

# Willits Weekly

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Online & Print

Willits Weekly newspaper

It's Real Estate Section Thursday!

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 536

Thursday, February 8, 2024

## Willits weathers the storm

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Apart from 45 residents along Della Avenue who didn't get their power back until late Wednesday afternoon, Willits proper, the valley, and even the surrounding hills were less impacted by the latest winter storm than other areas in the region.

The outage on Della Avenue was reported to PG&E on Sunday, February 4 at 11:32 am. The PG&E outage map reported that the "preliminary determination is that your outage was caused by an equipment issue."

Mendocino Action News page on Facebook, which posts live action reports from the emergency services scanners, described the Della outage Sunday as "Hazard - Tree onto lines; blown transformer."

Looking at that outage map Wednesday afternoon, although progress has been made, there were still many power outages reported along the Mendocino coast, and in inland and coastal areas south of Mendocino County, and in Lake County, too. Outages in Covelo are no longer shown, and power is still out for one resident of the Dos Rios area.

Read the rest of **Storm**  
Over on Page 11

## Annual Willits water flushing program coming up

Submitted by City of Willits Water Department

The City of Willits Water Department sent notices out with the latest water bills about the anticipated schedule of the annual Flushing Program this year. The January 25 letter reads:

The week of February 19, the City of Willits Water Department will begin our Annual Flushing Program. We will start at the base of Pine Mountain and work our way toward the City.

We anticipate flushing on Main Street will begin approximately three weeks after the program begins. Businesses on Main Street will be notified prior to the start of flushing. The flushing will be done at night in the hope of causing as little disruption to you and your business as possible.

By flushing the system, we will be "re-routing" the water flow in order to pick up and remove all accumulated sediment in the Water Distribution System. This may cause the water to appear dirty and discolored but it is SAFE! It has been disinfected and chlorine

Read the rest of **Flushing**  
Over on Page 9



Above, from left: The King family waves to Edie Ceccarelli from the parade route. River Perry Handschug, 9, in her finest skeleton-pirate-skunk-cheerleader ensemble, shook green pom-poms for the birthday girl. The Franceschinis cheered and shook yellow poms from their car. Below: Holy Spirit Care Home's Perla Gonzalez, left, smiles with one-day-shy-of-116, Edith "Edie" Ceccarelli at the event.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

## Celebrating Ms. Ceccarelli

A parade, cake and party held in honor of Edie Ceccarelli, who turned 116 on February 5

Well, she's done it again, folks, making another official full turn around the sun, and for Edie Ceccarelli, it's just old hat! This is her 116th time after all, and her hometown celebrated the occasion with a parade, cake, and merriment on Sunday, the day before her official Monday birthday.

Maureen Jennison  
Graphics & Photographress  
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Democrat were also in attendance, as well as a film crew creating a documentary about the oldest people on the planet. Suzanne Picetti of the Frank R. Howard Foundation, event organizer for the

Not only was yours truly there representing the local Willits Weekly newspaper, but reporters from the London-based Guardian, The New York Times, and the Santa Rosa Press

Read the rest of **Ceccarelli**  
Over on page 11

Below: Some of those documenting and witnessing Edie's 116th birthday included, from left: Yoni Brook, Andy Wright of Pistachio Films, Sam Green, Lou Wishes (Yoni, Sam and Lou from the "Oldest People on Earth" documentary crew); Alexandra Hootnick and Soumya Karlamangla of The New York Times; Willits City Mayor Saprina Rodriguez, in front, holding the Proclamation for Edie; Rachel Bujalski from London-based The Guardian; Rod Sverko retired from the Santa Rosa Police Department; Chris Smith, retired from the Press Democrat; and Willits City Manager, Brian Bender.



At far left: Edie sneaks a finger full of frosting from her 116th birthday cake made by the Roots crew at Howard Memorial Hospital, as Perla Gonzalez says "Happy Birthday." At left: Train Singers Malakai and Greg Schindel come up to sing to Edie. Below, left: Ceccarelli takes a quick post-cake rest in her easy chair before getting ready for the parade outside. Ceccarelli and Genaro Gonzalez, Jr. are filmed by the documentary crew. Suzanne Picetti of the Howard Foundation, left, and Perla Gonzalez, of the Holy Spirit Care Home where Edie resides, right.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Below, left: Members of Edie's family gathered around the birthday girl just before the parade begins. Below, right: Genaro Gonzalez, Jr. and Evelyn Persico talk to Edie, surrounded by heaters, as the parade goes by the Holy Spirit Care Home on Sunday afternoon.



## Ukiah hearings on AT&T and landlines

Jennifer Poole  
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willitsweekly@gmail.com

Should AT&T be allowed to abandon almost all its land lines in California? The California Public Utilities Commission has set hearings on AT&T's request to do just that, including two hearings in Ukiah on February 22.

The application for relief from being the "carrier of last resort" that AT&T filed last year states that the proposal would "protect the needs of current basic service customers without alternatives for voice service and would allow others with existing options plenty of time to choose among them."

The Executive Summary on the application states: "California consumers enjoy one of the most innovative and competitive communications marketplaces in the country. Implementing California's policies, the Commission has facilitated robust competitive entry and strengthened investment incentives for the deployment of advanced communications services. AT&T and others have been investing enormous sums in

Read the rest of **Landlines**  
Over on Page 11

## Mendocino Railway, Sierra Northern receive \$31.4 million federal loan

Posted by U.S. DOT

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced Monday that its Build America Bureau provided a \$31.4 million Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing loan to the Sierra Northern Railway and Mendocino Railway to expand and rehabilitate rail infrastructure in the Central Valley and in Mendocino County. By providing RRIF and Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loans, the Bureau helps communities expedite infrastructure projects and reduce project costs.

"USDOT is pleased to support this important project in California that will increase safety, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, and improve freight service benefitting the entire region," said Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg. "The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to investing in clean transportation and enhancing supply chains."

Read the rest of **Loan**  
Over on Page 9



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Art of Distilling event cancelled

To The Editor:

Due to circumstances beyond our control, an upcoming event, the Art of Distilling, with Rapsallion Spirits, at the Willits Center for the Arts, has been cancelled. Tickets already purchased online will be refunded in full.

The Willits Center of the Arts will reschedule this exciting event as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

Margi Gomez Guhde,  
Willits Center for the Arts Board

## New location for the Post Office?

To the Editor:

Last week along with your publication I received a flyer regarding the old AM&D property be up for sale. My first thoughts were this would be a great location for the Willits Post Office. As far as I can see the only good thing to be said about the current location of the Post Office is that it's centrally located.

The property at the corner of Baechtel and East Hill would provide ample off-street parking for employees and customers, and comes equipped with loading docks.

Other than location and availability I have no understanding into details as to the ownership of the current location or the asking price for the property. It's just something worth thinking about.

Frank Sanderson,  
Brooktrails

Read the rest of Letters | Over on page 4

Note |

Willits Community Services Director Ruthanne Volz asked to add one more thank you to her article last week: "I left out one key helper in the food bank move! Debi Menesini is her name. Thank you Debi!"

## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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## Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

**Thursday, February 8:** Sausage Pepperoni Olive Stromboli, Green Salad

**Friday, February 9:** Ground Sirloin, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

**Monday, February 12:** Cheeseburger, Mac & Cheese, Pickle

**Tuesday, February 13:** Fish Tacos, Rice & Beans

**Wednesday, February 14:** Beef Stroganoff, Veggies, Roll

**Thursday, February 15:** Chicken Teriyaki Stir-Fry

**Friday, February 16:** Lasagna w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread

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

**Pancake Breakfast:** every second Sunday, on February 11 this month, 8 to 11 am. \$10; \$9 center members; \$6 children under 8. Menu choices: 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$10; \$9 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides \$2: 3 slices bacon, 2 sausage links. Breakfast includes Peet's Coffee and orange juice or milk.

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

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

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

## THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT February 2024 Update

By Supervisor John Haschak

Our State Senator Mike McGuire was sworn in on February 5 as President of the state Senate. This is the first time in 147 years that the Senate President will come from this district.

