

Sheri Glaser's 'Life and Death – A Love Story' at WCT, March 14 and 15

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

Local treasure, award-winning actress, and solo performer Sherry Glaser performs in her latest work, "Life and Death – A Love Story," at the Willits Community Theatre March 14 and 15. Creator and star of the longest-running one-woman show in off-Broadway history, "Family Secrets," and cult classic, "Oh My Goddess! A Comedy of Biblical Proportions," Glaser in her latest ground-breaking work offers an extra-dark comedy with a musical flair.

In the new play directed by Mendocino Theater Company veteran Ricci Dedola, we meet Patience Wilson, played by Glaser, who has had a stroke and consequently must confront her own mortality, in the form of death himself, played by thrilling newcomer Juan Wulff.

Glaser elevates and translates the experience into a comedic and unique revelation: Can life and death reconcile their differences and find love?

Shows are Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 pm and a Sunday, March 15 matinee at 2 pm. Tickets are \$25 and available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org and at the door.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS Presents
Art of India
Temples, Texts, and the Language of the Divine

A public lecture on the art of the Indian subcontinent will explore more than three millennia of artistic production

Friday
March 13
6:30 pm

Presented by Gary Martin, M.A.

71 E. Commercial St. Willits, 95490

'The Art of India,' WCA Art Talk, March 13

Willits Center for the Arts Art Talk this month, Friday, March 13 at 6:30 pm, is "the Art of India: Temples, Texts and the Art of the Divine," presented by Gary Martin, M.A. This public lecture on the art of the Indian subcontinent will explore more than three millennia of artistic production, tracing the development of visual culture from the urban achievements of the Indus Valley Civilization to the refined painting ateliers of the Mughal court.

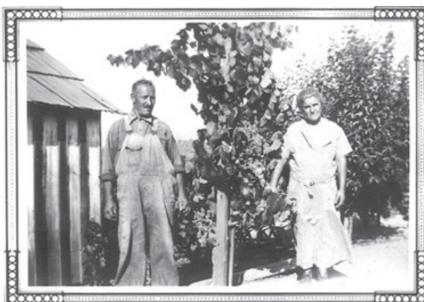
This illustrated presentation offers audiences a structured introduction to the religious, political, and aesthetic frameworks that shaped one of the world's most enduring artistic traditions.

The lecture will examine early Buddhist monuments, including the sculptural programs of the Great Stupa at Sanchi and the narrative murals of the Ajanta Caves, emphasizing the emergence of visual storytelling as a vehicle for devotion and doctrine. Hindu temple architecture will be discussed through major sites such as the Brihadeeswarar Temple and the Khajuraho Group of Monuments, where architectural form, sculptural abundance, and cosmological symbolism converge.

Attention will also be given to the courtly arts of the Mughal period under emperors such as Akbar, whose patronage fostered a sophisticated synthesis of Persian, Central Asian, and indigenous Indian painting traditions. Through close visual analysis, the presentation will consider materials, iconography, workshop practices, and the role of patronage in shaping artistic production.

Designed for both general audiences and students of art history, this lecture provides historical context and interpretive tools for understanding the complexity and richness of Indian art. The program invites attendees to engage critically with works that continue to inform global artistic discourse.

For additional information on WCA, visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org.



Above, left: Geatano and Maria Testa settled in Capella and started farming grapes in 1912, along with the other Italian founding fathers of our area. Above, right: Maria Testa Martinson, fourth generation Testa, and Rusty Martinson enjoy the fruits of their family's vineyard. Below: The Martinson Testa family, fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-generation members, in 2022.



Testa Vineyards family celebrates Italian heritage with 'Amici' events, starting March 14

Submitted by **Kassandra Martinson Brooks, 5th Generation, Testa Ranch**

Our family has been farming grapes here in Mendocino County since 1912. Along with the other Italian founding fathers of our area, my great-great-grandfather Geatano Testa settled in Capella

chasing his dream of growing grapes and making wine. For five generations (sixth in the making) we have been here farming our historic vineyard, growing, learning, trying our best to carry on our family legacy. We've faced recessions, pandemics, droughts, fires, and five generations of change, but today, we find ourselves facing one of the hardest seasons in our family's recent history

We made it through Prohibition in the 1920s and now we're in the largest downslide in the wine industry since then. We've seen ranches pulled out, wineries closing, we've left fruit on the vine harvest after harvest, and have pulled out blocks of vineyard ourselves- but we are finding new ways to pivot and keep our family legacy alive for future generations. Geatano's dream has become all of ours and we are excited about what the future of Testa holds. We're finding new ways to make it happen while honoring our ancestors and our Italian heritage along the way.

For 114 years we've sold a majority of our grapes to wineries all over Sonoma and Napa counties. Our family used to carry grapes by horse all the way down to the city and across the bay on a boat before the Golden Gate Bridge was built. Growing grapes and farming is instilled in our blood. Of course, wine has always been in our blood as well. Our family made the best homemade wine around, sharing with family and friends and keeping a solid stash in the cellar like Italians do.

It wasn't until 2010 that my mom, Maria Testa Martinson (4th generation) along with my dad, Rusty decided it was time to officially bottle our own wine – to get our liquor license, learn the trade, and start our very own winery. This was the first of many ways our family would diversify in years to come to help carry on our family name of Testa.

With the help and support of several local winemakers, my mom learned the trade and she has made some of the most delicious award-winning wines around! Our Simply Black and White wines have become a local favorite; people really love how true wines are, which is a testament to our winemaking and our farming. We make our wines with just grapes from our land, no additives or fluff, just grapes. Our Simply Black and White brand honors our Italian heritage and a simpler way of life and winemaking, dating back to when grapes were simply called Black or White.



Above: First-, second- and third-generation members of the Testa family at Home Ranch. Below: First- and second-generation members of the Testa family.



We've been able to keep a small amount of our grapes to make our Testa Vineyards wine for the past 15 years while still selling the majority of our fruit down south like we have always done. In the meantime, we have grown a wine club, have thrown lots of amazing parties, and have seen the ups and downs of the wine industry as a small family-run boutique winery.

