

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. 625

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Collaboration leads to improved fire safety in Brooktrails

By Sarah Reith, Fire Safe Council

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council played a pivotal role in making sure fuels reduction work finally got done on undeveloped parcels in Brooktrails. Shortly before the holidays, the hills above the fire station echoed with the sound of chainsaws. The California Conservation Corps was thinning fuels in an effort to head off another disastrous wildfire season. It was all paid for by grants and accomplished thanks to a multi-agency collaboration.

There are about 4,400 undeveloped parcels in Brooktrails Township. Many of them are privately owned by people who live elsewhere and don't maintain them. Regardless of who owns them, unmaintained parcels can pose a threat to the entire neighborhood when vegetation gets overgrown, dries out, and turns into kindling for the next wildfire.

Bobbie Delgado, program coordinator for the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, reflected on

Read the rest of

Safety

Over on Page 11

A Message from the Superintendent

By John Baker,
Superintendent, WUSD

As we enter the final four months of the school year, this is always one of the busiest and most energizing times for our district. While we continue the important work of serving students every day, Willits Unified School District is also deep into planning for the 2026-27 school year. I am proud of the progress we are making and grateful for the dedication of our staff, students, and families.

One highlight this month is our success in hiring two outstanding educators for Willits High School. We are fortunate to welcome a new science teacher and a new world history teacher to our high school team. Recruiting high quality teachers is essential to strengthening our academic programs, and we are excited about the expertise and passion they will bring to our students.

This week also featured one of my favorite events – the Science Fair. Baechtel Grove Middle School students truly shined with creative, thoughtful, and well designed projects. We

Read the rest of

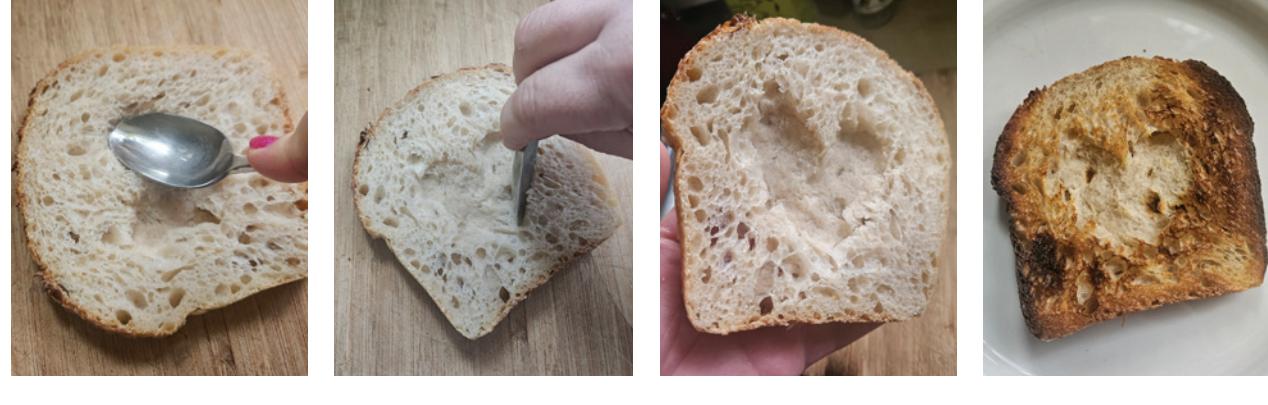
Baker

Over on Page 11



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Above: Coffee for me, cocoa for her, both enjoyed with Jammy Heart Toast and heart-shaped strawberries. Below, from left: Make the heart impression on a fresh slice of bread – we used the delightful Crustic Sourdough baked in Laytonville that's available at Mariposa Market – and refine with the edge of the spoon to make a heart shape. Pop it in the toaster until the outside is browned.



The Little Things

Take a second to show a little love on Valentine's Day, or any day, with these two easy heart-shaped breakfast ideas

While some enjoy larger gestures, usually it's the little things that make a big impact on showing someone you care. These two super easy ideas are a nice way to add a little love to your morning toast or upgrade your fruit bites: Jammy Heart Toast and heart-shaped strawberries.

For the Jammy Heart Toast, take any squishable, soft bread, and, using a spoon, create two indents, pushing down hard to flatten the bread, that will serve as the shape of the heart – and the reservoir for the jam.

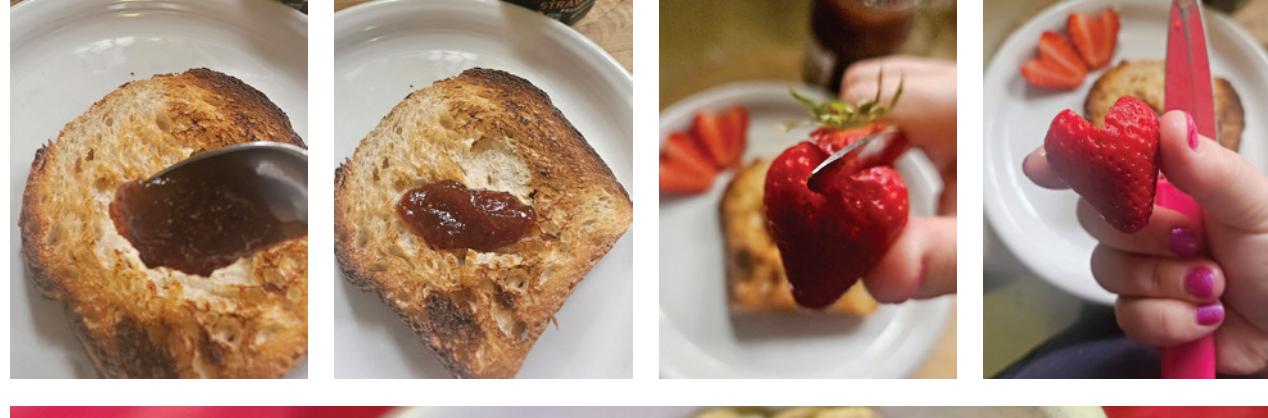
Once a good heart shape is rendered, pop the bread in the toaster or under the broiler, until the bread toasts on the still-raised portion of the bread, darkening the area around the heart depression. Take a spoon and ladle in two small scoops of your favorite red jam – this is strawberry – and fill until the red heart is revealed. Swipe a little butter or

honey on the remaining toast, and enjoy alongside heart-shaped strawberries.

Quite possibly the easiest thing to make, simply trim a "v" shape into the top of a strawberry, while removing the green stem. If it feels a little too pointy at the top of the curves, take your knife and just shave them off, leaving a perfect heart shape. Simply slice it in half down the middle, and now you have two darling heart-shaped berries.