I have known Senator McGuire for many years, and he has always been extremely supportive of me and my work for Mendocino County. Since California is usually dominated by Southern California interests, this will be an opportunity to have a good friend who knows the North Coast in a position of power.

County Museum staff will present to the board of supervisors new models of operation, including non-profit administration. Karen Mattson will present ideas on how to create more efficiencies, revenue generation, and strengthen community partnerships. Some of the benefits of going to a non-profit model are that salaries and benefits are less, insurance costs go down, maintenance and landscaping jobs will be more timely and efficient, and there will be more opportunities for fundraising.

I am committed to making sure that any transition is successful in keeping the museum open and running well. This will require continued support, though less than the current amount, from the county.

In January, the board passed round 2 of streamlining the cannabis ordinance. It came from the General Government Standing Committee which I chair. The general feeling is that the cannabis department is now running smoothly and is on track to get applicants transitioned to their state annual licenses. This has been a real turnaround.

My approach has been that government oversees this industry, and we must be as efficient and effective as possible. Last year the cannabis department cost the General Fund a million dollars. This year it will be much less, and cannabis tax revenue was budgeted at \$1.5 million and came in at \$3.1 million. Those are some bright data points.

There will be no "Talk with the Supervisor" this Thursday. I will be at the CalCOG annual conference talking about transportation issues. I am available by email haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or phone 707-972-4214.

## Mail ballot availability

Submitted by County Clerk's Office

February 5 – Mail ballots (aka vote by mail or absentee ballots) are being mailed to all active registered voters in Mendocino County, on Monday, February 5, 2024 and will be available in the County Clerk's Office, for the Presidential Primary Election, to be held on March 5, 2024,, according to Katrina Bartolomie, Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder.

The County Clerk's Office is located in Room 1020 of the County Administration Building located at 501 Low Gap Road in Ukiah. The USPS normal delivery is five to seven days, if you have not received your ballot within 10 days from the date of mailing, please call our office at (707) 234-6819 for a replacement ballot. If you have moved since the last election, please re-register at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>

Sample Ballots (local voter information booklets) were mailed by our vendor and should be arriving in your homes within the next few days, if you do not receive your Sample Ballot by the end of the week, please call our office so we can send you one. Local candidate statements for our county can also be found on our website at: [www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections/election-candidate-information](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections/election-candidate-information)

Voters in Mendocino County have begun receiving their State Voter Information Guides that include information on the statewide candidates. If you would like to view the state voter guides online, please visit: <https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>

County Clerk Bartolomie would like to remind voters who wish to vote in the March 5, 2024 election, that the last day to register to vote is February 20, 2024 to receive a regular ballot in the mail. Please call our office for a voter registration card or go to: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/> to register to vote online.

For additional information please contact the Election / County Clerk's Office by calling 707 234-6819.

## Watch 2nd District candidates debate online

Posted at [mendofever.com](http://mendofever.com)

California's Primary election is on March 5, 2024, and we strive to help our readers make informed decisions at the ballot box.

On January 30, MendoFever teamed up with local radio stations KZYX and KMUD and brought together all seven candidates running to represent California's 2nd District in the State Assembly.

The 2nd District runs from Del Norte to Sonoma County encompassing a large swath of the North Coast, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties.

Read the rest of Debate | Over on page 9



Above, from left: Lila Ryan and Madge Strong discuss the plans for the evening's meeting. A commemorative cake is served to celebrate the 20th anniversary of WELL. Michael Foley, left, and Ryan Parkland let their opinions be known. At left: The attendees enjoy playing the "name game" and getting acquainted with each other. Below, left: Lynn Dee Johnson's shirt exemplifies her commitment to activism. Below, right: Alex has to kneel down to fill in his suggestions at the bottom of the board.



## Self-sufficient Community

WELL celebrates 20 years of making Willits stronger by localizing food, water and energy

Not even the torrential rains of the Pineapple Express could keep these intrepid civic-minded citizens of Willits away from the 20th Anniversary meeting of the Willits Economic Localization (WELL) organization on Sunday. It was designed to be simultaneously a celebration, a retelling of the history of WELL, and a look to the future through the suggestions of the attendees.

Madge Strong, who has been instrumental in the organization and administration of WELL, almost from the inception, said: "Today, we're doing an open house, a celebration of having survived for 20 years, and brainstorming and looking ahead to what's next, what have we accomplished, what does Willits still need, which is plenty. There's a lot more to do. We're going to get ideas on how to do that."

"Jason Bradford was one of the instigators, probably the main instigator," said Strong. "He came to Willits because he saw Willits as already a hotbed of people who wanted to be energy independent, back-to-the-landers, farmers. So, he chose Willits as a place that he thought would be a fertile soil for his ideas. He drew together a lot of people who were very active in different ways and they created this organization."

"A few years into that," Strong continued, "Michael Hackleman donated his 501(c)(3) organization so that WELL could accept tax-deductible donations and foundation grants. For several years, early on, we got a grant which was probably for three years which enabled us to have an

Read the rest of WELL | Over on page 11



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The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Bicoastal Media is a vote-based contest for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are finalized and make up the official Best of Lake and Mendocino voting ballot. The audience can then vote on one choice in each category. Voters are allowed to nominate without limits and once the voting period has begun, one vote per category per 24-hour period is allowed. Listing in this publication and/or award is not a guarantee of future investment success. This recognition should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor by any client. No compensation was provided directly or indirectly by the recipient for participation or in connection with obtaining or using the third-party rating or award.

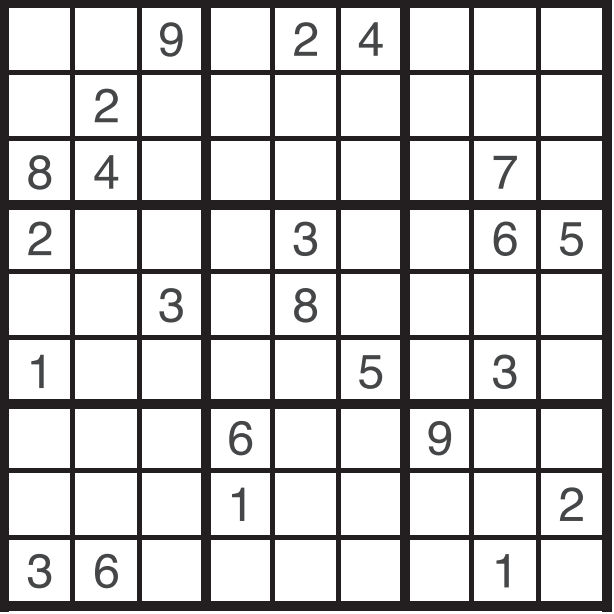
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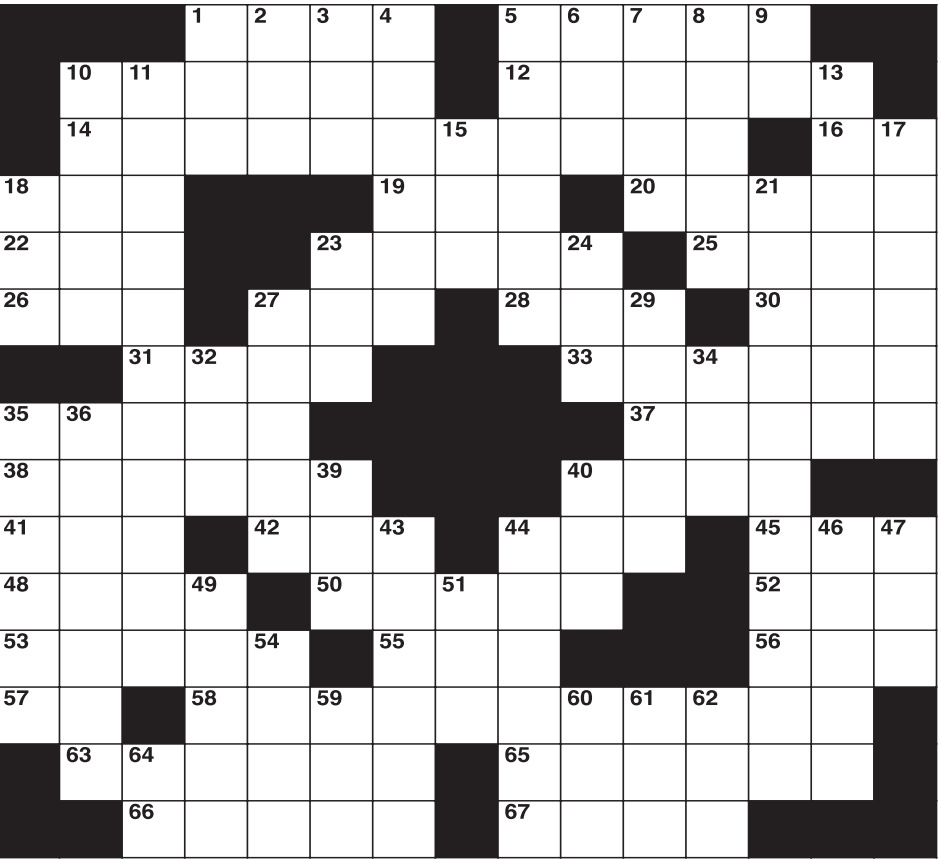
Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