Since our first wine release, we've continued to diversify while chasing our passions and have been able to expand Testa into the historic Blacklock's Building in Redwood Valley, giving Testa Coffee & Wine a home since 2022, and Testa Antiques since 2024. These shops are full of life every day, bringing something meaningful to our small community. From morning coffee to evening glasses of wine, fresh pastries, hot turkey pesto sandwiches, and Italian desserts, there's always a reason to stop by.

You can grab a drink and wander next door through antique treasures, relax in the wine garden, or take a stroll through the vineyards to see the animals on our Ranch Walk. We've created a space that honors Mendocino's history while bringing people together through the charm of old things made new again. Our Redwood Valley location has given us the opportunity to bring our community together for all the big and small moments. We absolutely love sharing this space with our club members and our community and giving you a place to slow down, a place that feels like home.

While the last few years have brought us lots of joy and growth, it has also brought difficult harvest seasons for us and growers across California. We once again had to leave majority of our fruit on

the vine, something no farmer ever wants to see. For a family who usually sells 90% of our grapes, the struggle to move fruit combined with crop damage has been tough. The wine community is living through its most challenging time since Prohibition in the 1920s.

Our family survived the 1920s and came out stronger because of it with lots of stories to tell. While times are tough, we look forward to continuing to reinvent ourselves and bringing you all along this journey. This year we are really leaning into our Italian heritage, trying our best to follow a more simple way of living, while celebrating all of life's big and small moments. In addition to our first olive oil release, we're starting a series of events called Testa Amici that bring our wine club and our community together four times a year to just enjoy being together. Amici in Italian

Read the rest of **Testa** | Over on page 14

TESTA VINEYARDS
Amici

MARCH 14 | JUNE 20 | SEPTEMBER 12 | DECEMBER 20

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At left: Coach Mary Colvig gives the kids instructions for their next exercise. Above, left: The practices begin with some dry-land exercises to get the kids loose and ready for the water. Above, right: Mattie Pinon Owen coaches the beginner swimmers when she is not coaching the WHS swim team. At right: The swimmers did several laps to practice their strokes and technique. At far right: Serenity is enjoying her time in the water, which is warmer than the outside air. Below, left: The team takes a moment to pose for the camera with their boogie boards. Below, right: The cold kept a few of the kids away but for a hearty few dedicated swimmers. At bottom, right: These two swimmers are practicing their butterfly stroke while sharing a lane.



Otters Swim Club

Spring season begins with a full team of swimmers, both new and returning

"Willits Otters, the team this year, is growing," said head coach Mary Colvig. "We have 37 members signed up right now and hoping to have quite a few more by our March 30 start date. We have two start dates this year, March 2 and March 30. Our Pups, for sure, will start March 30. There are the Otters and the Otter Pups. The minimum age for the Pups is five. We basically teach them how to swim, how to do competitive swimming. We have a swim meet at the end of this month in Sebastopol. It seems like I'm going to have quite a few swimmers there."

The cold air and blustery wind did its best to dampen the spirits of the indomitable Otter kids, to no avail. After Colvig ran them through a series of dry-land exercises, they jumped and dove into the city pool at Willits High School, where the water temperature was much warmer than the air. The kids seemed oblivious to the conditions that the adults were dealing with, in their warm coats, as they ran the kids through their series of exercises designed to work on various elements of strokes and generally strengthen young bodies.

The students shared their lanes as they swam from one end of the pool to the other in a coordinated manner, trying to move through the water as efficiently as possible. But, most noticeable, was the fact that they were having a great time, coming up smiling and laughing with their friends.

"These kids swim because it's fun," Colvig continued. "They love being in the water. There are friendships that form on the team. It's about being part of the community,

a community of families, a community of friends. A lot of times they return because they know what it feels like to be here. These kids swim because it's fun. They love being in the water. There are friendships that form on the team. It's about being part of the community, a community of families, a community of friends."

The Willits Otters is not solely for fun. They are competitors, with several meets during the year, sanctioned by USA Swimming and Pacific Swimming (www.pacswim.org).

Annapurna Steffen, principal at Sherwood Elementary School, is on the board of directors for the Willits Otters. She loves the fact that many of the swimmers and coaches are second- and third-generation Otters.

"We're kicking off a new spring season," explained Steffen. "Otters has been going since 1975, serving our youth swim program in Willits. We have this incredible head coach, Mary Colvig, who is a second-generation Otter. She's a former Otter champion. She's a local girl, who started swimming on the Otters team when she was 3. She's coaching with her mom, Linda, as an assistant coach. It's inspiring and motivating for local athletes to have such a knowledgeable coach.

"We're pretty lucky to have Mary leading the Otters this year," said Steffen. "To have someone who went away and got her master's from Harvard and came back to our community is really neat. Not only is she inspiring with her coaching,

Read the rest of **Otters** | Over on page 13

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Acts 2:37
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Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:7-7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7-8:00 p.m.

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Father Aaron Bandanadam
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Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
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April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com



Thursday, March 12

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

Book Club Meets at the Library: Come be a part of a welcoming community centered around the love of reading every 2nd Thursday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library. Ages 18 and older.

Friday, March 13

Create It, Make It, Break It STEM Activity at Library: Learn the 'Science Behind the Magic' with this week's activity 'Vanishing Water' on Friday, March 13 from 3:30 to 5 pm at the library. Ages 9 to 14.

Chamber Mixer and Auction at Mendo College: Willits Chamber of Commerce hosts this informational meeting and mixer about the upcoming phase-two expansion of Mendocino College's North County Center, adding construction, solar, fire, art and science classes here in Willits. Live auction with auctioneer Tom Allman, and beverages and hors d'oeuvres by Scoops. Auction proceeds will raise funds for Willits High School students to attend summer college classes. Friday, March 13 from 5 to 7 pm at North County Center, 372 Commercial Street, Willits.

Art Talk with Gary Martin at WCA: This lecture will discuss the art of the Indian subcontinent, including texts, temples and the language of the divine on Friday, March 13 at 6:30 pm at Willits Center for the Arts.