Add them to your plate alongside your Jammy Heart Toast, or, if your toddler complains that the toast is too toasty, pop them in Cheerios Heart Healthy cereal (which also happens to have heart-shaped cereal bites), and you're good to go!

– Maureen Jennison



Above, from left: Spoon jam into the heart after toasting and reveal the little red heart. Cut strawberry tops off in a "v" shape, and refine if needed.

At right: Enjoy heart-shaped berries with heart-shaped cereal for a loving breakfast.

3rd District supervisors race off and running

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

As Third District Supervisor John Haschak has announced he isn't running for a third term, the supervisor's race is on in Willits, Laytonville, Covelo and surrounding areas, with the primary election set for June 2, 2026.

Four candidates from Willits: Buffey Wright Bourassa, Russell Green, Eric Hart, and Clay Romero of Willits have so far announced campaigns for Third District supervisor. The official filing period for the June 2 election started Monday, February 9 and extends through March 6, with a further extension to March 11 in races where the incumbent doesn't file for reelection.

The Mendocino County Elections Office website has information for voters and candidates about local elections, including a Candidate Information Packet. The filing fee to run for county office is 1 percent of the office's annual salary, so with the supervisors' salary set at \$110,715, the filing fee for third district is \$1,107.

Candidates have the option of collecting signatures endorsing their campaigns instead of paying a filing fee. The deadline to submit Signatures In Lieu of Filing Free was February 4.

In addition to the supervisors contests, also including the race for Fifth District supervisor, the June 2 election includes county

Read the rest of
Candidates
Over on Page 11

New WPD Officer Steven Duran sworn in

Posted by Willits Police Department

Congrats to Willits Police Department's newest police officer, Officer Steven Duran.

Last month we had the pleasure of attending the Santa Rosa Junior College Basic Police Academy graduation of our latest Willits Police Department recruit, Officer Steven Duran. Officer Duran grew up in the area and attended local schools. Officer Duran previously served

Read the rest of
Duran
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Why I stand

To the Editor:

To the editor and our esteemed community, you may have noticed people standing in Babcock Park on Friday evenings with signs for Indivisible. Or you've seen big tubs with the name Indivisible on them around town that collect canned food for our Food Bank. In more invisible ways, this local group has been promoting efforts to defend our democracy and constitutional rights. You might recognize the group's name from our national Pledge of Allegiance.

I personally stand with the weekly Democracy Vigil, as it is called, to stand for a vision of communities united under the American flag and its promise for "liberty and justice for all."

I stand for the justice of food security in our county. The threat to SNAP benefits being taken away last fall – with 16% of our county depending on them – meant local activists were writing letters and contacting representatives to ensure all here can have nutritious food.

Still, everyone now feels the impact of unaffordable food prices, as a consequence of international tariffs that affect American consumers – right here in local stores and restaurants. I stand for policies that – according to our Constitution – should lie in the hands of our Congress (not the president), as the designated authority, including setting tariffs on foreign commerce.

I also stand for our constitutional right to have Congress direct the "power of the purse" and ensure that we all have access to our monies meant for education, healthcare, housing, good transportation infrastructure, and national parks. Instead, we're seeing funding cut or held up. Threats to rural hospitals recently roused many protests to make sure we still have those much-needed services, for example.

Finally, I think about the many upstanding members of our community who help gather food in vineyards and farms, who work in local restaurants and hotels, or help clean homes and care for our dependent children and elderly, but many in the Latino and other vulnerable communities are worried sick. I've learned about hard working and tax paying immigrants seeking to legalize their citizenship or residency now in danger of being snatched away.

So if you see me out there on the street with others wanting our nation to be indivisible, that's why I'm there. Join us!

Kim Bancroft, Willits

Willits Rain Box

A gentle rain moved across the Little Lake Valley last Sunday, February 8, bringing the first measurable precipitation for February 2026. With accumulation averaging just 0.22 inches, the weak system increased the total rainfall since October 1, 2025 to 33.13 inches. As less than half an inch of rain has been received since January 8, the odds of achieving totals matching the previous rain year are diminishing. Multiple forecasts suggest weather patterns may begin to shift this week, with consecutive rainy days possible by Valentine's Day weekend.

– Tim Hanna, Willits Rain Box

LETTERS

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

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

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THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

February 2025

By Supervisor John Haschak

At the February 3 meeting, the Board moved forward with developing ordinances for short-term rentals and low-intensity camping. Some of the key issues with short-term rentals are that the owner or manager of the property must be readily accessible, rentals on private roads would have a higher level of oversight, and code violations will include fines and, after three violations, you're out of the program.

The State passed a law allowing low-intensity camping, "HipCamps" etc., if a county so chooses. This is for 9 or fewer campsites on a property. The Board wants to limit this program to no more than 100 permits. People have been using these camping platforms for quite a while with no regulation or fees/taxes collected. The Board has sent the proposed ordinance to the Planning Commission before returning to the Board for final approval.

In my first years on the Board, there was a lot of talk concerning the fiscal health of the Mendocino County Employees pension fund. The unfunded liabilities were high, which required action. The MCERA (Mendocino County Employees Retirement Association) Board took action which put the financing on a more solid, conservative approach. The latest actuarial report showed that MCERA fund has over \$800 million in assets, the unfunded liabilities are decreasing, and the fund is projected to meet its goals to eliminate the unfunded liability. The next MCERA meeting will be in Willits on February 18 at 8:30 in the Wonacott Room of the Mendocino County Museum.

Ambulance service in the Mendocino County hangs on as a precarious problem. Of particular concern is outlying areas that might not have enough Emergency Medical Technicians. Since the entire county's ambulance service is interconnected, if one goes down the others must cover. County staff and I held a meeting in Covelo last summer to discuss some of the issues and fixes. We had great collaboration from Coastal Valleys Emergency Medical Services Agency, CAL FIRE and fire departments, ambulance providers, and the community. The situation was dire.

Some of the fixes are that the Round Valley Health Clinic is now receiving low-acuity ambulance patients and an EMT class in Covelo is now graduating nine students. Once the graduates receive their course completion certificate, they will be in good standing to take the National Registry exam for final certification. Problems get solved when we work together.

There will be a Talk with the Supervisor on Thursday, February 19, from 10 to 11 am at Brickhouse Coffee. You can always contact me at haschak@mendocinoconty.gov or call 707-972-4214.

Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)

location	Mon Feb 02	Tue Feb 03	Wed Feb 04	Thur Feb 05	Fri Feb 06	Sat Feb 07	Sun Feb 08	weekly total	rainfall since 01Oct25
Northbrook Way	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.29	36.15
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.31	36.41
Valley Rd	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.17	25.86
Canyon Rd	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.17	29.59
Pine Mountain	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.15	35.20
South Main @ East Oak	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.22	35.38
average	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.22	33.13

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

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Thursday, February 12: Chicken Stir Fry

Friday, February 13: Lasagna w/ Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Monday, February 16: Chicken Bacon Ranch Sandwich

Tuesday, February 17: Swiss Mushroom Burger

Wednesday, February 18: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Green Salad

Thursday, February 19: Buffalo Chicken Sandwich

Friday, February 20: Carnitas Burrito w/Green Sauce

Activities: Bingo on Friday nights, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class weekday mornings from 9 to 10 am.

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday, excepting holidays. 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.



Above, from left: Andrew Hosford pours out a fresh batch of crabs onto the screen, to be rinsed and displayed. Boiled crabs display this reddish color when fully cooked. Manny Orozco works the sale along with his Rotary Club mates. Bri Adams and Nina Swinney of the Willits Kids Corner generously provided a section of their parking lot for the sale. At far left: Dr. John Gleye and Allisha Rignano make friends with their crustaceans. At left: Andrew Hosford, Tim King and Ann Alumbaugh work to take crabs apart for an extra donation. Below, from left: Tamara Alaniz and Rotary President Cathie Gernhardt take a break from work on the crab sale. Helen Simms has a fresh batch of boiled crabs for customers to choose from. Tamara Alaniz performs her customer-attracting crab dance on Main Street.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Crab Sale

Willits Rotary Club boils 1,000 crustaceans as fast as they can at annual fundraiser

In the early morning last Friday, the steam began to rise on two well-travelled and well-used large metal pots, in preparation for the popular two-day Crab Sale. The determined members of the Willits Rotary Club arrived one-by-one at the corner of Mendocino and Main, in the old Rexall parking lot, now known as the Willits Kids Corner. The Rotary members set up and prepared the fresh crustaceans for the day's sale.

Like clockwork, the members set up the various stations required for the optimal flow of crabs, which were so in-demand that Rotary had trouble keeping any inventory on the racks. As soon as the crabs came out of the water, were hosed off, and placed on the long screen table, they were purchased.

"We can't keep up with them," said Rotary member Helen Simms. "We take them out of the pot and people buy them when they're still hot. We only have about half of the crabs left. We just opened the sale two hours ago. They're bigger than we thought they would be and very full. They make good Super Bowl weekend food. There are a lot of happy people and I'm very glad we're having such a good weekend. We're having wonderful weather for it."

Because the parking lot is being utilized by the current owners of the building, Rotary had set up on the corner of the lot in a spot that was generously donated for the two days by the Willits Kids Corner proprietors.

"It's a little different this year," explained Rotary President Cathie Gernhardt. "We're on the other side of the parking lot but we're doing great. It's a very visible location. We can't keep up with the cooking. The customers are having to wait for the crabs to get cooked. That's a problem we've never had before. The community is coming out to support Willits Rotary and our efforts to provide scholarships to the Willits High School seniors, so we'll have some money to give out this June when the kids graduate.

"We have a ton of crabs, 2,000 pounds," said Gernhardt. "They range between one-and-a-half and two pounds each. I figure we have close to 1,000 crabs. We should

net close to \$20,000, although we paid around \$7,000 to purchase the crabs."

Aside from the scholarships that the club grants to deserving Willits High School seniors each year, the club engages in several other altruistic endeavors.

"Rotary is working on getting the Ten Thousand Steps signs throughout town," continued Gernhardt. "That is happening with the cooperation of the City of Willits and the Blue Zones group. Those will be going up around town within the next month. We're also working on refurbishing the entrance to Willits signs on Highway 20, at the north and south ends of town at the on and off ramps. We're working on a mental health grant. We have \$1,500 to donate to a mental health cause. We're still looking for a worthy recipient for that. We get \$750 matching funds from the district. We match that amount. We can use that for any mental health program that will help the mental health issues in our community."

In addition to the aforementioned programs, the Willits Rotary is holding a "Grill and Give" dinner, on February 28. This popular event is almost sold out and will provide funds to those organizations that help feed less-fortunate members of the community.

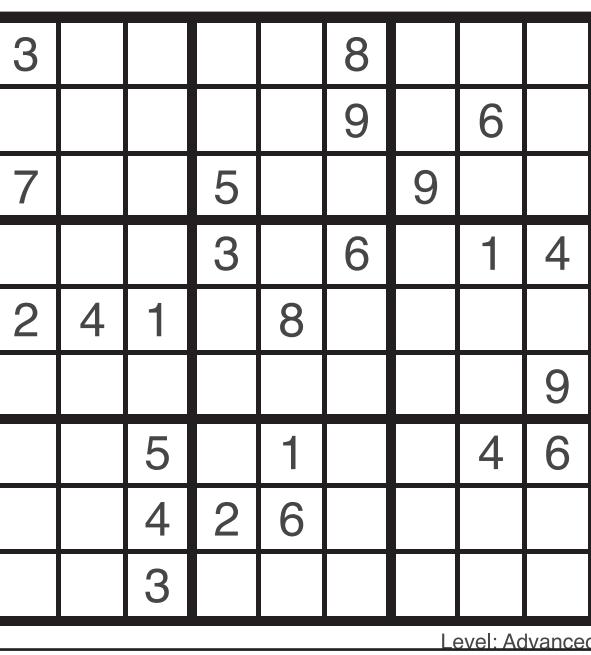
"It's a winter barbecue," explained Gernhardt. "We are raising money for the Food Bank, the Willits Daily Bread, and the Senior Center. It begins with a charcuterie board with homemade linguica on the grazing board. They'll be barbecuing chicken and pork butts with beans and bread

