's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mendocinocounty/>).

How to submit your questions and comments:

There will be a live Q&A feature on the webinar where you can submit your question live during the event.

For more information, please contact Mendocino County Planning and Building Services Cannabis Program at 707-234-6680.

The rest of College

From Page 2

Students who wish to see their eligibility for federal grants and loans, including the Mendocino College Promise, should complete the FAFSA at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov). More information about financial aid can be found at [www.mendocino.edu/financial-aid](http://www.mendocino.edu/financial-aid).

For students receiving face-to-face instruction in the spring, attendance will comply with the college's COVID-19 protocols for social distancing, face coverings, and additional sanitation measures.

"The well-being of our students and employees continues to be our top priority at this time," Karas said. "We want our students to receive the best education and training in the safest environment possible, and I am proud of everyone for helping us maintain a safe campus over the past months. I commend all the students, faculty, and staff for practicing our safety protocols, and I encourage everyone to continue with these safety practices so that we can have a great spring semester."

Furry Friends  
Hoping for a Home

Young Faunzye



This is our boy Faunzye.

He came to us at the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County as a stray kitten in November of last year and has lived his whole life with us. He is about a year old and very shy but incredibly nice and friendly once you get to know him.

Consider fostering or adopting this lovely boy and give him some happy days. Email [catfosterteam@hsmc.org](mailto:catfosterteam@hsmc.org) for more info. Visit <https://mendohumanesociety.com/> to learn more about HSMC.

Togo loves toys

Togo is a happy-go-lucky kinda dog = upbeat and delighted to meet everyone, especially if going for a walk is tops on the agenda. Togo enjoys playing with toys and is especially fond of squeaky stuffies.

During his evaluation, Togo reminded us of a big puppy. This good-looking and good-natured guy will benefit from basic canine training in his new home; also daily exercise. Togo is a year old and 60 very handsome pounds.

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



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Friday - 9am to 7pm  
Saturday - 10am to 7pm  
Sunday - 10am to 7pm

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OBITUARY |

Carl Mitchell, Jr.



Carl "Butch" Lee Mitchell, Jr. of Laytonville passed away November 23, 2020. He was born July 04, 1941 in Bethany, Missouri to Carl Lee Mitchell and Wilma Marie "Miller" Mitchell. Butch was the "Number One Pumper," working on the oil rig. He enjoyed the Linxmen Car Club in high school; later coached baseball and football. He was a member of the Free Masons.

Butch was a man of honor and integrity, his "Yes" as definite as his "No." If he liked you, he liked you, and if he didn't, you knew it. He was a good friend that gave good counsel; and he had a contagious laugh, always willing to share a good story that swept you back into yesteryear.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Bobby. He is survived by his son, Kenneth Mitchell, and daughter, Traci Ann Mitchell.

Butch will be greatly missed by all those who loved him. His journey in life has ended as he has moved into eternity with Christ our Lord. "Until we meet again, my dear friend, love Debbie."

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

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Photos by  
Maureen  
Jennison



At left: Christmas cups are perfect for festive drinks. Above: Snoopy and other stuffed animals are ready to come home with shoppers. Below: This curled wood wreath shows a natural side of Christmas decorating.



Above, from left: Ileya Stewart is liquidating her selection of hand-painted dishes. Annie Waters sells her home-grown olives, jewelry, calendula scrub, and many other goods. Rachel, Kristin and Sarah of Shewolf Coffee smile through their masks.



At right: The sign for the Mendocino Herb Guild Holiday Market is tough to miss. At far right: There was much to see and buy at the Herb Guild Holiday Market.

Below: Niko Ramsdell and Evita Sikellanos of Wilder Ferments take time out from wholesaling their kombucha products to sell at the fair.



Photos by Mathew Caine



## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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and the Bible is central.  
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adult & children  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Awan: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
www.agapebiblechurch.com

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-5456  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
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**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
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Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

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www.eckankar.org

**Grace Community Church**  
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25 Hazel Street, Willits  
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for now.  
For appointments call:  
(707) 459-3106

**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**  
61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandandam  
Mass times:  
Confessions by appointment:  
459-2252  
Sunday Mass outside:  
8:00 a.m. English  
9:00 a.m. Spanish  
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**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-272-0177  
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**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Karl Biese, Pastor  
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following the service.  
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24 Mill Creek Drive  
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**Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
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Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
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Worship Celebration  
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Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.  
459-2855  
Facebook: www.facebook.com

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

## The rest of Shopping

From Page 1

This year's store opened on December 7 and will remain open until December 12. They're open from 9 am to 4 pm each day, and ask that shoppers wear masks, practice social distancing, and buy holiday goodies!