Acoustic Showcase at Shanachie: An evening of local artists playing acoustic sets, with headliners Forrest Glycer and Malakai Schindel, and performances by Lhasa Summers & Luna Zaka and many others on Friday, March 13 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Saturday, March 14

Vegetarian Potluck at KLLG Radio Station: Bring a vegetarian dish to share on Saturday, March 14 from noon to 2 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Willits.

Music Gear Market at the Grange: Buy, sell or exchange music gear on Saturday, March 14 from noon to 5 pm at the Little Lake Grange. Reserve a table for \$25 by calling Chris at 707-459-1099 or emailing cmcchicak@gmail.com.

Willits Photography Club at WCA: open to all skill levels and meets every 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 am to noon in the classroom at Willits Center for the Arts. (Enter through back door).

St Patrick's Day Dinner at Veteran's Memorial Building: This fundraiser for American Legion Willits Post #174 will feature corned beef and cabbage, Murphy's (Spuds), Carrots, Etc., will be held on Saturday, March 14 from 5 to 7 pm at 191 North Main Street, Willits. Cost is \$25 adults, \$12 for ages 5 to 12, free for ages under 5.

Sip Some Soup Fundraiser at Willits Community Center: Taste and vote on soups,



love, loss, and what it means to be alive on Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 pm at Willits Community Theatre. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the door or at wdperformingartscenter.org

Rosewater at Shanachie: Come enjoy two full sets of high energy Grateful Dead tunes by this tribute band on Saturday, March 14 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub. \$10 cover at the door.

Sunday, March 15

'Life and Death: A Love Story' at WCT: Final performance on Sunday, March 15 at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre. More info see Mar 14 listing.

Monday, March 16

Korean Paper-Making and Dinner at Ridgewood Ranch: Join artists Steph Rue and Chris Enumi Yi-Suh for this evening of food and Hanji paper-making. Cost for papermaking is sliding scale \$5 to \$30 (with all supplies provided) and the optional dinner is sliding scale \$10 to \$30 (cash only) on Monday, March 16 at Ridgewood Ranch, 11800 Orchard Lane, south of Willits.

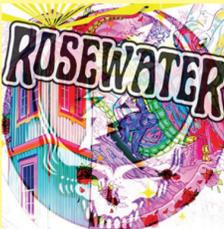


Society at the Grange: Celebrate the color green by bringing your green rocks, minerals and lapidary creations along with a ready-made snack to share on Monday, March 16 from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange. No alcohol or dogs, please.

Wednesday, March 18

Lunch to Live Music at Brickhouse: Enjoy live music while you eat every Wednesday from noon to 2 pm at Brickhouse Coffee. This week, March 18: Melanie Canta!

History Makers Family Activity at the Museum: Join us every Wednesday in March from 2 to 4:30 pm for a family-friendly craft project. This week, March 18: Stone Wrapping with Wikki Stix.



Willits Stamp Club at the Library: Bring your collection and enjoy time perusing stamps every third Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm at the library. All are welcome, refreshments served. More info: talsofam@pacfic.net.

Special Drum and Dance Class at WCA: All levels are welcome for this class taught by visiting Master Dancer, Youssouf Koumbassa and Drummer, Greg Fletcher on Wednesday, March 15 with drumming from 6 to 7 pm and dancing from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts.

Thursday, March 19

Willits Farmers Market: Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange for fresh produce, hot and cold food, crafts, the new edition of Willits Weekly and more. See March 12 listing for more details.

Bit and a Bite at the Museum: Join Friends of the Mendocino County Museum for light refreshments and conversation with special guest and geology enthusiast David Mueller, along with other members of the Willits Gem and Mineral Society, who will share their knowledge of local minerals, many of which are unique to Mendocino County. Thursday, March 19 at Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, now through April 26. More info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum or (707) 234-6365.



March 4: Create Your Own Rock Collecting Box
March 11: Watercolor Geodes
March 18: Stone Wrapping with Wikki Stix
March 25: Rock Painting and Special Rock Hunt



Writers Workshop at the Library: Share your fictional works in a supportive environment, receive constructive feedback and discuss publishing. Ages 13 and up every 3rd Thursday of the month from 4:30 to 6 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

Community Singing with Katie Sontag at Inner Earth Tea: Katie writes and teaches songs that celebrate self love, remind us that we are not alone and that all feelings are welcome. There will be rounds, part songs, harmonies and unison with no experience necessary on Thursday, March 19 from 6 to 8 pm at Inner Earth Tea House, 48 East San Francisco Avenue. Cost is sliding scale \$20 to \$30.

Friday, March 20

Create It, Make It, Break It STEM Activity at Library:

Learn the 'Science Behind the Magic' with this week's activity 'Mysterious Floating Objects' on Friday, March 20 from 3:30 to 5 pm at the library. Ages 9 to 14.



Book Lovers Discussion Group at the Library: Come talk about books, authors, and genres every 3rd Friday of the month from noon to 1 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

The Love Note Duo at Shanachie: An evening of eclectic, transcendental Americana by Katie Sontag & Jon Brex who will play original, heartfelt folk for your listening pleasure on Friday, March 20 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Art & Craft of Distilling Fundraiser at WCA: Enjoy a short lecture on the Art of Distillation, live piano jazz with Wendy DeWitt, charcuterie bites and tastings of whiskey, bourbon and gin from Tamar Distillery and Mendocino Spirits with proceeds benefitting Willits Center of the Arts on Saturday, March 21 from 6 to 8 pm at 71 East Commercial Street. Tickets \$30 each at willitscenterforthearts.org or \$35 at the door (or 2 tickets for \$60).

Open Mic at the Munchery: All ages are welcome for a night full of creativity and community vibes every third Saturday of the month starting at 6 pm at 1797 South Main Street, Willits.