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

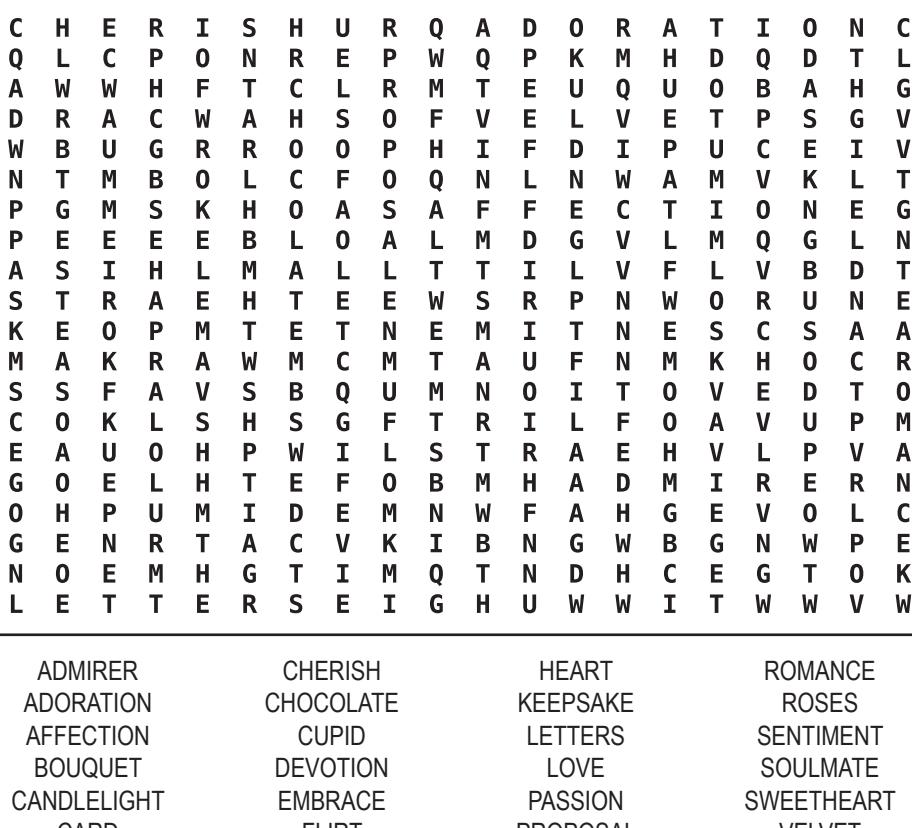
Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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!

VALENTINE'S WORD SEARCH

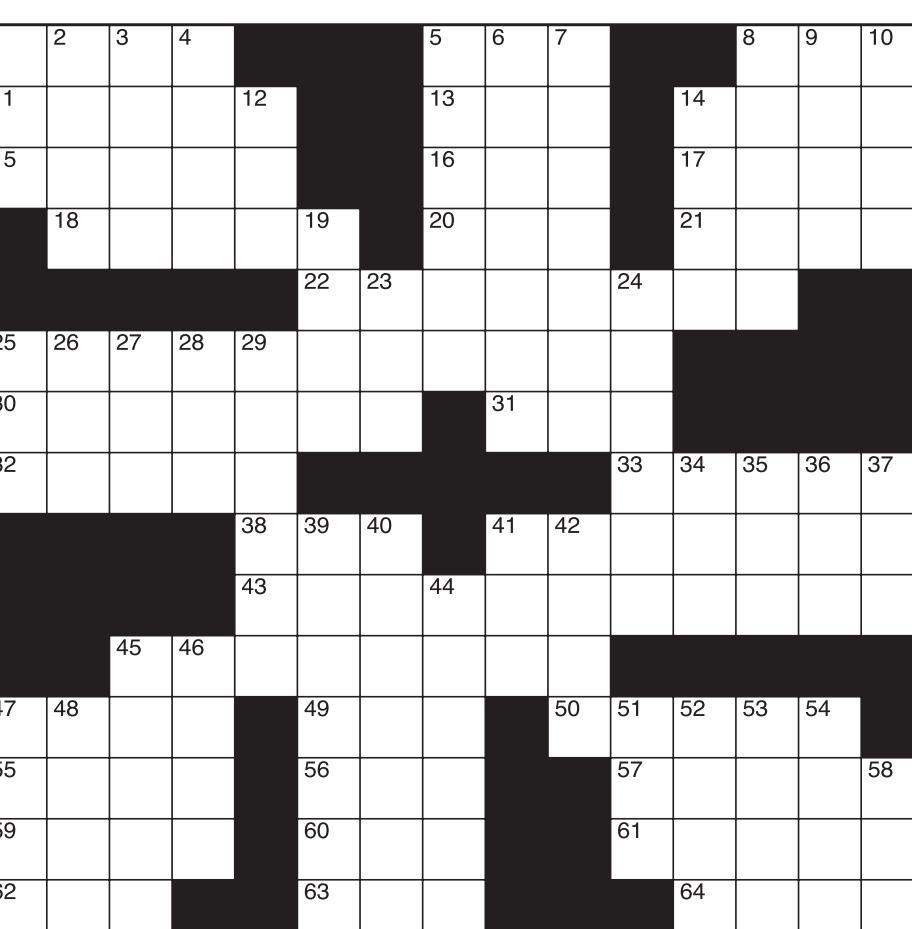


ADIMIRER
ADORATION
AFFECTION
BOUQUET
CANDLELIGHT
CARD

CHERISH
CHOCOLATE
CUPID
DEVOTION
EMBRACE
FLIRT

HEART
KEEPSAKE
LETTERS
LOVE
PASSION
PROPOSAL

ROMANCE
ROSES
SENTIMENT
SOULMATE
SWEETHEART
VELVET



CLUES ACROSS

- Breezed through
- Consumer protection agency
- Criminal syndicate
- Moves back from
- Satisfaction
- Feel concern or interest
- Monetary units
- Congressman (abbr.)
- Israeli city
- Restaurants
- 20,000 lbs.
- Grandmother
- North, South and Central
- In an early way
- Foes
- Social networking platform
- Early term for basketball player
- Another name for sesame plant
- Disallow
- Provide greater detail
- Inaccessible
- Evoke emotions
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Celtic punk rockers
50. A fencing sword
51. Actor Idris
52. Affirmative (slang)
53. Afflicted in mind or body
54. One point north of northeast
55. Born of
56. Social media hand gesture
57. Hong Kong food stall
58. Opposite of beginning
59. Email function
60. Record electric currents generated by the brain
61. Short route aircraft
62. Pitching statistic
63. Pointed end of a pen
64. Popular sports league
65. Body part
66. Inoffensive
67. Yellowish cotton cloth
68. Feline
69. Does not tell the truth
70. Seduced
71. Spiritual leader
72. Abba __, Israeli politician
73. Repair
74. Olive genus
75. Swiss river
76. Prejudice
77. Benedicte monk
78. Rooney and Kate are two
79. Mediterranean port
80. Midway between south and southeast
81. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
82. Shrewdly
83. Rooney and Kate are two
84. More quickly
85. Inability to hear
86. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
87. Benedicte monk
88. Rooney and Kate are two
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158. Midway between south and southeast
159. Benedicte monk
160. Rooney and Kate are two
161. Mediterranean port
162. Midway between south and southeast

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

January 1 to January 18

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported 218 incidents in this 18-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

January 1
No incidents to report.