Level: Advanced

SWEETHEARTS WORD SEARCH



CLUES ACROSS

- Gene type
- Persian male given name
- Type of protection
- Cloud
- One who returns to life
- Gym class
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Baby's dining accessory
- Enchantress
- Prefix denoting 'in a'
- Spiritual leader
- Cavities
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Foot (Latin)
- Sweet potato
- Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- Land
- More inquisitive
- Dog breed: \_\_\_ Apso
- Stood up
- Direct and uninhibited
- Authorless
- Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
- Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
- Root mean square (abbr.)

- Macaws
- Actress Remini
- Polynesian wrapped skirt
- City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
- Fitzgerald and Baker are two
- Bowling alley must-have
- A way to cool down
- Ethnic group in Asia
- A way to alter
- Set of five
- Removes from the record
- Dummies
- Set period in office

CLUES DOWN

- DC Comics superhero
- Brew
- Play
- Single-celled animals
- Rough to the touch
- Small island (British)
- Often noted alongside cons
- Preparation of rootstock
- Atomic #44
- Egyptian unit of capacity
- About secretary
- Particular groups

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

January 8 to January 14

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

January 8

8:11 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.  
10:33 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.  
3:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

January 9

8:50 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.  
4:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Center Valley Road and East Hill Road and issued a citation.

January 10

5:58 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
1:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of North Main Street.  
5:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

January 11

12:23 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.  
12:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.  
3:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
3:37 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Blosser Lane and issued a warning.  
4:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Street and issued a warning.  
7:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Alder Court.  
7:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of West Commercial Street and issued a citation.

January 12

6:11 am: SMITH, Rondy James (27) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order).  
8:02 am: Officers responded to a report of

suspicious activity in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.  
8:09 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Alameda Avenue.  
6:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

7:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1500 block of South Main Street.  
7:09 pm: MCFADIN, Demeter Rose (49) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1200 block of Locust Street following a disturbance. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of trespassing and disorderly conduct (alcohol).

11:20 pm: WADE, Ben William (52) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).  
6:05 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
1:33 pm: MOYER, Robert Martin (58) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Blosser Lane and Crest Drive. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (A) VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol) and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher.

January 13

12:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Monica Lane and issued a citation.  
1:07 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.  
2:16 pm: RUMBLE, Dylan James (24) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disobeying a court order.  
5:09 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
5:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue and issued a warning.

January 14

6:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Coast Street and Mill Street and issued a warning.  
8:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
9:11 pm: IRELAND, Casey Allan (30) of Willits was contacted in the 500 block of Raymond Lane. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Online Grow Biointensive Workshop in March

Submitted by Ecology Action

We are excited to announce our annual Spring Introductory Grow Biointensive Workshop will be held online via Zoom, over four Saturdays: March 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024. Register at [growbiointensive.org/workshop.html](https://growbiointensive.org/workshop.html) and start a new chapter in your sustainable life today. Registration closes February 23, 2024. We hope to see your smiling faces this spring!

Do you wish you had bigger tomatoes? Are your zucchinis yellowed and your sunflowers stunted? Is your soil worn out and producing less each year? Do you think growing your own food is difficult and expensive? Do you wish you could have a garden but don't know where to start? If you could increase yields, use fewer purchased inputs, and make your soil healthier and stronger over time, would you? Whether you're a backyard gardener or market farmer, this workshop will build skills that last you a lifetime!

Grow Biointensive Sustainable Mini-Farming is the original regenerative, sustainable, organic agriculture, rooted in heritage farm-craft and proven with science. Dr. John Jeavons and Ecology Action developed Grow Biointensive over 50 years of research and teaching, based on centuries-old agricultural principles that give you the ability to feed yourself by feeding your soil with healthy, nutrient-rich compost grown right in your garden.

This is an introductory course where we discuss a range of topics, from seed-starting and compost-building to harvesting crops and saving seeds. Over four Saturdays this spring, you'll learn how to use up to 66% less water, save up to 94% in energy, and grow soil up to 60 times faster than nature, all while increasing your garden yields - plus much more.

This is the perfect time to get the knowledge you need to make this year's garden better than ever, or the confidence to finally start your first growing bed! Cost is \$380 per person.

Visit [growbiointensive.org/workshop.html](https://growbiointensive.org/workshop.html) for more information, email [contact@growbiointensive.org](mailto:contact@growbiointensive.org), or call (707) 459-0150

The rest of

Letters

From page 2

action by the Supervisors." Source: Jim Shields article, "Vets Relocation & The Brown Act," in the January 24, 2024 edition of the AVA. Veterans deserve to be treated with respect and not be used to balance a budget.

While my military service did not find me in the Vietnam (VN) war, I was part of a combat group from the 3rd Marine Div, Okinawa. Our mission was to save the CIA and their losing war using the Laotian Hmong to stop the North Vietnamese coming south on the Ho Chi Minh trail.

This was 1961, same year as the Bay of Pigs CIA attempted invasion of Cuba. President and Commander in Chief John F. Kennedy would not allow American military to support a CIA secret war in Cuba, and he would not allow the Marines to cross VN into Laos to support yet another secret CIA war. Our large flotilla of ships, anchored off VN, went back to Okinawa after ten days. Sorry for this long segue but I like to keep this history alive.

Bob Wilkinson, Willits



Above, from left: George is finding his forever home with Oliver and Victoria VanOven. The Ukiah Animal Shelter at 298 Plant Street is looking for volunteers to walk dogs and other duties. Volunteer Gilbert Studer and his friend greet visitors to the office. At left: Volunteers love to spend time walking their furry friends. Below, left: Janette's sweatshirt tells of her love for dogs and her desire to see them adopted. Below, right: Amigo loves to play in the water and is always up for a walk. At bottom: Tucker seems to be asking to come home with a loving family.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Homes Needed

Ukiah Animal Shelter holds adoption events on first and last Saturday each month

It's extremely difficult for an animal lover to walk away from the Ukiah Animal Shelter without either fostering or adopting one of their beautiful, friendly, furry creatures, be it cat or dog or any of the other variety of animals that the municipal structure is required to take in and care for.

The shelter is over-filled and at the point of having to consider euthanasia to relieve the overcrowding of both cats and dogs. In order to make more of the animals available to the public, the shelter is holding several adoption events, both at the facility and at other locations. The first Saturday in each month, the shelter will host a meet and greet for the dogs to be introduced to prospective parents.

Janette Lamperti has been a volunteer with the Ukiah Animal Shelter for seven years and is one of the people in charge of the adoptions. "I love it," said Lamperti. "I have a connection to the shelter. I not only walk dogs, but I also transport rescues. I do a lot of the marketing, putting on these types of events, whatever I can do to get the dogs out of here.