Hillshaker at Shanachie: Clay Hawkins and Andrew Robertson bring rapid-fire fingerstyle slide guitar and honest, heartfelt songwriting to create a unique brand of acoustic rock on Saturday, March 21 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

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ART & CRAFT OF DISTILLING
AN EQUINOX EVENING WITH MENDOCINO SPIRITS
SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2026 6-8pm
A MAGICAL TASTING EXPERIENCE with Mendocino Spirits
LIVE PIANO JAZZ with Wendy DeWitt
ART TALK & SPIRITS TASTING (showcased, award-winning whiskey, bourbon and gin)
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Willits Gem & Mineral Society
March 16th from 7-8:30pm
@The Little Lake Grange in Willits
Come explore all things green!
• Bring your green rocks to show n'tell
• Enter the \$1/entry crystal door prize!
• Bring a snack to share with the group!

Willitsgms.wordpress.com

Sunday, March 22

Grange Pancake Breakfast: All you can eat of the Grange's "scratch" pancakes (sourdough), wholegrain, Hank's famous buttermilk, or gluten-free) plus organic, local farm-fresh scrambled eggs, Beeler's Quality bacon, real butter, juice and organic coffee or tea for only \$13! (\$11 for Seniors, \$5 for kids under 10). Extra sides of organic fruit, Amish organic maple syrup, fresh fruit syrup or bacon for a small additional fee. Every fourth Sunday of the month from 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange. And now, Punch cards are available for purchase: \$100 buys 10 months of breakfasts, a savings of \$30 a year!

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'The Bride!'

The Story: Frankenstein's Monster shows up at Doctor Cornelia Euphronius's (Annette Bening) laboratory. He tells her to make him a wife. From this simple request, all sorts of hell breaks loose. Hell includes murders, car chases, attempted rapes, social discords and international riots.

Writer/Director Maggie Gyllenhaal enlists her A-List cast in an un-preachy, yet righteous feminist melodrama. This Gothic murder-filled adventure explores how Mary Shelley's myth of the Frankenstein monster drives the humane transformation of a brutally murdered prostitute (Jessie Buckley), who is resurrected from a muddy grave.

Defying sexual abuse with unyielding personal courage, plus true love for Frankenstein's Creature (Christian Bale) drive her development as a truly self-actualizing individual. Defined by society as a whore and a joke, and then re-created by science and electricity as a monstrosity, she struggles to remember her forgotten name, and in that struggle she realizes herself.

My Thoughts: I adore (not really a "thought") the Irish actress Jessie Buckley. Her potent screen presence is a charismatic gift to us movie-goers. As a matter of D. Essman's personal rule for motion pictures "do's" and "don'ts," the most important: The Leading Lady in a Flick Must Be Envisioned as a Goddess. This flick meets that demand. And the rest of this movie pretty much supports the vision, as well.

Parents: Absolutely not for children. Too much talk. Too much sexual violence.

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

Promote Your Business & Support Your Community at Donation Drive April 11

Bring attention and publicity to your business and help bring in needed items for Willits Community Services & Food Bank by donating a gift certificate, free service or item from your inventory for several raffles that community members can enter when they bring items to the donation drive to be held Saturday, April 11. Businesses who donate will be given promotion before, during and after the event. More info or to donate: Andria at 707-599-5621 or tavanystone@gmail.com.

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YOUR APPRAISE HELPS DECIDE THE WINNER
Featuring
SURFSQUATCH MENDOCINO TANGLED ENDS
FRIENDS ANONYMOUS HANDFUL OF DAYS
POST-MODERN PROMETHEUS SPYGLASS
ALCHEMIC TRANSMUTATION WEEWILLS
LUPINE DRIVER BONE BANDS TBA!

Sip Some Soup
A joint fundraising event for Willits Daily Bread & Willits Shelter Action Group
Join us again for this much-loved community fundraiser. Try and vote on soups, enjoy bread and jam from Emandal Farm on the river, and browse our silent auction.
Taste, vote and celebrate local flavors with neighbors
Willits Community Center
March 14th 2026
5pm-7pm
Tickets: \$15 per Adult, \$25 per couple, and \$5 for children 12 and under.
For additional information contact: Cindy Savage 707-459-2594 - cindy.savage@yahoo.com

2026 REDWOOD EMPIRE FAIR
FAIR DATES
August 4 - August 9
THEME
Celebrating 250 Years of American Heritage
OWNERSHIP DATES
Steers - April 6
Hogs, Goats & Lambs - June 5
Rabbits & Poultry - July 5
SCHOLARSHIP
Application Due - April 1
Interviews - April 29

Redwood Valley Grange, & The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County
Invite you to CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY
With Our Third Annual PANCAKE BREAKFAST Fundraiser
March 15, 2026
9:00am-12:00pm
Redwood Valley Grange
8650 East Road,
Redwood Valley, CA 95482
Would you like to Sponsor our Celebration? We would love to celebrate you!
Pot o' Gold \$100.00
Simply Shenamans \$30.00
Lucky Leprechaun \$25.00
Tickets can be purchased at each location and online at:
Admission: \$15.00
Children: \$7.00
SCAN ME

Willits Gem & Mineral Society
March 16th from 7-8:30pm
@The Little Lake Grange in Willits
Come explore all things green!
• Bring your green rocks to show n'tell
• Enter the \$1/entry crystal door prize!
• Bring a snack to share with the group!

NED LEDOUX
AT THE WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS RODEO GROUNDS
SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026
NED LEDOUX
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM
WWW.WILLITSFRONTIERDAYS.COM

Baechtel Grove Middle School PTO 7th Grade Fundraiser
BINGO NIGHT
BGMS
\$40 Buy-in
03/15/2026
WILLITS SENIOR CENTER
DOORS OPEN AT 2:30
BINGO 3:00 TO 6:00

LOCAL FOOD SECURITY! TOWN HALL MEETING #3
Our next steps -from ideas to actions
SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 11-1 pm
LITTLE LAKE GRANGE ~ 291 SCHOOL ST, WILLITS, CA
FARMERS WE NEED YOU!
GENERATE FOOD SECURITY SOLUTIONS and TAKE ACTION!
ACTIVATE FOOD NETWORKS
small groups & action committees
we need more land for farming and backyard gardens nutrition education
Come to be part of the solution - get involved locally - how to feed our community in these uncertain times!
FOOD BANK COLLECTION BIN on site
Thank you to Little Lake Grange for hosting and sponsoring

Seed Library Planting Parties
Second Fridays
March - July, 1:30 p.m.
during Farmers Market.
Behind the Round Valley Public Library
Ready to start some seeds for your garden? We'll be at the Farmers Market with empty 6-packs, soil, and seeds. You decide what you want and leave with the seeds you've started. Everything is Free!