January 2
12:05 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
12:28 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Street and issued a warning.
12:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
4:41 pm: BECK, Annelise Katrina (29) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on multiple felony and misdemeanor charges.

6:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Central Street.

January 3
5:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of West Highway 20.
7:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 600 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

January 4
11:15 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of Raymond Lane.

January 5
7:38 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
8:11 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
12:40 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Oak Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.
1:20 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 600 block of Maple Lane.

January 6
8:30 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.
8:41 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

January 7
1:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Valley Street and issued a warning.
5:05 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
10:14 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

January 8
7:26 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and Maple Street and issued a warning.
7:36 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Easy Street and West Mendocino Avenue and issued a warning.
7:57 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
8:04 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
5:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
8:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

January 9
8:3 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Commercial Street and South Main Street and issued a citation.
10:35 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

January 10
1:50 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal dumping in the 800 block of South Main Street.

Read the rest of
WPD

Over on page 11

Fun with Creative Arts

Valentine's-themed guided Paint Party at Slam Dunk Pizza

In a scene reminiscent of an atelier of one of the past masters, leading their students in a class, teaching color and proper use of brushes, Willits Slam Dunk Pizza was transformed into an art studio, with nine eager novice painters willing to be led on an exploration of the art of acrylics.

"Love Grows II" was a Valentine's themed guided paint party on Tuesday evening, January 27, one of a quarterly series hosted by the Willits restaurant.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The artists gathered in four rows with medium-sized canvases, provided with paint, brushes, water, and any pizzas or beer they wished to imbibe. The guiding hands of Creative Arts of Ukiah, Erica Ramire and Bessie Glossenger, showed the attendees how to create a recreate an artwork, originally painted by Glossenger, consisting of a dark blue sky, a bright moon, a tree with heart-shaped fruit, and a sky full of stars.

Creative Arts produces inventive art events, both in their studio in Ukiah at 202 South State Street, where they do a weekly Sunday paint group, and at various venues throughout Willits, Ukiah, and a new location, The Golden Pig Wine and Meat Shop in Hopland. The point of the classes is not to create perfect art, but to give the participants an inroad into and a feel of making a painting or do-it-yourself craft piece that they can take home and proudly display. But truth be told, the primary purpose is to have fun and a little camaraderie.

"We hold quarterly events at Slam Dunk Pizza in Willits and Ukiah," stated Ramirez, who owns Creative Arts of Ukiah. "It's our Paint & Sip. So, we advertised the painting we are going to do and our venue, which is Slam Dunk this evening. We have people in the community sign up. We set up the event, and we have an instructor that will lead you step-by-step in the creation of your own masterpiece."

Ramirez explained: "We've been doing this since 2016, although we took a break during the pandemic. We just recently started doing public events again, and we're here at Slam Dunk quarterly. We have nine participants coming in tonight who are pre-registered. We take walk-ins as well. We bring extra materials in case we get more people."

Bessie Glossenger, who led the class this evening, began for many years as a participant, graduating into an instructor who will guide the participants in learning some of the basic techniques of applying paint to a canvas in a way that will provide the desired results.

"We get mostly adults, but sometimes we get some youths and they've enjoyed it," Glossenger said. "They're mostly 12- and 13-year-olds who come with folks. We've had some really nice parent-child nights. There are certain levels that we offer, one through four. Four is the hardest level. When they ask if a certain project would be appropriate for a 12-year-old and it's a level one or two, we tell them to come on down."

"This painting [the aforementioned sky, moon, and tree]," Glossenger said, "is our demo for the day. We give them about five colors to work with, basic colors and some for accents. We don't want to

Read the rest of
Painting

Over on page 9



At top, left: Erica Ramirez holds up the original painting for Dawn Tipton to photograph on her phone, to have it for reference throughout the process. At top, right: The painters begin by creating a moon on the canvas to be the dynamic focal point of the composition. Above: As they come to the end of the Paint Party session at Slam Dunk Pizza, the attendees put the finishing touches on their compositions and prepare to take them home. At left: Hailey Riley uses a paper plate to practice the brush strokes that will make her tree.



Above: Dawn Tipton and Melissa Coughlin proudly display their compositions, to show their interpretations of the material. At right: Painting mixes with sustenance from Slam Dunk Pizza, as the participants work on their compositions.



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Acts 2:37
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Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-
6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-
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If you want to be included in
this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com



Frankie and the Lost Souls at Shanachie: An indie folk-rock band with melodic riffs and narrative-driven lyrics on Friday, February 13 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Saturday, February 14 Happy Valentine's Day

Willits Photography Club at WCA: Open to all skill levels and meets on Saturday, February 14 from 10 am to noon in the classroom at Willits Center for the Arts. (Enter through back door).

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT: VALENTINE'S EDITION

Planning a Valentine's date night? BOMS PTO has you covered! We are hosting a Parents' Night Out babysitting fundraiser. Drop off your children for a fun, supervised evening and we'll care for them! The cost is \$15 per child. Sign-ups are limited, so sign up early!

Date: Saturday, February 14th
Time: 5-8pm
Location: Brookside Cafeteria

Adult supervision provided by parents and school staff.

Art Talk on
African art
at WCA,
February 13

Submitted by WCA

The Willits Center for the Arts is pleased to present a lecture on African art on Friday, February 13, at 6:30 pm. The Art Talk presentation will take place at the Willits Center for the Arts and will be delivered by Art Historian Gary Martin, M.A.

This lecture offers an introduction to the richness and diversity of African art, emphasizing its historical depth, regional variety, and cultural significance. From ancient sculptural traditions to contemporary artistic practices, the presentation will examine how African art functions as a visual language shaped by ritual, community, belief systems, and historical exchange. Particular attention will be given to materials, symbolism, and the ways African artists have influenced global modern and contemporary art.

Gary Martin, M.A., is an art historian and educator with extensive experience teaching art history throughout Mendocino County and beyond. His lectures are known for their clarity, visual richness, and ability to make complex material accessible to a broad audience.

This event is free and open to the public and is suitable for both general audiences and those with a particular interest in art history. The Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street.

**Sober Grad's Poker
Night fundraiser,
February 21**

Submitted by Willits Sober Grad

New for 2026! Willits Sober Grad is thrilled to announce they have partnered with Sparetime Supply Distribution to bring you a Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament on Saturday, February 21.

This special event will combine a fun, social poker atmosphere with a meaningful mission: raising funds to support Willits Sober Grad's ongoing efforts to provide a safe, sober graduation celebration for local seniors. Willits Sober Grad extends sincere thanks to its generous event sponsors, whose support makes this fundraiser possible.