"The shelter has been closed to the public, as far as the dog kennels, so we decided to bring the dogs out to the public, so the first Saturday of every month, the volunteers are going to be here, and we'll bring all the dogs out, as many dogs as we can get out at a time. People can come and meet all the dogs.

"The kennels themselves have been

Read the rest of

Adoptions

Over on page 11

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300 Todays Points Per ticket entry.  
Get your Ticket Entries from February 1st to February 9th

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On Feb. 10, 11, 17, & 18, Earn and redeem 500 Todays Points to receive a stemless, shatter-proof wine glass

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At right: Artist Shari Fischer's piece "Brief Scenes." "O Say Can You See" is one of two special pieces framed in wood with handmade leather flag accents. Below: Natalie Campbell with her friend Danielle Barry, who modeled for these two flag pieces. Below, right: An interesting convergence of artwork drew a lively crowd at the Willits Center for the Arts last weekend.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEMBER/ PROSPECTIVE MEMBER AFTERNOON OF FUN!**

**Friends of the Mendocino County Museum invites ALL interested people to our "Community Friendship Gathering"**

**Saturday, February 24th at 2 p.m. at the Mendocino County Museum**

Join us for an outstanding program about our County history, food and drink, a raffle of Friends merchandise, behind the scenes tours and an update on the Museum and the Friends.

This project is funded by:

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY**



## February Art

Western themes and landscapes at the Willits Center for the Arts this month

A rainy night did not dampen spirits at the Willits Center for the Arts exhibit opening last Saturday evening, where the works of two Willits artists with very different artistic perspectives, Natalie Campbell and Shari Fisch, were featured.

**Margi Gomez Guhde** Features Writer  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Natalie Campbell is a self-taught artist whose love of horses has come together with her new-found artistic passion. Born and raised in Willits, Campbell remarked that she has been a horse lover all her life. "I was always horse crazy!" Campbell laughs. "My cousins had horses so I got to ride with them, and I would point out every single horse to my mom as we drove through the valley. I was lucky enough to have parents who encouraged it."

Campbell has ridden in horse shows, rodeos, and other events throughout Willits, first riding in the Willits 4th of July parade at the tender age of 1 year! As a young person, she was involved in 4H and later FFA, where she was part of the horse judging team, and was first able to study equine anatomy and conformation. Now a mom with her own two children, she is still involved with Willits Horsemens Association as a board member.

Campbell says that her initial steps into the art world came through a ceramics class at Mendocino College. "I originally signed up for the class when my kids were toddlers, as a way to get some 'adult time.' One day the teacher, Jessica Thompson, asked the students to start keeping a sketchbook. 'I panicked!' Campbell said. "I had just never learned to draw." With her typical focus and persistence, Campbell took a number of drawing classes, focusing on technique and honing her skills.

Campbell's work perfectly blends her love of horses and the western aesthetic. Her subjects, many of whom are friends and family, come to life in her careful pastels, done on black archival paper. Even the unusual framing harmonizes with her subject matter, utilizing rough-hewn redwood and other local woods, with some frames featuring barbed wire and leather accents.

For now Campbell says she is

Read the rest of **Western** Over on page 11

**BEST of LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024**

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Chiropractor, Lakeview

**BEST of LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024**

Anne Martin-Ko, MD  
Pediatrician, Hillside

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**WW469 Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2024-F0003  
The following person is doing business as Hair by Brittlyn, 91 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.  
Registered owner: Brittlyn Arena Barnett, 20211 South Main Street, Unit 9, Willits, CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 3, 2024  
/s/ Brittlyn Barnett  
Publication dates: January 18, 25, and February 1, 8, 2024.

**WW470 Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2024-F0007  
The following person or persons are doing business as Willits Chiropractic Clinic, 1225 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.  
Registered owner: Levy-Pearl Chiropractic Corp, CA, 1225 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by a corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 3, 2024  
/s/ Dr. Diana E. Levy Pearl, DC, President  
Publication dates: January 25, and February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

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

**WW473 Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2024-F0069  
The following person or persons are doing business as Revival Transportation, 521 Capps Lane, Ukiah, CA 95482.  
Registered owner: Ashley Elliott, 521 Capps Lane, Ukiah, CA 95482.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 25, 2024  
/s/ Ashley Elliott  
Publication dates: February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024.

The rest of **Loan** From page 1

The loan finances nearly 100 percent of the planned improvements, including Sierra Northern Railway expansion of 6.7 miles of the Oakdale Branch track for engine and carriage storage, and the Mendocino Railway's rehabilitation of Noyo Canyon Tunnel No. 1, as well as 27 bridges and 40 miles of track.

"Sierra's and Mendocino's RRIF loan will help modernize the rail line, which will greatly enhance existing freight service and make the railroad more attractive to new freight customers," said Build America Bureau Executive Director Morteza Farajian. "We are pleased that a short-line railroad has been able to take advantage of our low-interest financing and deliver improvements that might not have been possible otherwise."

The project should be complete in 2027 and will provide many benefits to the community, including:

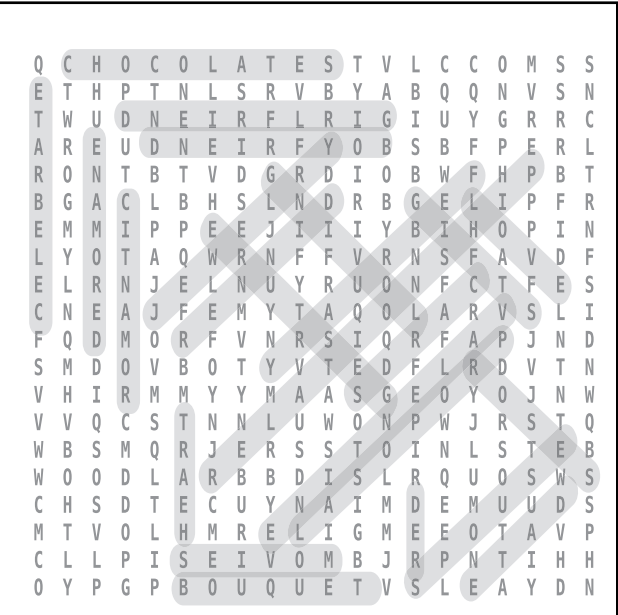
- Increased safety, operating capacity, efficiency
- Reduction of derailments and grade-crossing incidents
- Reduced congestion and air pollution on local roads and highways

"We appreciate the Bureau and all their hard work helping us with the RRIF loan," said Sierra Northern Railway President Kennan H. Beard III. "This project will provide the region with new construction jobs and greatly benefit the Central Valley."

For more information and to learn more about the Build America Bureau, please visit <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/>

For more information and to learn more about the Build America Bureau, please visit <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/>

The Build America Bureau advances investment in transportation infrastructure by lending federal funds to qualified borrowers; clearing roadblocks for credit-worthy projects; and encouraging best practices in project planning, financing, delivery, and operations. The Bureau draws on expertise across DOT to serve as a point of coordination for states, municipalities, private partners, and other project sponsors seeking federal financing and technical assistance.



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**Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights & Measures**  
\$88,899 - \$108,076  
**Assistant Director of Social Services**  
\$130,062 - \$158,100  
**Auditor/Appraiser**  
\$68,515 - \$83,283  
**Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II**  
\$66,913 - \$93,142  
**Eligibility Specialist III**  
\$52,520 - \$63,856  
**Real Property Appraiser I/II**  
\$59,779 - \$79,664  
**Real Property Appraiser Technician**  
\$51,584 - \$62,691  
**Sheriff's Technology Specialist**  
\$61,256 - \$74,484  
**Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C**  
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## Organic Seed Summit, February 23 to 25 in Ukiah

**Submitted by Organic Seed Alliance**

We're excited to announce that registration for the California Organic Seed Summit is open! All California seed growers, seed keepers, seed companies, and allies are invited to join us February 23 to 25, 2024, either in person in Ukiah, CA or virtually.

The Summit is a gathering for California-based people working with seed to network, exchange knowledge, and develop collective actions to build equitable, abundant, and resilient seed systems in the state.