Starting in March
Willits Branch Library
Book Club
Meeting every 2nd Thursday of the Month
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Open to ages 18 and over, this book club brings together readers to build a welcoming community centered on a love of reading.

NOYO Theater Willits, CA.
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyoteater.com
Mid week promotions: Wednesday - Matinee prices to all shows all day.

HOPPERS
(PG) 1H 45min
Fri: 4:30, 7:15
Sat/Sun: 1:45, 4:30, 7:15
Wed/Thurs: 4:30, 7:15

THE BRIDE
(R) 2H 6min
Fri: 4:15, 7:00
Sat/Sun: 1:30, 4:15, 7:00
Wed/Thurs: 4:15, 7:00

ARCO
(PG) 1H 29min
Fri: 4:45, 7:30
Sat/Sun: 2:00, 4:45, 7:30
Wed/Thurs: 4:45, 7:30

Open Caption Wednesdays
This means that, when available, every show on Wednesdays will have subtitles on the screen.

WILLITS FIRST FRIDAYS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
GAS MONEY 5/1/26
FREE SHOWS!
Thank you to our major sponsor!
MAY 1 MAY 2026
MAY 5 MAY 2026
MAY 7 MAY 2026
MAY 12 MAY 2026
MAY 19 MAY 2026
MAY 26 MAY 2026
MAY 31 MAY 2026
MAY 5 5:00 PM FARCO BROTHERS
MAY 7 7:00 PM AUDIO SOUL
MAY 12 7:00 PM LA ONDA
ON COMMERCIAL ST BETWEEN HUMBOLDT & MAIN ST | 6 - 9 PM

Master Dancer from Guinea, West Africa
Youssouf Koumbassa
Wednesday March 18th
6-7PM Drum
7-8:30PM Dance
All levels welcome
Greg Fletcher



Above: The Two Rock lookout tower eight miles west of Willits was originally built in 1966. At left, top and bottom The Two Rock lookout tower west of Willits has a 360-degree view, showing beauty in every direction.

Photos by Sarah Reith

Fire cameras going in at Two Rock lookout, 8 miles west of Willits

By Sarah Reith, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

The Ridgewood Fire Safe Council is looking forward to enhanced vigilance when it comes to fires this year – and a large portion of the rest of the county will benefit as well. The Two Rock Lookout, a 30-foot tower on the top of a summit approximately eight miles west of Willits, is about to be called out of retirement.

The Two Rock lookout tower was built in 1966, to house a human observer who would scan the view for signs of smoke in the summertime. It was permanently closed in 1994, and in 2020 it was registered as a historical lookout (US 1398, CA 221). On a clear day in February, Laughlin

Peak and a few wisps of coastal fog were visible from the tower's tiny kitchen, which is surrounded by a narrow porch at the top of a skinny staircase. It's easy to imagine a human lookout keeping an eye out for fire while preparing a meal and surveying the landscape from the wall of windows surrounding the room.

About five years ago, Eric Hart, who is now the outgoing chair of the Ridgewood Fire Safe Council, started to think that the tower would be the perfect site for fire cameras. On one perfect day for taking in the view, he climbed to the top of the tower with a visitor and scanned the horizon.

see everything from here."

Two Rock is a perfect location for modern wildfire early-detection cameras, and the Ridgewood Fire Safe Council has been working for several years to make that happen. The two cameras that will be installed there this summer will fill significant current blind spots, and cover a substantial portion of the county.

The cameras will require a significant amount of infrastructure, most notably solar-powered internet. Hart reports that shortly after talks about installing cameras began in 2021, the property owner, Rich Padula, passed away. The site now belongs to the timber company Green Diamond, and Hart says the company has been supportive of fire-resiliency efforts, including allowing the neighborhood Fire Safe Council to maintain an evacuation route on their property that winds through the woods to Highway 20. That route requires diligent maintenance: on the way out to the tower, Hart had to break out the chainsaw three times to remove trees that had fallen across the unpaved road during winter storms.

In the interval before Green Diamond purchased the property, an opportunity to fund the cameras with a grant from PG&E almost slipped away. "It's \$65,000 for the first year, to install and maintain it, and then \$25,000 a year after that to maintain it and keep the internet going and run the network," Hart divulged. "So it was a significant chunk of change – we could not have raised that on our own."

But, he added, after missing a few grant cycles, Read the rest of **Lookout** | Over on page 14



Outgoing chair of the Ridgewood Fire Safe Council, Eric Hart, on the Two Rock lookout tower pointing toward Laughlin Peak.



Bereavement Support Group

This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the signs of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward.

FREE OF CHARGE Beginning: Wednesday, March 18
Time: 3:30-5:30pm **SPACE IS LIMITED**
Please Call to Register:
Suzanne Picetti-Johnson (707) 456-9676



Susanna Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson
Group Facilitators

NO KINGS

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

POWER BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

Join Willits Indivisible for the

NO KINGS MARCH

Saturday, March 28 - 10 am to 1 pm

10 am: Instead of meeting at Babcock Park, we will gather north of the Highway 20 intersection and line both sides of Main Street all the way to Commercial.

11 am: We will walk peacefully to City Park for a celebration, including speakers, music and food.

A core principle behind all No Kings and Willits Indivisible events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should not be brought to events.