Pre-sale tickets are now available and are encouraged: save \$10 on your Buy-In by purchasing early. Proceeds from ticket sales directly benefit Willits Sober Grad and help ensure a memorable, alcohol-free graduation night for local youth. Dinner by Loose Caboose Café: Come hungry



and enjoy a delicious dinner of homemade mostaccioli bake, green salad, and garlic bread, prepared by local favorite Loose Caboose Café.

New Player Clinic: New to poker? We've got you covered. Join our New Player Clinic at 4:30 pm for a quick, approachable introduction to Texas Hold 'Em. Learn the basics, ask questions, and sit down to play with confidence – no experience required.

Come join us at Sparetime Supply Distribution, 300 East Commercial Street in Willits on Saturday, February 21, 2026. Doors open at 4 pm; New

Player Clinic at 4:30 pm; games start at 5 pm; dinner at 7 pm. For pre-sale tickets: Text or call Carrie Lambert at (707) 671-6173.

For more information about Willits Sober Grad or the Cards for a Cause Poker Series, please contact Carrie Lambert at (707) 671-6173 or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

New Dawsons Center specialty clinic open in Willits

Posted by Adventist Health Howard Memorial

We at Adventist Health Howard Memorial are excited to share that our new state-of-the-art specialty clinic, the Dawsons Center, is now open and ready to care for our community. Located at 1196 South Main Street in Willits, this new and improved space will allow us to provide more access and continue the legacy of great care that Dr. Dawson and family have provided our community.

It will also allow our team to improve your overall experience and the care we provide. With a focus on accessibility, collaboration, and compassionate care, our dedicated team of providers is here to support your health journey every step of the way.

While we are moving to a new space, you can continue to depend on the same great care from the team and providers you know and love.

This space will house our specialty services, including General Surgery, Wound Care, and Nutrition Education. If you need care for diverticulitis, bowel obstruction, hernias, non-healing wounds or diabetes management, our team is here for you.

Call 707-456-3020, or visit our website <https://ahlink.org/4rfPWmG>



LEGAL NOTICES

WW584

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0009

The following person or persons are doing business as Longevity Kombucha, 349 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490. Mailing Address: 390 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: Jared Soinila, 438 McPeak St., Willits CA 95482.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/6/2026.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on 1/6/2026.

/s/ Jared Soinila

Publication Dates:

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

WW586

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0021

The following person or persons are doing business as Hidden Gem Studio, 234 S. Main St., #3, Willits, CA 95490. Mailing Address: 390 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: Emilie Cavallari, 390 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits CA 95490

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/20/2024.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on 1/8/2026.

/s/ Emilie Cavallari

Publication Dates:

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

LEGAL NOTICES

WW585

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
OF THE KITTY BARR TRUST**

[Probate Code §19000, et seq.
Case No. 25PR00408]

In re: the KITTY BARR TRUST, Dated June 21, 2013
KITTY LOUISE BARR, aka KITTY L. BARR, aka
KITTY BARR, Decedent.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named decedent, that all persons having claims against the decedent are required to file them with the Superior Court of the County of Mendocino, at 100 No. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482 and deliver pursuant to Section 1215 of the California Probate Code a copy to Alison Morse, as trustee of the KITTY BARR TRUST dated June 21, 2013 wherein the decedent was the settlor, c/o Jennifer M. O'Brien, Neary and O'Brien, at 110 So. Main St., Ste. C, Willits, CA 95490, within the later of four months after February 5, 2026 or, if notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, 60 days after the date this notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, or you must petition to file a late claim as provided in Section 19103 of the Probate Code. A claim form may be obtained from the court clerk. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, with return receipt requested.

Publication Dates: February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

LEGAL NOTICES



**CITY OF WILLITS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Willits City Council, at its regular meeting on February 25, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

PROJECT: Amendment to Willits Municipal Code Title 17 – Zoning, adding Chapter 17.89, "Entertainment Zones," to establish regulations for the limited and regulated consumption of alcoholic beverages in designated public spaces during City approved special events.

REQUEST: Consideration of a draft ordinance amending Title 17 of the Willits Municipal Code to add Chapter 17.89, "Entertainment Zones," allowing the City to create Entertainment Zones by ordinance. The proposed ordinance establishes permitting procedures, sets operational standards, and aligns local regulations with State law, including Senate Bill 969 (SB 969) related to Entertainment Zones.

LOCATION: Citywide – The ordinance would apply throughout the City of Willits and would allow designation of Entertainment Zones in specific locations during City-approved special events.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the "common sense" exemption, as it can be seen with certainty that the adoption of the ordinance will not have a significant effect on the environment.

MEETING LOCATION: Council Chambers at City Hall located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Prior to the meeting, electronic copies of the staff report and agenda will be available on the City's website at <http://city-willits.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/City-Council-1>.

• Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Connor Stack at cstack@willits.org, or to the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, February 24th, 2026. All public comments received will be provided to the Council in advance of the meeting.

• Oral comments may be presented to the Willits City Council during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the public meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 459-4601. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

s/ Delores Pedersen

City Clerk for the City of Willits

Publication Date: February 12, 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

**Brown Bag
Lunch Program**

Every Saturday at 1 pm sack lunches are served by local churches, community organizations, and families at Bud Snider Park on East Commercial. Come at 1 pm to be assured a lunch!

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Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). Saturday, February 28 – 8 am to 4 pm

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Lawn Bids Wanted
Willits Elementary Charter School seeks bids to improve the current lawn. We would like to remove the current grass, regrade, and install RTF sod. In order to make a bid, please contact the school to look at the current lawn. Phone: 707-459-1400. 405 E Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490. Bids due by Feb 27th.

**RV/Trailer Space
for Rent**
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Agent
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0C67822

**Oscar Wilde's timely and beloved comedy
'The Importance of Being Earnest' opens
February 20 at WCT**

By Steve Hellman for WCT

Oscar Wilde's timely and beloved comedy "The Importance of Being Earnest" opens Friday, February 20 at the Willits Community Theatre. In its day Wilde's classic made farcical fun of double lives, sharp manners, and the extraordinary trouble of being taken seriously. The play also remains amazingly pertinent to much of today's cultural tableau.

Directed by the beloved Maria Monti, the action comes across fast and exquisitely silly. The language sparkles, and the characters entertain while insisting they are exactly who they say they are ... even when they're not.

Monti says, "I love how Oscar Wilde uses language, especially humor and puns, just to make life look as ridiculous as it can be, and yet still it pertains to the issues today of money and status and character."