"Everyone was excited and looking forward to the opening of our Christmas Store," said center Executive Director Richard Baker. "People were in the parking lot at 8 am waiting for the doors to open at 9 am so they could get first choice of a wide variety of Christmas decorations. I helped many people carry items to their cars because they couldn't carry everything they bought by themselves. Our opening day total sales were \$5,278!"

Baker noted how many shoppers all enjoy supporting the senior center by buying holiday decorations at the store each year and then donating them back to the center, and buying new decorations the next year.

"Some shoppers were already asking when the new decorations were going to be restocked so they could come back and shop again," laughed Baker. "My advice: Get there early you don't miss out!"

The Christmas Store is manned by volunteers, and Baker said that without them it would not be possible.

"Thank you Goldie Hilke, Earlene Gleisner, Geri Hartman, Diana Mann, Joyce Stamps, Norman Middleton, Charlie Herrera, Gary Martin, Martha Morgan, Katie Barry, Sandy Boyle, and a special shout out to our Board of Directors President Sue Sawyers and Secretary Dorothy Roediger, who spent countless hours accepting, storing and preparing for the opening of our Christmas Store," said Baker. "Last but not least, thank you to our shoppers, who, year after year turn out to support the senior center. We appreciate each and every one of you!"

In addition to the store, the center is also holding a See's Candy fundraising sale. One-pound boxes of Nuts & Chews, and assorted milk, dark, and soft-center chocolates are available for sale as well as 1.5-pound boxes of peanut brittle. All the candy is Christmas wrapped, and helps to support senior center programs and services. Call 459-6826 to order and arrange for drive-through pick-up, or pick up a box while shopping at the Christmas Store.

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## The rest of Express

From Page 3

and thank the members of Roots of Motive Power for their hard work in preparing and running the Santa Express train in a colorful and safe manner for the kids of Willits to enjoy.

The three hours of the Santa Express required over a week of work by the mechanics and steam enthusiasts of Roots. Alexis England, volunteer and Roots board member, was "super excited that we got to do something to spread some Christmas cheer because with everything getting cancelled, the pending lockdown, it makes me sad for kids. It was really neat to be able to come up with something that was COVID safe, that the kids could still find some light and some Christmas joy. We spent all week getting the locomotive together. The last two days alone, we were just doing the caboose, stringing the lights."

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The annual Roots Christmas celebration normally includes train rides as well as visits with Santa in the train house, along with cookies and raffles and lights and joy.

This year, the people of Roots did all they could to bring some Christmas cheer.

"We went up the Friday after Thanksgiving and got the big red fir that you'll see on the army flat car," continued England. "The guys strung the lights on the tree. I don't think we've ever done a lit-up train before. Normally, when we do our Holiday Express, we do it during the day, so we don't light the locomotive."

Chris Baldo, one of the founding members of Roots of Motive Power, along with his dog, Heiser (named after one of the locomotives) ran the diminutive speeder around the track. Also brightly lit up and bearing gaily wrapped packages, the speeder ran opposite to the big Port of Olympia steam engine, which pulled the Santa car, the flatbed with the decorated tall red fir tree, and the caboose, all of which were lit up with hundreds of lights for the families driving through the parking lot to see.

Some of the families, well-distanced, got out of their vehicles and stood by the fence, delighting the children, and causing them to place their hands over their ears with the loud train whistle.

In the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, people and organizations in Willits are being creative this Christmas season to make sure that the children are able to have the joys and memories that the season brings.

You can see a video of the lit-up 2020 Christmas train going around the tracks at the Roots facility on East Commercial Street at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NC5U7BIK60>.

# Healthful Gifts

## Mendocino Herb Guild Holiday Market was a one-stop shop for healing remedies, salves, crafts and more

On Sunday, December 6, the Rexall parking lot in downtown Willits was filled with local artisans, herbalists and apothecaries selling elixirs, kombucha, tinctures, salves, and healing remedies. There were even tarot readers and bunnies.