RAIN WORKS ON ALL TYPES SO DO WE

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW591

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
Laurence Jett Jennings

CASE NO.: 26PR00444

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **Laurence Jett Jennings**

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Jenna Stephens in the Superior Court of California, County of: Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that: Jenna Stephens be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action). The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

DATE: 03/20/2026 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept.: E, located at: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner: Jenna Stephens
1945 Piner Road Space 6
Santa Rosa CA 95403
Publication Dates: February 26, March 5, 12, 2026

LEGAL NOTICES

WW595

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
CAROLYN VASSAR

CASE NO.: 26PR00459

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **CAROLYN VASSAR**

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: BRETT VASSAR in the Superior Court of California, County of: Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that: Jenna Stephens be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action). The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

DATE: 03/27/2026 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept.: E, located at: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner: Brett Vassar
18800 Walker Rd.
Willits, CA 95490
Publication Dates: March 5, 12, 19 2026

LEGAL NOTICES

WW594

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
JACK EDWARD VASSAR

CASE NO.: 26PR00443

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **JACK EDWARD VASSAR**

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: BRETT VASSAR in the Superior Court of California, County of: Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that: Jenna Stephens be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action). The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

DATE: 03/27/2026 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept.: E, located at: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner: Brett Vassar
18800 Walker Rd.
Willits, CA 95490
Publication Dates: March 5, 12, 19 2026

LEGAL NOTICES

WW589

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0068

The following person or persons are doing business as Corner Bit Excavation, 10700 Hearst Rd., Willits, CA 95490; 707-354-2013.

Registered owner: SGS Construction, Inc., 10700 Hearst Rd., Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a CA 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 February 12, 2026.

/s/ Ashley Smith, President

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

WW593

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0090

The following person or persons are doing business as Lovebar, 15851 Ridgeview Rd., Willits, CA 95490; 707-841-1897.

Registered owner: Christine Kosmides, 15851 Ridgeview Rd., 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 February 26, 2026.

/s/ Christine Kosmides

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

WW590

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0067

The following person or persons are doing business as Babcock House Photography, 96 S. Humboldt St., Willits, CA 95490; 415-317-1379.

Registered owner: Brodman Photo LLC., 96 S. Humboldt St., Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/10/2022.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on February 11, 2026.

/s/ Rob Brodman, Managing MBR

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

WW598

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0094

The following person or persons are doing business as Multitalents, 1981 East Hill Rd., Willits, CA 95490; mailing address: 280 E. Commercial St., #310, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Tim Rice, 1981 East Hill Rd., Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1990 ?.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on March 2, 2026.

/s/ Tim Rice

Publication Dates: March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026

Locally raised in Willits,
organically fed and
pasture raised
Beef, Pork and Lamb

Personal and
Commercial orders
available

Contact Melissa at
(707) 513-5705 | eastsideranchwillits@gmail.com

Rotary

Club of Willits

People of Action

Serving our Community Since 1948

www.willitsrotary.org

WillitsRotaryClub@gmail.com



H	A	N	B	S	H	E	K	N	E	N	B	N	K	H	H	Z			
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Photos courtesy of Back 9 Bistro



Above: Golfers from Clear Lake, Fort Bragg, Upper Lake and Willits high schools competed at the second of eight Coastal Mountain Conference North matches, hosted by Brooktrails Golf Club. At left, below, far left: Golfers and friends enjoy the sun at Wednesday's match. At left, below: The high school golf teams had a nice day to compete Wednesday at Brooktrails Golf Club.

Clear Lake Golf wins CMC North match at Brooktrails

By Brian Sumpter, briansumpstersports.com

Brooktrails – Clear Lake High School's golf team beat Fort Bragg by 12 strokes to win a Coastal Mountain Conference North match Wednesday, March 4 at Brooktrails Golf Course near Willits.

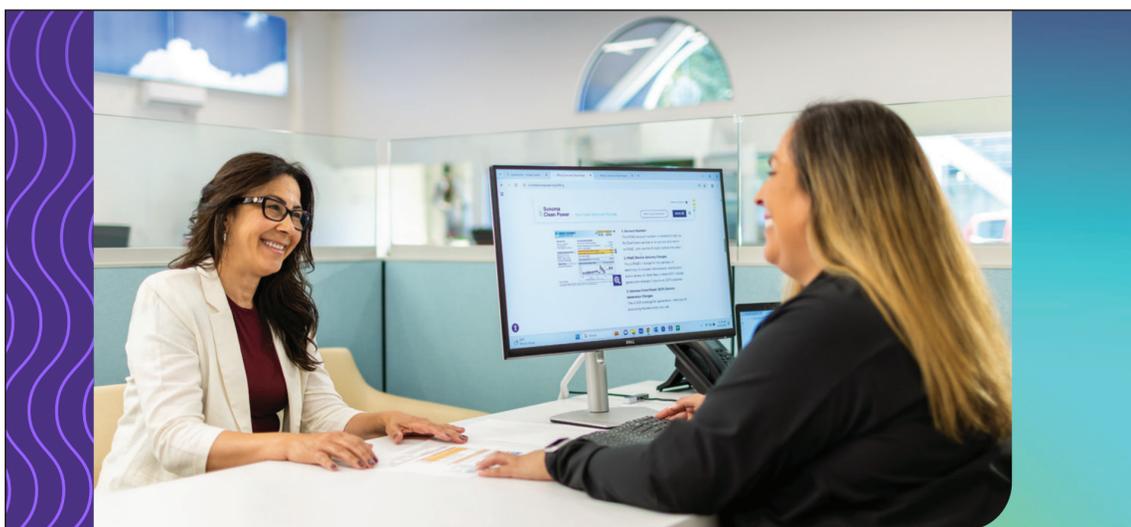
As a result of Clear Lake's victory and Fort Bragg's second-place finish, the CMC North now has three teams atop the standings with 10 points each. Clear Lake finished with 323 (the combined totals of its four lowest individual rounds) to Fort Bragg's 335, Upper Lake's 351, and Willits' 365. Clear Lake, Fort Bragg and Upper Lake all share the top spot followed by Willits, the two-time defending North champion, with six points.