The Seed Summit will be held at Yokayo Ranch, 800 Hensley Creek Road in Ukiah. The summit is being offered as a pay-what-you can event, with a suggested ticket price of \$75, which includes food, lodging, and participation in the Summit.

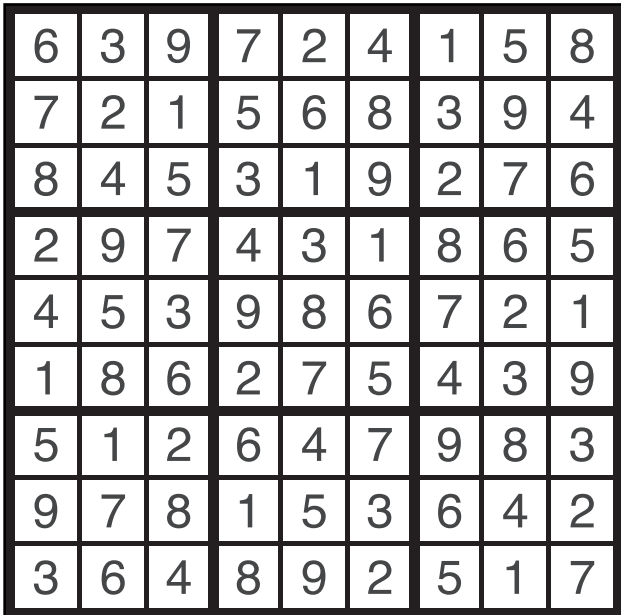
Visit <https://seedalliance.org/events/california-organic-seed-summit-2024/> to see more details about the program, to register, or to register for the virtual event.

The rest of **Debate** From page 2

The goal of our conversation was to provide each candidate with maximum time to present their ideas, share their vision for the community, and address pressing issues facing our region.

Thank you Sarah Reith of KZYX and KMUD's Lisa Music and Lauren Schmitt for partnering to make last night happen.

To watch the January 30 debate, visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHBF8FGJAE0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHBF8FGJAE0)



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Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, February 10** from 8 am to 4 pm

**Firewood for Sale**  
Firewood and Douglas fir poles for sale. FIR \$300/cord, OAK \$400/cord, KINDLING \$15/box (14x20). POLES (skinned and unskinned) for tips or building. Delivery \$45 near Willits, \$75 near Ukiah. Call (707) 456-0270, (707) 354-2244

**John Ford Ranch Beef**  
John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049. (Prices change effective 6/25/23)

**Love Willits Weekly?**  
Help support our free-circulation community newspaper by becoming a "street subscriber"! You send in an annual donation, and pick up the edition on the street each week! We love our regular subscribers too: \$75 for home delivery in the Willits area; \$100 for a year's subscription in the U.S. mail. Visit [www.willitsweekly.com](http://www.willitsweekly.com) for a sign up form and more.

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**RV/Trailer Space for Rent**  
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oaknvine.net/tip>

**What Are Your Dreams Trying to Tell You?**  
Dreams can act as a telescope to view something that is normally out of your reach: your spiritual side. All dreamers are welcome! Come share or just listen. Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St., Saturday, February 10th, 10:30 - 11:30. Free books available. Questions? Call Joy at (707) 367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of Lake & Mendocino County.

**Willits Weekly**  
Online & In Print

The rest of **Flushing** From page 1

residual ensures that no bacteria can survive within the system.

Here are several hints to lessen the impact of the program:

- Avoid running water into your house or business until we have cleared the area if possible.

- Always check your washer for clean water before adding clothes and especially bleach. Some of the sediment that we would be flushing out can cause staining when coming into contact with bleach. Several products can remove these stains. We have found that "Iron Out" seems to work the best for us. It is available at hardware stores and supermarkets.

- Please be patient and drive carefully around crews. There may be standing water on roadways so try to avoid the area if you can.

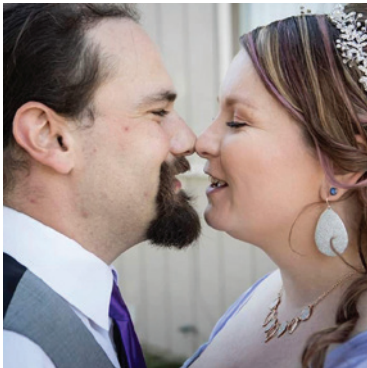
Contact the Services and Facilities Department at 707-459-7143 with any further questions. Thank you for your cooperation.







Happy Valentine's Day to my amazing hubby Chad! With all my love, your wife, Crystal.



Happy Valentine's Day to my FANTASTIC husband, Michael. I love you more than coffee. Love, Jade.



Happy Valentine's Day to the best husband since 2017. I love you more my love.



Happy Valentine's Day to my sweetie Barry, I love you always and forever. Love, Holly.

## Happy Valentine's Day

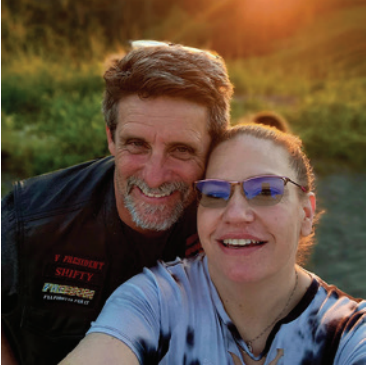
Willits Weekly's annual community collage to celebrate!



Happy Valentine's Day Wayne. You will have my whole heart forever. I love you so much. Suzen.



Happy Valentine's Day to daughters Kris & Kim. Love you forever, Bob Wilkinson.



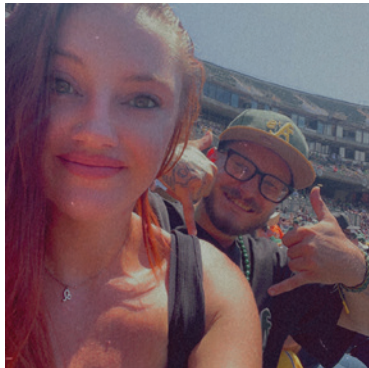
Thank you Dennis for being my person. Happy Valentine's Day, baby, I love you always, Jen.



Happy Valentine's Day from our family to yours Love, The Amadors.



Happy Valentine's Day to my sweetie Todd Southwick! You're my Valentine everyday babe. All my Love, Crystal.



Happy Valentine's Day, Chicken Little! Ladybug loves you 3000 & everything!!



Happy Valentine's Day, Kieran! Mom and Dad love you so much.



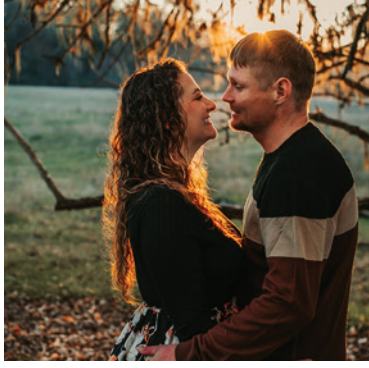
Happy Valentine's Day to Jesse! Love, Ryan.



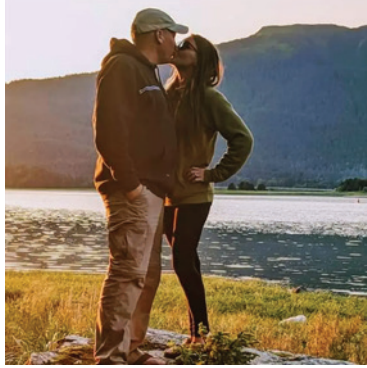
Over 100 adventures, 14 valentines, 10 years or marriage & 3 kids! Thank you for all you do, Happy Valentine's Day to my husband!



JB, you still give me butterflies. I love you always, Colleen.



Happy Valentine's Day to my lover, Kevin Nielsen my forever valentine. I love you so much, love, your lady! Cassandra.



Love is in the air.



Mom, Kaila, Sierra, Ashlynn, Zachary and Liam, you are my everything. Love, Mom and Grandma Kristie. Happy Valentine's Day!