Unable to have their annual and popular Harvest Dinner this year due to the rigors of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mendocino Herb Guild decided to create an outdoor event where vendors, esoteric practitioners of the herbal arts, craftspeople, and artists could demonstrate and sell their wares in a safe and distanced environment.

Twenty-one vendors, more if counting the friends who shared booths, set up their mini-stores at the Mendocino Herb Guild's Holiday Market, offering healthy herbal-based alternatives to Western medicinal practices.

Most of the herbal goods were suggested as healthy gifts to loved ones in the Christmas season. It was an array of mostly reasonably priced remedies, tinctures, and preventative solutions designed to promote the immune system.

Leslie King, a guild member and one of the organizers of the event as well as a vendor, explained her vision of the event: "This came out of an idea that all the festivals and fairs just went kaput this year, so we wanted to do something to see if we could support some of the local herbalists - and we've included local crafters, some ceramicists, and some jewelers and others.

"We were going to do it at the farmers market but it didn't work out," she continued, "so we decided to do something separate. We couldn't do our harvest dinner or our big huge wonderful gathering at the park like we did one year."

Like many of the herbalists of the guild, King grows her own plants. "I love experimenting," she said. "Growing is probably my favorite part of herbs right now. This year I decided to go a little big on astragalus and ashwagandha.

"I have a huge echinacea patch," King explained. "They're classified as adaptogens. Astragalus is more of a Chinese herb which is used a lot in soups to help tonify and strengthen your immune system. Some people use ashwagandha for cognitive strengthening. They have so many different properties especially when they are adaptogens. They go where they are needed in your body."

King further explained the philosophy behind the use of herbs. "There's a lot of great medicinal strength in the herbs. So much of our medicine has gone to the traditional Western model, which is important as well. But there are ways that you can take a bay leaf from your tree that's right there, and it helps stimulate your immune system and your digestion. You put it in your hot water. Or the same with some thyme or oregano.

"There are ways that you can use them to strengthen your system," King said. "Given what's been going on now with our climate and our world, I think that our immune system is the most important thing to be working on."



Annie Waters of Garden Alchemy brought many homemade and homegrown items such as a calendula scrub, tinctures, medicinals and olives. "I also have essential oil perfumes from magical ancient formulas, frankincense and myrrh which date back to ancient Egypt. 'Essential' means there is nothing mixed in. It is directly distilled from the plant. There are no carrier oils, like olive oil or jojoba oil or palm oil which makes it cheaper to buy."

Claudia Wenning of Quantum Level Health, another of the market organizers, made sure the event was copacetic with the Mendocino County Health Department, where she received much useful assistance.

"We were in really close contact with the city and I must say the ladies at the county health department were very helpful. They sent a letter of support so we have something in writing. We got the green light. Everything is permitted. We are making sure that everyone is observing physical distancing as much as possible. Even though we are outside, masks are mandatory," Wenning said. "We have sanitation stations set up. We are asking people to sign in for tracing."

Stephanie Corey of Blooming Moonlight Apothecary shared a booth with two friends, Anna Henning, a painter of powerful feminine images, and Karly Ketron of Wise Wyth Apothecary. Along with their associate Gnat Chambers, they all attended the California School of Herbal Studies together for two years in Forestville. Ketron, from Potter Valley, has also written, designed, photographed and published a beautifully done book, "The Wise Wyth," which she offered for sale.

Selena Rowan of Nine Sisters Botanicals and an Herb Guild member, expressed her love of herbal medicine: "Herbs make me feel like I'm a part of the circle of all beings that nourish each other and feed upon each other, die for each other," she said.

"It makes me feel," she added, "like an animal more than just like a person. That gives me a very settled feeling in my heart. It's contentment."

Rangi Mayshark of Trillium Herb Co., a storefront business in Ukiah, opined as to the benefits of herbs. "What herbs have to offer as opposed to traditional Western allopathic medicine is mostly preventative," she said. "They can strengthen your immune system and digestive health. I think a lot of new people are turning to herbs like elderberries which are antiviral. It is a step they can take rather than just staying at home."

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Above: The Calvary Chapel on Wood Street. Above, right: Jenelle Connelly, craftsperson and organizer of the craft fair, sells her creations. Below, left: Young Miss Furguson offers her painted rocks. Below, right: Jenelle Connelly's tree ornaments are sure to be a hit among kids.