Francis Rivera of Clear Lake carded the day's low round of 75 followed by Jaden Nunez of Upper Lake at 77. A trio of golfers – Clear Lake's Logan Percaccio, Fort Bragg's Ash Hebben, and Willits' Nikolai Ritchley – all had 81.

For the first-place Cardinals, Lee Butcher (83) and Levi Ewing (84) also contributed to the team win. For the third-place Cougars, who won last week's match at Buckingham Golf and Country Club, Gage Faalelea had 86, Landon Robinson 88 and Blake Sneed 100.

The third of eight scheduled North matches is set for Wednesday, March 11 at Hidden Valley Lake Golf and Country Club.

Visit <https://briansumpstersports.com/> to read more of Brian Sumpter's Lake County high school sports coverage.



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TOWN-WIDE ONGOING EVENTS

Trivia Night at The Munchery: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 6 pm at The Munchery, 1797 South Main Street, Willits.

Trivia Night at Northspur Brewing Co: Put your knowledge to the test on the first and third Wednesday of the month starting at 6:30 pm at Northspur Brewing Co., 101 North Main Street.

Food Not Bombs at Rec Grove Park: Receive a free meal, supplies and zines every first and third Friday of the month at 4 pm in Rec Grove Park at the picnic tables. Everyone is welcome.

Skunk Alley Improv Lessons at WCT: Every Sunday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm with instructor Schuyler Marcier at Willits Community Theater. Cost is \$5, cash or Venmo.

Free Meal by Willits Daily Bread: Every week on Monday through Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at 66 East Commercial Street.

Willits Tennis Club: Meets every Monday and Wednesday from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School Tennis Courts. All levels welcome. More info: 707 484-3385.

Drop-In Life Drawing Group at WCA: Every Thursday from 1 to 4 pm at Willits Center for the Arts. Cost is based on sliding scale. More info: Margaret 707-459-9251.

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Saturdays at 1 pm, sack lunches are served by local churches, community organizations, and families at Bud Snider City Park on East Commercial. Come at 1 pm to be assured a lunch!

Willits Indivisible Democracy Vigil: Every Friday from 5 to 6 pm at Babcock Park on South Main Street. More info: "Willits Indivisible" on Facebook.

Pickleball: Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 5 pm and Saturdays at 9 am at the Willits High School tennis courts. Free to play and all levels welcome.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every Monday at 6 pm at the Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866.

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Friday at 7 pm, at St. Francis of the Redwoods on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

Literacy Volunteers of Willits: We teach adults to read! Free personal tutoring at the library.

Call or email to make an appointment: LiteracyWillits@gmail.com or 707-456-7729.

Mobile Showers Available in Willits: Mobile shower is in Willits every Monday and Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, behind St. Francis Church at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Toiletries, towels and washcloths provided. Those with disabilities may need to bring a helper. Sack dinners are served from 4:30 to 5:30 by Willits Daily Bread.

Inland Valley Women's Chorus: Every Thursday (except holidays) from 6 to 7:30 pm to sing songs of peace, joy, social justice and healing. No audition or experience required. Carpooling available from Willits. Holy Trinity Church, Mary & Martha Room, 640 South Orchard Avenue, Ukiah. More info: Madge Strong, 707-459-1493.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, one of our locals will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub. Bring any instrument and explore your creativity!

Bluegrass String Jam: An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm, with all Bluegrass musicians welcome!

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Every Wednesday—Enter your name in the lottery from 3 to 7 pm to choose your 20-minute time slot, with performances beginning at 7:20.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolib.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Sunday and Monday.

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Wednesdays, 11 am to 1 pm, in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe."
LEGO Club: Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 pm. "Bring your imagination and start building."

Tech Help: Saturdays from 11 am to noon, come get computer help and your technical questions answered!

Spinning and Knitting: Saturdays at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome! Spinning, 1 to 2 pm; Knitting, 2 to 4:30 pm.

Story and Playtime: Fridays from 11 am to noon, bring the kids for a story followed by play time in the Children's Area.

ABC Art Artists Meet-Up: Work on your personal art project, meet other artists and find inspiration Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 3 pm. Ages 18 and up.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW597

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CLIFFORD B. PIERCE, aka Clifford B. Pierce Sr., Decedent

Case No. 26PR00446

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: CLIFFORD B. PIERCE, aka Clifford B. Pierce Sr.

2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Clifford B. Pierce Jr. in the Superior Court of California County of: Mendocino

3. The Petition for Probate requests that CLIFFORD B. PIERCE JR. be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

4. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

5. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: March 20, 2026 Time: 9:00 a.m Dept: E

Address of Court: 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

7. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

10. Attorney for petitioner: Christopher J. Neary (#69220)/Jennifer M. O'Brien (#278821), Neary and O'Brien, 110 So. Main St., Ste C, Willits CA 95490

Telephone: 707-459-5551

Publication Dates: March 5, 12 and 19, 2026

The rest of Otters From page 7

swimming, and her athleticism, but her academics, her drive, and what she brings to our community is really special. Mary has extended the sessions, for the advanced swimmers, from one hour to an hour and a half, and it's four days a week, so it's definitely a rigorous program. It's less rigorous for the newer swimmers."

Assistant Coach Mattie Pinon Owen is also a coach of the Willits High School swim team. "Our assistant coach, Mattie, is also quite experienced," said Steffen. "She also swam for the Willits Otters in the late '90s and early 2000s. So we have these Otter alumni to spearhead our season, coaching this year. Our other assistant coach, Linda Colvig, also used to coach the Otters in the 1980s and 1990s. She has also been the manager of the city pool for over 20 years. She has taught many generations of kids how to swim."

Steffen believes there are several benefits to children in the Otters: "Swimming gives the kids something extracurricular to do. It builds confidence. It's healthy. Team sports build friendships and connections in our community. It builds confidence, giving them healthy avenues in their lives. It allows them to do something active as well as social."

According to the Otters website, <https://willitsotters.weebly.com/>, "When a young person becomes a member of the Willits Otters Swim Team, they learn the values of sportsmanship and teamwork."