To Paul: 35 years my valentine, sharing kids, boats & cats – Lisa



"As long as no one knows, nobody can care."



I love you my sweet Lisa.



Kassidy Noonan! Happy Valentine's Day! & Happy 15th Birthday! Love Mom (She made a Schats cookie look huge).



Happy Valentine's Day to the best friends a girl could ever have. Y'all are the blessings I need. Love you both to the moon n back Heather & Hollie. Love, Crystal Southwick.



Happy first married Valentine's Day.



Happy Valentine's Day to my amazing fiancé, Will, and our incredible son, Kaden! Life is so much sweeter with you two by my side! I love you. Xoxo.

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Happy Valentine's Day to my two favorite humans and loves: Maggie and Matthew.



Here's to 52 years of sharing love, adventures, and dreams! Happy Valentine's Day, Chuck Senter! Love, Jenny.



Happy Valentine's Day to Kyle and Nichole Smith! Without you my world would be grey. I love you to the moon and back!

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### The rest of Ceccarelli From page 1

annual birthday party, said she was getting additional calls from multiple national news outlets including Fox40.com out of Sacramento and Inside Edition NY wanting to cover the story.

Additional media requests coming in included Daily Mail in NYC, and Scripps News. A simple Google search of "Edie Ceccarelli" on the news tab comes back with a continually growing number of results from news outlets across the country picking up the story including KIRO TV The US Sun, USA Today, 23ABC News Bakersfield, Times Now out of India, and more.

The community turned out, too, despite the gloomy weather leading up to the 1 pm parade. Hundreds of people showed up in decorated cars to shout their well-wishes to Edie, who sat inside the opened garage, bundled up in blankets – her chair flanked by oil heaters – at a festive table seated alongside support staff, including family member Evelyn Persico; Perla Gonzalez, who owns the Holy Spirit Care Home where Ceccarelli resides, and her business partner, Genaro Gonzalez, Jr.

The weather did give a slight break, however, as the parade flowed along in front of the care home, which started with Chris Zeigler of Good Dog Daycare and Social Club and a pack walk of some dozen or so happy dogs. Modern and classic cars followed including John and Gail Yde's blue 1957 Chevy Bel Air, a purple 1962 Chevrolet Corvette, and an orange 2005 Chevy Corvette, and Brad Walton's 1930 Model A Ford – an "antique car" that is still 22 years younger than the birthday girl! A person dressed up as a dancing banana clutching a fistful of balloons, and even a few costumed children joined in the fun, walking along on the sidewalk and all wishing Edie a wonderful birthday.

Gifts of fresh-cut flowers, potted plants, chocolates, cards, signs, and more were collected over the red velvet rope divide, and brought to Edie to see and enjoy. Local florist Annette Pinon of Flowers by Annette made Edie a lovely pink corsage, and local florist Wil Gonzalez of Willits Flowers-W/E Flowers made Edie a pink-and-white flower crown.

Adventist Health Howard Memorial's Roots kitchen crew made a two-tier carrot cake with cream cheese frosting for Edie; she happily poked a finger into the frosting when presented with the cake, inside the home before the parade, and said "mmmm!" with approval. Adventist Health Howard Memorial's Jennifer Huffman and Jodi Dalton spearheaded the decorations on the interior of the garage, draping a cream and pink backdrop behind the festive table which was also covered in feminine tones, flowers, balloons and more. Several years' worth of signs were hung in the garage space, adding additional festivity and memories of celebrations past.

Ceccarelli was presented with two proclamations on Sunday; one from the Willits City Council presented by Willits City Mayor Saprina Rodriguez, and the other from the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the County of Mendocino which was presented by Third District Supervisor John Haschak.

Happy Birthday Edie!

To see additional photos from the day's events, log onto: <https://photographress.zenfolio.com/edie116>

### The rest of Adoptions From page 5

closed to the public since COVID," explained Lamperti. "I believe the reason is that dogs are less stressed without people going back there. During COVID, they found that the dogs were calmer and less stressed. So, they made a decision not to re-open it to the public. People can look online, see the dog, and make an appointment, and then they'll bring out whichever dogs they want to see."

It is always best for a prospective adopter to meet the animals outside of the kennels where their personalities can be observed without the distractions or depression of the cages, according to Lamperti.

"Seeing a dog in their kennel environment is not true to that dog," said Lamperti. "What happens a lot of the time, a dog will be all quiet back there, nice and sitting on their bed really politely, and you get them out and they might be one of the crazy ones, and then you have a crazy dog just jumping all over their kennel and you bring them out and they are just calm and wonderful."

As previously stated, it is imperative to get more of the animals adopted. There is an existential crisis in the overpopulated facility. When the shelter reaches capacity, animals are at risk of being euthanized. The shelter posts animals on its website that are scheduled for euthanasia for up to five days.

"We are making a plea to animal owners to make sure your animals are microchipped, licensed, or wearing name tags, in case they get out and are impounded," says the shelter's website. The site also mentions that fostering is a big help, and interested parties can find information about the foster program at: [www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/animal-care-services/fostering](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/animal-care-services/fostering).

The meet and greet events have been an effective way to instigate adoptions. Saturday's event found six homes for the dogs, a good and encouraging number.

"We average about three dogs adopted at each of these events. It's worth doing, so we're going to be doing more of these in town in different locations. We're going to be at The Bakery on the last Saturday of February, and then we're hoping to do the Brown Bear Toys that just opened up. We're always going to be here, the first Saturday of every month and then we'll be at a different location on the last Saturday of every month," commented Lamperti.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is open Monday through Friday, noon to 5 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm. If interested in adopting or fostering an animal, go to [www.mendocinoshelter.com](http://www.mendocinoshelter.com) to view a list of those available, then fill out an application. The shelter will then make contact and set up an appointment to come meet the animal(s).

"Last I heard, we have over 50 dogs in residence, which is extremely over-capacity. Our cat facilities are full as well. We can't take any new cats or dogs in. Spay or neuter, people," said volunteer Angela Studer.

### The rest of Storm Landlines From page 1

There was plenty of rain in the Willits area, with the National Weather Service posting a 48-hour total on Monday afternoon of 3.67 inches in Willits, inching up to 4.10 inches by Tuesday afternoon. Peak wind gusts were also high, with NWS showing Sunday's peak winds in the hills around Willits as high as 61 mph.

Wednesday midday, there were scattered reports of snow on Facebook, from residents at higher elevations around Willits.

Although the next official snow pack survey at the UC Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab at Donner Pass won't happen until the end of February, the Snow Lab's Facebook page reported Tuesday morning that, statewide, the "snow water equivalent" has increased from 52% to 75% of median levels in the last week, with more snow to come.

After City of Willits staff met with the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services Monday to assess Sunday night's storm damage, the city posted that "minimal flooding" was reported, and that "Willits weathered the storm quite well."

There are 27 census blocks in Mendocino County, laid out in squares without regard to city boundaries or geography; some of the CBs must have areas with decent cell service, and areas where cell service is not feasible or reliable.

The AT&T document also cites a December 2022 study showing modeled estimates that 2.7 percent of California adults use landlines exclusively.

"According to federal estimates," the document states, "only 2.7% of California adults are 'landline-only' (i.e., POTS or broadband VoIP), and only 4.4% are 'landline-mostly'; the remainder rely equally (8.9%), mostly (19%), or exclusively (64.2%) on their wireless phones."

AT&T's application states.

The estimates are at least partly based on data from 2018-2020, not current data. But 2.7% of the nearly 25 million Californians over age 18 (as of 2020) is still close to 665,000 people.

The Rural CRC, which opposes AT&T's application states:

"If approved by the CPUC, over 580,000 affected AT&T customers would be left with fewer options in terms of choice, quality,

and affordability. Alternative services, such as VoIP and wireless, have no obligation to serve a customer or to provide equivalent services to AT&T landline customers, including no obligation to provide reliable access to 9-1-1 or LifeLine program discounts."