Below: Masked shoppers enjoy the variety of knit and metallic goods.

At right: Jasmine, Sharlyn and Grandma sell their seasonal knit goods.

At right, below: A variety of vendors are set up with plenty of room for social distancing at the Calvary Chapel Christmas Craft Fair.



Photos by Mathew Caine



## Holiday Shopping

### Handmade goods abound at Calvary Chapel Christmas Craft Fair

Small, but colorful, the Calvary Chapel Christmas Craft Fair, provided a creative outlet for some of the congregants on Saturday, December 5, from 10 am to 2 pm. Organizer Jenelle Connelly was not sure until the last moment whether the current COVID-19 restrictions would allow for this socially distanced fair to happen.

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

Happily they were able to create the event safely and allow the public in to do some Christmas gift shopping of some of the wares crafted by the Calvary Chapel people. There were booths festooned with brightly colored and whimsical knit goods, creative jewelry and coasters, Christmas tree ornaments, and homemade cookies from some of the youth.

Calvary Chapel is a non-denominational edifice headed by Senior Pastor Jim Semisch. The facility on Wood Street, in addition to the chapel, has a Kids Ministry building as well as a Teen Center. The original chapel was built around 1903 and was the meeting place for the First Baptist Church which merged with the Calvary Chapel four years ago.



## Screen time: A concern, a challenge and some alternatives

By Robin Goldner, LCSW

My concern is that most of us spend more time than is healthy relating to our screens. Right now, ironically, I am relating to a screen as I write this.

I believe many of us have decreased our face-to-face communication skills due to the rise of texting and emailing that have replaced phone calls and in-person conversation. Especially young people, the digital natives, have grown up using devices for school work, homework, dating and other communication.

Due to COVID, more of us sit in front of a screen for work than in the past, and all kids are using it for school. Now many of us also socialize and connect with family in front of a screen and probably shop more online.

I am concerned that elementary aged children sit in front of screens to learn. I understand this is a necessary response to the pandemic. But kids don't have to use cell phones and pads for recreation! Not only is it unnecessary, but it can cause communication impairments and access to internet content that is not age appropriate.

Since its advent, TV has been used as a babysitter, and that trend has only grown with the variety and portability of screens, as well as decreased parental availability due to adult screen addictions. I shudder to imagine how this is affecting children's developing brains and social-emotional development!

I could go on with my concerns about screen usage, from the deaths caused by texting when driving, to the hours of sleep lost due to overstimulation by blue light emissions late into the night. Then there is the public health problem of obesity partially due to our choosing more screen time over physical activity.

### A challenge

But I don't wish to harangue you. What I'd like to do is propose a challenge to anyone who would like to join me.

First, guess how much time you spend in front of your screens each week. This includes cell phone, tablet, desktop and TV.

Then track it. Sign in and out. See how much time you spend in front of your screens. (I hear some apps are available for cell phones to help you track your time.)

After you track your time spent in front of a screen for a week, see if it matches your guess. Is it more time than you thought? Less?

Do the same for your children or challenge the older ones to do it for themselves. For those really curious about how you manage your time, you can track how much time you use a screen compared to other activities you enjoy.

My sense is that we've forgotten what to do with ourselves, other than relate to screens, especially with the challenge of social isolation that is required to combat the spread of COVID.

If you're interested in remembering, you may have to create a list of alternative activities you and your children can engage in that don't involve screens. Here are a few alternatives.

### Alternatives

Claudia Wenning, in her "Winter self-care" column in this paper, recommends that we move our bodies every day. Walking is a great antidote to sitting. So is yoga, tai chi or chi gong, and they can be done inside or outside. Wenning suggests walking and looking up at the sky. I also enjoy looking down at the beautiful pattern of multi-colored

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**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2020-F0568  
The following company is doing business as Quantum Level Health, 291 School Street, Suite #4, Willits, CA 95490.  
Registered owner: Claudia Wenning, PO Box 125, Willits, CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on November 1, 2015.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on November 19, 2020.  
Is/ Claudia Wenning  
Publication dates: 11/25, 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17/2020

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



### Current Job Openings:

Account Specialist Supervisor  
Corrections Deputy  
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II  
Program Manager  
Property Tax Technician  
Supervising Public Health Nurse

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:

[www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources)

EOE

leaves on the ground.