The play is also very timely, Monti says, in Wilde's depiction of women with the power to choose who they will marry. "Wilde gave women the power of choice in a time when they had so little power elsewhere in their lives." Monti previously directed the 2024 WCT hit, "The Odd Couple." Starring in "The Importance of Being Earnest" are veteran actors and newcomer Aris Vellis, Sarah France, Zoe Robertson and Dane Nelson; back row: Cindi Mohr, Cort Wilson, and Jeremy Daw.

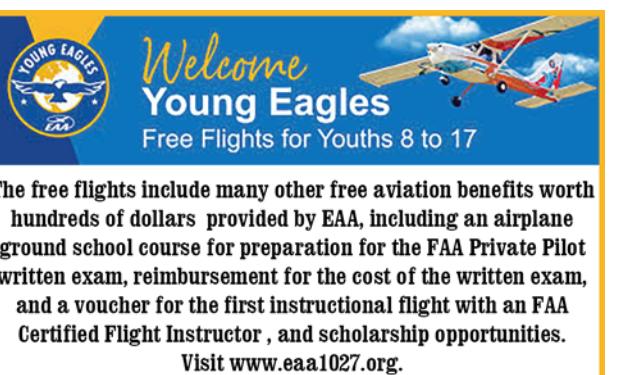
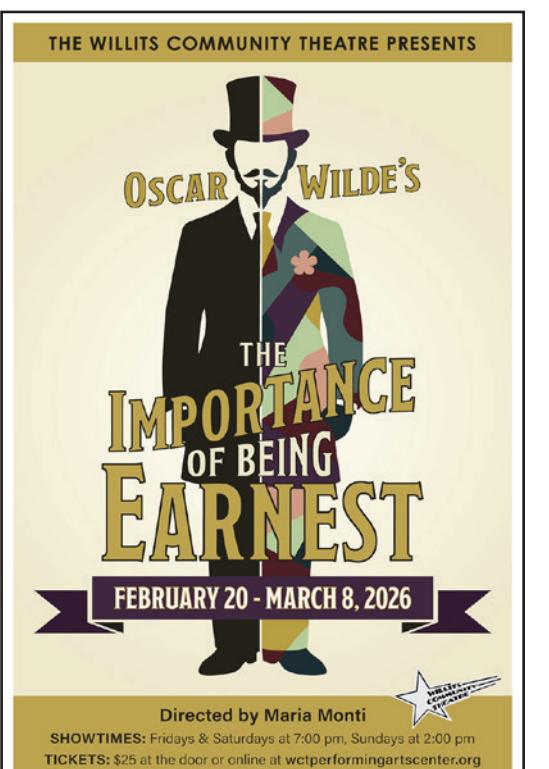
While the production leans into the elegance, absurdity, and heart of what makes for a satirical gem, the timing, the shared laughter, and the truth that is always just slightly out of reach come together to form an evening of wit, warmth, and very serious nonsense.

Performances are February 20 through March 8, with shows on Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$25 and available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.



At right: The cast of Oscar Wilde's timely and beloved comedy, "The Importance of Being Earnest," opening February 20 at Willits Community Theatre. Front row, from left: Aris Vellis, Sarah France, Lisa Wilcox, Zoe Robertson and Dane Nelson; back row: Cindi Mohr, Cort Wilson, and Jeremy Daw.

Photo by Mathew Caine.



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Learn more at
AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org

**Adventist Health
Howard Memorial**

**The rest of
WPD** From page 4

12:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

9:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Main Street.

January 15

7:25 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of Shell Lane.

8:17 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:38 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and West Valley Street and issued a warning.

1:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and Sherwood Road and issued a warning.

4:09 pm: MONDRAGON, Sheena Sharon (32) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on multiple felony and misdemeanor charges.

January 16

9:38 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:41 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Commercial Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:51 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:09 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:33 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

There is a later filing period, from April 6 to May 19, for filing a statement of Write-In Candidacy and Nomination Papers – write

**The rest of
Candidates** From page 1

judges. The deadline for judicial candidates to file a Declaration of Intent was February 4.

Due to the supervisors' decision to undo their earlier decision to consolidate the Auditor-Controller and Treasurer Tax Collector offices, there will be elections for those two department heads in June. And further, as Voter Registrar Katrina Bartolomie, puts it: "The Auditor-Controller /Treasurer Tax Collector combined position was held by Chamise Cubbison; the BOS separated the combined positions by Resolution 25-187 November 18, 2025. The individual positions (Auditor-Controller and Treasurer Tax Collector) do not have an incumbent. These positions will be elected individually and will not have a filing period extension."

Bartolomie has also posted an interactive map of the Congressional districts

approved by voters for 2026 elections and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court on February 4. The new Assembly District 1 includes Willits, Ukiah and Covelo, and goes east to the Nevada border, including Chico and Red Bluff, and extends south to include Healdsburg, Windsor and Santa Rosa. View the district here: <https://aeld.assembly.ca.gov/proposed-congressional-map>

In early May, we will plan to print a Supervisors Candidate Q&A, to help voters learn about the local candidates who have filed to represent them on the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

in candidates do not appear on the ballots.

Bartolomie also noted that the county sheriff and district attorney elections, which would normally have taken place this year, have shifted to 2028. Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall won by 80.78% in 2022 and District Attorney David Eyster ran unopposed.

As per the Candidate Information Packet: "Per Assembly Bill 759, passed in 2022, mandated the shift of both District Attorney and Sheriff elections to the Presidential election cycle. This is a one-term extension, as a result of this change, sheriffs and district attorneys who were elected in 2022 had their terms extended by two years, making them six-year terms. The aim of this change was to increase voter turnout in these important elections, as Presidential Primary elections generally draw higher participation than Gubernatorial elections. After the 2028 elections, District attorneys and Sheriffs elected from this point onwards will serve the standard four-year terms."

Willits Weekly has received a press release and other information from candidate Russell Green, announcing he has officially filed as a candidate as of February 9. We hope to receive press announcements from other candidates for the June 2 election to print starting next week.

In early May, we will plan to print a Supervisors Candidate Q&A, to help voters learn about the local candidates who have filed to represent them on the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

**The rest of
Duran** From page 1

as a Fire Captain with the Brooktrails Fire Department.

In the City of Willits City Council Chambers on January 28, surrounded by family and friends, Officer Duran was sworn in by Willits City Clerk Delores Pedersen. Officer Duran is currently in the second phase of his field training program. Please join us in congratulating Officer Duran on his recent graduation and for his accomplishments in the training program thus far.

At left: New Willits Police Officer Steven Duran, right, gets congratulated by Willits Police Chief Brian Fay after being sworn in at the Willits City Council meeting.

**The rest of
Safety** From page 1

what it took to get the CCC to spend weeks cleaning up the neighborhood.