According to the AT&T application, if the company's request is granted, existing landline customers can expect to lose their phones as quickly six months: "Nonetheless, to avoid the possibility of disruption," the application states, "even in areas where there is an alternative to POTS, AT&T California would continue serving existing POTS customers pursuant to its current tariff for at least six months following grant of this application."

To comment online on AT&T's application for relief, go to <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/att-coll-etc-proceedings> and hit the "Make an online comment here" link on the right side.

There are 2,500+ comments already logged, almost all of them opposed to AT&T's request, many of them from rural areas. They tell stories about disasters where land lines were critical, including summer wildfires and the recent winter storms. One is a physician who has hit-or-miss cell service two miles from the hospital where she works, and without her land line she'd be unreachable in an emergency.

Many commented on the unreliability of cellular "service maps" that show service is available: "AT&T's maps claim we have coverage, but we don't," a man for Oroville commented.

Other comments cite the cost of the landline option vs. more expensive cell service, and call landlines "essential safety items" to reach emergency services, especially for seniors or disabled people.

The hearings in Ukiah are set for 2 pm and 6 pm on February 22 at the board of supervisors chambers, 501 Low Gap Road. The hearings are in-person only.

But there are virtual-only hearings set for March 19, at 2 and 6 pm. Remote access is via live webcast with English or Spanish captions at [www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc](http://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc) or via phone 1-800-857-1917, passcode: 6032786#

### The rest of Western From page 8

entering national art shows with the goal of turning her art into a thriving career. "I love every minute of creating each piece, and I honestly can't see myself going back to a 9-5 job. It gives me the freedom to be there for my kids but also makes my soul happy," she said, adding: "I'm just making my way into this wonderful world. All of this has shaped me and it's really no surprise that my art would eventually merge with my love of horses."

Shari Fischer, also showing this month at WCA, has owned property in the Cherry Creek area north of Willits since 1996, finally moving here fulltime in 2019 after a very different life in Silicon Valley. "Getting out of the office and into the woods of Mendocino County has freed me to engage in the outside world," Fischer said. "I was determined to spend as much time as possible in my studio. I found some black paper and an old set of Prismacolor pencils. I randomly picked out 18 colors and just started to draw. In a few months I finished over 50 color studies and wanted to create more." She branched out from her work in colored pencil and began to paint.

Fischer's engagement with the natural world and her journey as an artist is also on colorful display at the current exhibit, with works in water-soluble oils on black primed canvases, sometimes with a bit of collage or mixed media. "I wander with my camera, and use the images as inspiration," she said, adding: "The hills, forests, flowers, beaches, and streams are my muse. I enjoy the watery flow and the stickiness of the paints. I can create a point, a line, a shape, or a motion. The options are endless."

Fischer enjoyed seeing her efforts on the gallery walls at WCA. "I was so taken aback seeing how my art looked on a blank white wall. The pieces came alive for me, and I loved hearing the comments and the conversations at the opening. I am very excited to do more and push my artistic boundaries."

Fischer is also an avid volunteer at WCA, where she has learned much about Willits and its artists. "I continue to develop my own artistic voice. I thought if I volunteered that I could spend time in the galleries studying others' work and be inspired, and it worked!"

The exhibit can be seen at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, through February. Gallery hours: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 11 am to 5 pm.

### The rest of WELL From page 3

office with an office person and we created a network, not just locally, but around our county, and around the state and even the whole country, of people interested in localizing. The idea was that the end of suburbia was upon us and we needed to be as self-sufficient at the local level as we could be. That's been the driving principal of WELL for the past 20 years."

Strong addressed the crowd of about 20 people (mostly members) about the aims of the organization, explaining that food localization has been a major goal since WELL began. She told them how the organization has been a supporter of farms and ranches as well as the Grange Farm School, and how it has also been proponent of CSAs and the Willits Farmers Market.

"The Farm School became a Grange project," Strong explained, "and the Grange was also revitalized, and it became more involved. The Grange kitchen happened. They installed silos with the Grange Grain Project and the Farm School. All of that was stuff that was set in motion by WELL and by Jason's energy. Food is always one of the major themes that we deal with," said Strong.

Strong also told the crowd how WELL has lobbied for water conservation and water supply and has promoted energy conservation. She explained how several of the projects started by WELL have been taken over and handed off to various other entities who are equipped to sustain the logistics and energy required to keep them going.

"We're sort of an umbrella of anybody who wants to work on or find out what's going on in the community, things like emergency preparedness, fire, food, water, energy and housing. Under the housing rubric, we're able to influence the city on the subject, make sure the city is doing everything it can," continued Strong, reiterating the purpose and aims of WELL, inviting anyone with the energy and imagination to come up with a project to contact them and bring their ideas and plans.

In order to facilitate the attendees to become familiar with each other, Lila Ryan proposed and explained a name game where each person would fill out a sheet by having each other person pick a line they wanted to be on that pertained to either their name or occupation.

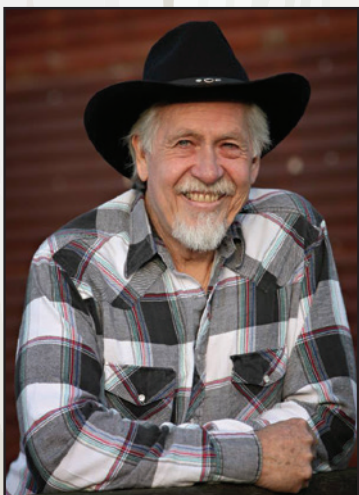
After which, Ryan pulled out a two-sided whiteboard and wrote, "Things Willits Does Right," on one side and, "Things Willits Can Improve," on the other and invited the attendees to write their ideas on both sides. On the "Things Willits Does Right" side, there were such comments as: "Walkable Downtown," "Keeps Public Library Open," "Art Center," "Museum," "Local Newspaper," and many more.

On the "Things Willits Can Improve" side was written: "Shelter More People," "Fill in Missing Sidewalks," "Social Support for Elders," "Free Shuttle Bus," and so on, showing the thoughtfulness of the people who attend programs and meetings by WELL.

Currently WELL has about 200 members whose dues keep the organization running. They are always looking for more civic-minded individuals to either join, or to volunteer. "We're starting to get new members and a couple new board members," said Strong. "Any organization relies on volunteers. We get a lot done with a cadre of about 10 volunteers. Our mission is to make it happen."

For more information about WELL, visit their website: <https://well95490.org> or their Facebook page. For information on joining WELL, contact Strong at [mstrong@willitsonline.com](mailto:mstrong@willitsonline.com) or 459-1493. A WELL membership is \$20 to \$35 for an individual, \$35 to \$50 for a family.





## Obituary Wayne Ingle

November 25, 1947 –  
January 31, 2024

Pierce Wayne Ingle, beloved husband father, brother, and Marine Corps veteran, passed away peacefully at his home in Willits, California on January 31, 2024. He was born on November 25, 1947 in Ukiah, California to his proud father Pierce Ingle and loving mother Vina Mae.

Wayne, as he was affectionately known to his friends and family, led a remarkable life filled with love, dedication, and adventure. From an early age, Wayne displayed a passion for the outdoors and a strong work ethic. After graduating from Hopland High School, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He worked for a while at a mill and then pursued a career as a Supervisor for Caltrans, where he made a lasting impact on his colleagues and the communities he served.

However, Wayne's proudest accomplishment was his service in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He bravely fought for his country in 1967 and 1968, earning two Purple Hearts for his valorous actions. His commitment to duty was recognized with the Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal, and Vietnamese Campaign Medal. Wayne's selflessness and bravery will forever be remembered by those who knew him. Outside of his professional and military life, Wayne indulged in various hobbies and interests that brought him immense joy. He was an avid abalone diver and had mastered this challenging skill over the years. Hunting, fishing, and gardening were also among his favorite pastimes. Wayne's green thumb was legendary among family and friends; he took great delight in growing enormous onions that would leave everyone in awe.