Walking is often more fun as a social activity. Young children may help you to see more than you thought was there. Notice birds and bird songs, the wind blowing leaves to the ground and what's growing in your neighbor's yard. You might see others and enjoy a socially distanced conversation! And please, don't take your phone on a walk if you can possibly stand it!

Everyone can dance. Just put on your favorite music you enjoy, stand up, and move to it! Don't get hung up on how you look, just go with what feels good to you.

I'd like to create a community dialogue about this issue. What are your thoughts, concerns, observations and discoveries related to screen usage?

If you have any comments or questions you'd like to share with the community, you can email [rgoldner@pacific.net](mailto:rgoldner@pacific.net) or call me and leave a message at 459-5673. I'd love to have a conversation with you! (And I'll log in my time as I answer you!)

I highly recommend parents check out Common Sense Media, a non-profit organization that helps families "promote safe technology and media for children."

I hope as a community, in these most difficult times, we can look at this issue with honesty and curiosity and promote mental well-being for ourselves and our children.

Robin Goldner is a psychotherapist in Willits who has so far resisted having a smart phone of her own.

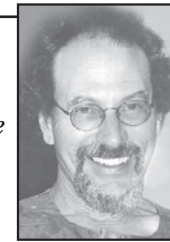
**Willits Weekly**  
We're online and in print



### Reminder!

Willits Weekly will be on our holiday break soon! There will NOT be a paper published on 12/24/2020, 12/31/2020 or 1/7/2021.

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I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services for your specific direction.



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## CLASSIFIEDS

**Computer Help**  
Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email [uicearbhail@gmail.com](mailto:uicearbhail@gmail.com)

**Cottage for Sale**  
In town, a 2-bedroom cottage for sale. \$178,000. Call 459-9228.

**Firewood For Sale**  
Firewood for sale. 1 true cord of 16 inch dry firewood, \$200 and up. Will deliver. Call: 459-2868.

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

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

**Help Wanted**  
Willits Chiropractic Clinic looking for part-time certified massage therapist and also part-time front desk. Inquire at 1225 S Main St, Willits. Please bring resume.



**WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
WCA Members  
**Small Works Show**  
In time for the Holidays  
Unique, one of a kind memories made

Open Fri, Sat, Sun, 11 am - 5 pm

**ONLINE GALLERY**  
Visit our website [willitscenterforthearts.org](http://willitscenterforthearts.org)

71 E. Commercial St.  
Willits, 95490  
707-459-1726

**Christina McCluskey's Paralegal Service**  
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(707) 467-7642  
104 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits, CA  
Email: [cmccuskey.paralegal@gmail.com](mailto:cmccuskey.paralegal@gmail.com)  
I am not an attorney. I cannot give you legal advice or represent you in court. Mendocino County Registration No. LDA-14, Expires 10/01/2021

1	3	2	8	5	6	7	9	4
5	4	9	1	7	3	8	6	2
6	8	7	2	4	9	3	5	1
7	6	1	9	8	5	4	2	3
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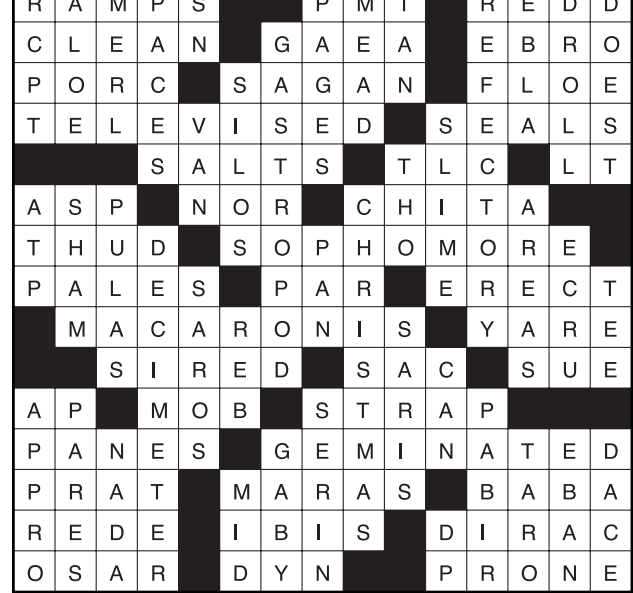
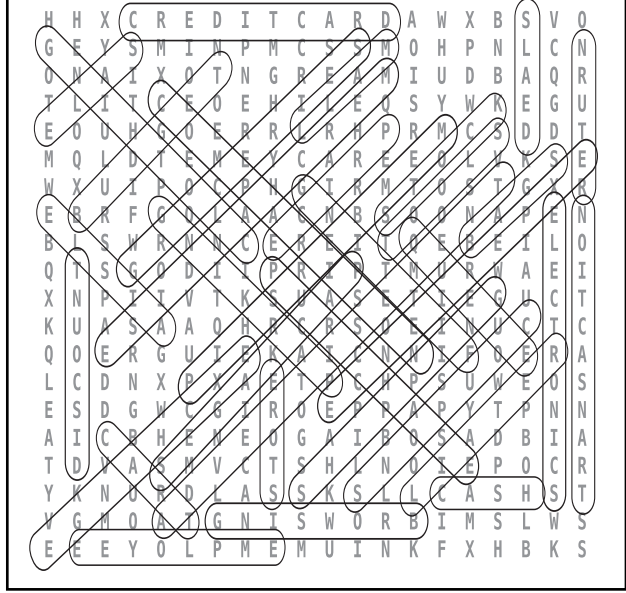
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• Kitchens and Baths  
• Blueprints  
• Plan Drawing  
• Design