Originally, she explained, the Coastal Conservancy "provided funding to support us clearing undeveloped land in Brooktrails, specifically that was adjacent to homes. We wanted to address the 100-foot defensible space that landowners weren't able to get because they were surrounded by undeveloped land." Initially, the owners of undeveloped parcels got letters seeking permission to work on their property.

It couldn't have been more simple. But as the years went by, she recalled, "we noticed that we weren't able to get letters from the landowners," giving permission to do the work on their property. This is due to a number of reasons, from owners' residential addresses not being up to date to owners not even knowing they've inherited a piece of property they may not have ever seen.

"This has been going on for about 30-40 years," Delgado noted. Brooktrails has a nuisance vegetation ordinance that allows it to abate nuisance vegetation on private property and eventually recoup the costs from the owners by placing a lien on the land. But the likelihood of ever getting reimbursed by people who have no interest in their assets and don't answer their mail is not worth the labor costs.

To carry out the Coastal Conservancy grant-funded work, the Brooktrails Township Community Services District cooperated with the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council to develop a new process whereby the district sent abatement notices to property owners stating that, if they did not get the work done themselves within 30 days, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council would be authorized to access their property to abate fuel load hazards. The letter inspired a number of absentee owners to step up and manage their own property by hiring crews to clean up their parcels.

And, "if they don't take any action and they don't respond, then we have the right to work on their property," Delgado summarized. So, as grant funds or other resources become available, this process can enable significant progress in abating nuisance vegetation.

To maximize the potential benefit of the process, a pivotal meeting took place in August of last year between the Brooktrails Township Community Services District, the County of Mendocino, CAL FIRE, local firefighting agencies including the Ukiah Valley Fire District Fuels Reduction Crew, and the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council. At that meeting, the entities hammered out a plan. First, the fire chief would designate the most high-priority areas needing abatement work. Then, as grant-funded resources become available, property owners in those areas would receive letters seeking permission to do the work. If they didn't respond within 30 days, crews could access their properties and do it for them.

Another opportunity soon arose out of a partnership

between the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council and the CCC. This allowed the Fire Safe Council to design a project using a combination of state-funded CCC crews and Fire Safe Council resources, like its chipper. That collaboration has expanded to include the CCC work currently underway in Brooktrails.

There is still a lot of work to do, as long as the resources are available to fund it. "We have nearly touched the amount of letters to go out to every undeveloped landowner," Delgado clarified. The fire chief has prioritized five locations, which will result in about 20 acres being treated for both roadside clearance and defensible space around homes.

Delgado is optimistic about further collaborations with the CCC, the Ukiah Valley Fire District Fuels Crew, CAL FIRE and others. She stopped by the worksite to visit crew supervisor Cedar Long, who was guiding a group of young adults through the process of cutting down small trees safely and thoughtfully. Long has collaborated with the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council before, offering a popular women's chainsaw workshop in Laytonville. As a former firefighter in Mendocino and Humboldt counties, Long is fully committed to forest health and fire safety.

In addition to providing a huge labor force to communities like Brooktrails, the CCC is also a youth development program. "We do a lot of skills instructions, trainings, certifications, things like that, that help our corps membership post-CCC," Long said. The 14-person crew was working on getting certified to fell trees using chainsaws, after which they would be trained on using a chipper.

"They're working their tails off to get all the woody debris up to the chipper, and then it'll get run through, and the chips will be distributed back into the forest floor to biodegrade," nourishing the soil and discouraging resprouts from popping up again. "So there's a whole lot going on," Long concluded. "Many of our corps members are interested in careers in firefighting, so learning about fuel diameter and fuel loading in the forests and how to improve safe ingress and egress for both residents and firefighters is a huge part of their learning process here as well. It just makes them more knowledgeable and safe for firefighters when they're out on the line."

To learn more about improving fire safety and fire resiliency in your neighborhood, visit the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council website at firesafemendocino.org.

Editor's Note: the Mendocino Fire Safe Council recently announced on Facebook that it has received a new over \$938,000 grant from CAL FIRE to "continue our fuel-reduction work in the high-hazard Brooktrails area, particularly in the shared Greenbelt area and on overgrown undeveloped parcels where neglected fuel loads threaten neighboring residences."

There is great work happening across Willits Unified. I am proud of our students, grateful for our staff, and excited for the months ahead as we continue building a strong foundation for next school year.

**The rest of
Rogers** From page 2

expands eligibility for the Prescribed Fire Liability Claims Fund to include resource conservation districts, volunteer fire departments, and tribal governments. It also eliminates the fund's 2028 sunset date and extends liability protections to retired CAL FIRE burn bosses who maintain their certifications.

Reducing Credential Bottlenecks: The bill creates pathways for federally trained and CAL FIRE burn bosses to obtain California Certified Burn Boss qualifications without duplicating training, and reduces Certified Burn Boss recertification requirements from annual to every three years.

The legislation has garnered strong support from tribal nations, conservation organizations, and academic institutions working on prescribed fire expansion:

"Karu people burn to care for our lands, promote biodiversity, and protect our communities, and we have done so since Time Immortal," said Bill Tripp, director of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, Karuk Tribe. "Beneficial fire has not always been appropriately prioritized, but the Good Fire Act puts it front and center, recognizing that cultural burning and prescribed fire are not just land management tools – they are essential practices for ecological and cultural health. By reducing operational and regulatory barriers, and expanding liability protections afforded through the Claims Fund, this bill will enable tribes, organizations, and communities to bring more good fire back to California."

"California cannot solve the wildfire crisis without dramatically scaling up prescribed fire, and we cannot scale up without addressing the regulatory and liability barriers that prevent qualified practitioners from doing this essential work," Paul Mason, vice president for Policy & Incentives at Pacific Forest Trust, the bill sponsor. "This legislation will help unlock the full potential of California's prescribed fire workforce and facilitate the use of beneficial fire that our forests desperately need."

"California has made amazing progress on beneficial fire in recent years, piloting innovative ideas and breaking down barriers to this important work," said Lenya Quinn-Davidson, director of the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Fire Network. "The Good Fire Act continues that progress, fine-tuning key policies and programs and making them more expansive and more durable long-term. With this bill and all of the inspiring work that's happening throughout the state, our beneficial fire future feels increasingly within reach."

Chris Rogers was elected to the state Assembly in 2024. As the Assemblymember for the Second Assembly District, he represents Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

5 PM TO 10 PM

Valentines Day

Dinner for Two

EARN 100 POINTS AND RECEIVE A

Rose & Chocolates

RAFFLE BARREL DRAWINGS 2 WINNER PER HOUR

\$50 FREE PLAY. FINAL DRAWING FOR

\$300 CASH

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