Above all else, Wayne cherished his family. He devoted himself wholeheartedly to his wife, Suzen, of 25 years and their children: Lea (Rowdy), Justin (Amy), Ryan (Kelsey); his mother Vina Mae; sister Belinda; the grandperfects ... Garren (Heylee), Alastair, Abel, Racer, Chloe, Cameron; and great-grandson Liam. He treasured every moment spent with them, creating lifelong memories filled with laughter and love.

Services to honor Wayne's remarkable life will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. The Funeral Service will take place at Eversole Mortuary located at 141 Low Gap in Ukiah, California. Family and friends are invited to pay their respects starting at 11 am. A private interment will follow at the Hopland Cemetery.

Wayne will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to his family, his fierce loyalty to his country, and his indomitable spirit. His legacy of love, bravery, and adventure will live on in the hearts of all those who were fortunate enough to know him.

As we mourn the loss of Wayne, let us also celebrate the beautiful life he lived and the profound impact he had on all those who had the privilege of knowing him. His memory will forever be etched in our hearts as we remember a loving husband, father, friend, and extraordinary individual who embodied courage and kindness

## Energetic Midge

Midge is sugar, spice and everything nice. She might not be a power puff girl but don't tell her that. This spunky lady enjoys spending time on the outdoor patio and has a fun-loving energy that never quits.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to come visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: [www.mendohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com), on our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



## Charming Bam Bam

Bam Bam is an outgoing and charismatic cattle dog mix ready for his fun-loving forever home. He is a social butterfly who thrives on human interaction and affection. He adores being the center of attention and will happily play wrestle or engage in a game of chase!

He is a physical fellow and a bit on the goofy side! He is dog-friendly and food- and affection-motivated, so training is a positive pastime for him – and a steady consistency and clear expectations will go far with Bam Bam. With a little guidance and patience, he will become a well-behaved and obedient companion.

A generous donor has sponsored Bam Bam's adoption fee, he is now a bargain boy at just \$150.



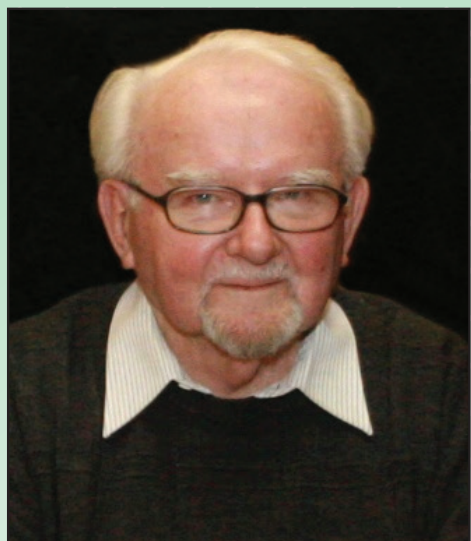
Give this chunk of love a home!

To learn more about Bam Bam or to view other adoptable animals, visit [www.milofoundation.org](http://www.milofoundation.org) or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 707-459-4900.

## Cheerful Reggie

Reggie has been coming and going through the shelter system since 2020, and we don't understand why. This guy is such a happy, friendly dog. Why is he so unlucky in love? Reggie needs a little work on leash manners when you walk him; he gets so excited to get out and about. Reggie has a puppy-like personality and loves to play with toys. Reggie will need daily exercise and a secure yard for him to play in. This dude is gonna make someone very happy!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet our feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [mendoanimalshelter.com](http://mendoanimalshelter.com).



## Obituary Ron Mitchell 1925 - 2024

Former resident and mayor/councilman of Willits, Ronald Mitchell (Mitch), 98, passed away peacefully on January 5, 2024 from Parkinson's disease. His loving wife of a remarkable 76 years, Betty, and family were by his side.

Born February 9, 1925, in Pacific Grove, CA, to parents James Monroe Mitchell from Huntly, Scotland, and Minerva "Minnie" Mitchell from Alameda, CA. Ron spent his early years in Oakland and at age 14, he relocated to Willits to live with family and attend Willits High School. After graduation, Ron served in the United States Merchant Marines in the Marshall Islands during World War II.

In April of 1947, Ron married Betty Hayes. They established their home in Willits where they raised three children. Ron worked at Willits Redwood Products, owned his own business, and retired from Remco. In addition, he was a member of several civic clubs. During 1983, they moved to Ukiah, where they resided for 38 years and in September of 2021 relocated to Carlsbad, CA, to be closer to family.

Ron was an enthusiastic and passionate sports fan. He loved baseball and football, especially the SF Giants and the SF 49ers. He played baseball during his high school years and played on the Willits Town Teams. It was said he left his mark on the baseball diamond, where many referred to him as the "old pro." He dedicated many years to coaching and working with the youth. He coached the Willits Little League for 17 years and the Willits Pop Warner for 8 years.

Ron was preceded in death by his lovely daughter, Bonnie (Mitchell) Dunlap, and his sister and brother-in-law, Evelyn (Jerry) Collier. He is survived by his wife, Betty, his daughter, Sandra (Joe) Madrigal, Carlsbad, CA, his son, Ted (Jackie) Mitchell, Richland, WA, his seven grandchildren, Angela (Brian) Clark, Teresa Madrigal, Anthony (Jennie) Madrigal, Jennifer Rosebrook, Bridget Coyne, Kyle Mitchell, Shardai Mitchell, his six great-grandchildren, Lauryn, Ellis, Liliana, Mae, Grace, Jann, his niece and nephew, Carol (Collier) McClendon, Ukiah, and Ron Collier, Windsor.

Ron and Betty loved to travel, garden and walk every day. They were great dancers and their favorite pastime was listening to music – especially the "crooners" – and Frank Sinatra's "My Way." Ron loved playing "fetch" with their beloved cat "Ming." His love of family and being together was the center of his life. Known for a quick-wit, an enduring sense-of-humor, and a kind-hearted soul, he will be deeply missed. Ron's final wishes were in lieu of flowers or a memorial service, consider a donation to the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation in Memory of Ronald Mitchell. [give.michaeljfox.org](http://give.michaeljfox.org).



## Gabe Ward

Charles Gabriel Ward passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 29, 2023, after a happy Christmas with his family. Gabe was 80 years old.

He was born in Berkley, California and grew up in the hills of Orinda. He joined the Army reserves right out of High School and soon married his first wife, Mary. They had two daughters, Julie and

Dana. Gabe graduated from Napa JC and then moved to Chico State to earn a bachelors in Business and a teaching credential.

Gabe first taught in Vacaville for four years and later moved to Mendocino County in 1974. He was hired to teach in Lakeport at the continuation High School . In 1975 he met Alpha, the love of his life. They were married for 48 years and had two sons, Jody and Sean.

Gabe loved his family and was devoted to family life. He loved every day (almost) of his 30-year teaching career. He was hired in 1978 to help start Sanhedrin Continuation High School, along with Shirley Schott and Ed Shuman. He taught at Sanhedrin for three years before moving to Brookside Elementary to teach 3rd grade. In 1983 he earned his master's in Education from St. Mary's College, thinking he might want to become an administrator. However, as soon as he tossed his tassel over, he knew his heart was in the classroom and continued to teach for 20 more years.

If you were lucky you could've been a part of a drumming jam session on Fridays, or see him cruise down the halls and across the playground on his scooter. He used to teach the multiplication table by challenging kids to beat him reciting the count by's faster than he could. When he moved to teaching first grade he felt that teaching kids to read was the best experience. He taught first grade for 13 years before retiring. Mr. Ward retired in 2003.

Gabe is known by many students to have been their best and favorite teacher. He also spent some springs and summers coaching the Willits Otters swim team.

Gabe and Alpha started two businesses over the years: Redwood Janitorial and Gabby's Hot Dogs.

Gabe loved people and was kind to all, but most of all he cherished his family; his wife, four children, and six grandchildren (Sarah, Sadie, Jentry, Trinity, Camdyn and Daylee).

Gabe will be missed. Memories of him are funny, sweet, and full of teaching in so many ways. We are all blessed by knowing him, and he was blessed by all who took part in his life.

The family plans a private celebration of Gabe's life this spring.