**Santa's Helpers are coming to Savings Bank**  
December 14th - 24th  
Ho Ho Ho,  
I'm working hard so I'll make this quick. Things are a bit different during a pandemic, but don't you worry I have a plan and Santa's Helpers are lending a hand. Please tell my helpers your holiday wish and they will let me know what it is.  
~ Santa  
Drive-up Video Teller  
UKIAH - WILLITS - REDWOOD VALLEY - FORT BRAGG  
M-TH: 8AM - 5PM, FRI: 8AM - 6PM & SAT: 9AM - 2PM  
Closing at 3pm on the 24th  
**SBMQ** Savings Bank OF MENDOCINO COUNTY  
Member FDIC

**A Season of Light**  
Wishing you health and hope for the holidays.  
**LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER**  
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WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE.  
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# Come get your October Rewards & enter to win...

**3X** ENTRIES ON  
TUESDAYS

200 POINTS = 3 ENTRY TICKETS



## ONE UGLY MUDDER

### 2020 Jeep Gladiator Giveaway\*

Earn Entries Daily for Weekend Drawings

**Oct 1 – December 26**

200 points = 1 entry ticket

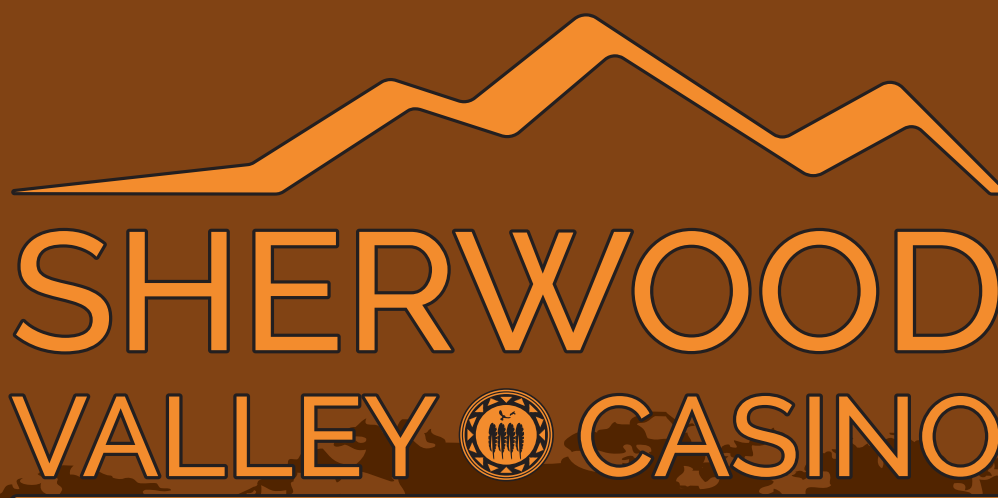
**WEEKEND  
DRAWINGS**  
Sat & Sun  
5PM – 10PM

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

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

**SENIOR THURSDAYS** **NOON – 5PM**

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



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

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