CLASSIFIEDS

Brookside TK/ Kindergarten Registration

Brookside Elementary TK/Kindergarten registration is now open. To register go to www.willitsunified.com. Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2026; TK: age 4 by Sept. 1, 2026. Ya está abierta la inscripción para el programa de TK/ Kinder de la Escuela Primaria Brookside. Para inscribirse, visite www.willitsunified.com. Kinder: 5 años antes del 1 de septiembre de 2026. TK: 4 años antes del 1 de septiembre de 2026.

Homemades & Alterations by Teresa

Alterations & seamstress work available locally. Reasonable prices and prompt service. Contact: (707) 472-8787.

Indoor Yard Sale

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

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers – starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/p>

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!

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; \$120 for a year's subscription in the U.S. mail. Fill out a form on page 2!

Do you need food?

Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 11 am to 4:30 pm. New Client Choice model where you select your own items. Bring shopping bags. Bring an I.D. Info: (707) 459-3333

For Sale

Purebred Red Angus Bull. Large, correct, big boned, pasture-raised bull from best cow-line in purebred AI-ed Red Angus herd. Cow herd is comprised of 1600#, 5" at-the-shoulder, cows. Calving-ease, low birthweight, milking traits stressed.

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for two weeks. Email us your ad today to include your ad here next week! willitsweekly@gmail.com

The rest of Sisters From page 3

shining in the background. It's just very meditative. I just got back from Costa Rica and we were up in a cloud forest at 6,000 feet and we did a lot of forest bathing, just hiking around," said Beardsley, explaining her inspiration for the water image.

Nan Trichler is well known in the Willits area for her geometric quilts. "I do art quilts," explained Trichler. "Very symmetrical. They start from the center and I work out. Basically, I see it as sacred geometry, which has several definitions. They're the same format but I find there are infinite variations."

Esther Siegel does fanciful assemblages created out of bits of anything that stimulate her interest and that she feels fit into her compositions. "We have a huge collection in a barn that is half the size of this building. We do the camps once a month, so people come all day and make art with us. It's pure joy and fun. When the object kind of fits, it's such a great feeling. I start with one piece and then I build from there, designing as I go. My process takes a long time. Occasionally, we'll go online and buy some new stuff but 99 percent of the time, it comes from a garage sale or something," mused Siegel.

Carolyn Bakewell loves kids, especially her students. It keeps her going back day after day to teach art at Willits High School, where she has been for several years. "I'm still teaching and loving it," said Bakewell. "The favorite part of my job is my students. They inspire me. They are an absolute joy and delight. Every single day it's something new and fun. Our Art Under Twenty show is coming in May." Her painting, called "Lookout Sunrise," is both dynamic and meditative.

Art quilter Laura Fogg does some topical and fanciful scenes. Her triptych, "My Vote is My Voice," depicts a recent protest event, complete with registration tables, kids in trees, women with "pink pussyhats," and more. One could spend quite some time finding all of the ideas and people in the scene. Another of her quilts depicts something very Mendo, a purple cannabis bud.

This exhibit is the seventh collaboration of these seven fellow artists and friends. Overheard at the exhibition was, "I want to come art with you," which seems apropos of this group of masters of their craft who want to share their art with each other and with the public.

The show will remain in the Willits Center for the Arts through March 29. The galleries, located at 71 East Commercial Street, are open Saturday, and Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.



Above: Richard Baker, executive director of the Willits Senior Center, center back, stands with the winners of the 2025 People's Choice award: The Mendocino County Sheriff's Activity League. At right: Harry So of the Little Lake Fire Department (last year's Judge's Choice winner) stands with Saprina Rodriguez at the 2025 event.



Photos courtesy Willits Senior Center

The rest of **Testa** | From page 6

translates to friends and that is just what Testa Amici will be. Friends coming together to enjoy each other's company in the most Italian way we know, relaxed and well-fed with good friends and great wine.

Testa Amici dates are set for March 14, June 20, September 12 and December 20, 10 am to 5 pm at both Testa locations, the Testa Home Ranch, 6400 North State Street in Calpella (open to the public for Amici) and at the Testa Coffee & Wine Shop and Testa Antiques, 9001 North State Street in Redwood Valley. Please visit TestaRanch.com for more information.

We're grateful to all of you who continue to support small family growers like us. Celebrating 114 years of Testa and 15 years since our first legal release is a milestone that reminds us how far this family journey has come. So, bring your amici and familia out to Testa Amici, and come relax and enjoy spending time together. Thank you for being here and letting us share our family story with you, we look forward to seeing you at Testa!

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Supporting Seniors with Care, Dignity & Connection

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- Help Applying for: Medicare • Medi-Cal (Medicaid) • CalFresh Benefits • Social Security • Section 8 Housing
- Free Medical Equipment Loan Program
- Free Firewood Program
- Support Groups
- Exercise Classes
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The rest of **Lookout** | From page 10

"right at the end of 2025, Green Diamond offered to pay \$30,000 to get the project going." That was enough to convince PG&E to chip in for the rest – "so we squeaked in right under the bell in getting it approved." PG&E will also cover the annual operating costs of the system, which will be part of the company's camera program.

Digital Path, a Chico-based engineering company, plans to have the equipment installed in time for the main fire season this year. The images from the cameras will be monitored by an AI system, and CAL FIRE's Howard Forest dispatch center will be notified of any sign of fire.

"It was a four-year path that at times didn't seem like it was actually going to happen," Hart reflected. "It was at the top of the list of things I wanted to do for those four years, and we finally got it through at the last minute."

Chili Time

Willits Senior Center's Annual Chili Cookoff set for Saturday, March 28

Submitted by the Willits Senior Center

Make sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, March 28, when, from 5 to 7 pm at the Willits Senior Center, chili makers will be offering up their best cups of spicy goodness, hoping for bragging rights and top prizes.

While official judges will cast votes themselves, all event attendees are welcome to cast their votes for winners of the People's Choice and Best Decorated Table trophies.

"We have Little Lake Fire defending their Judge's Choice Trophy, and Mendocino County Sheriff's Activity League defending their People's Choice Trophy, and hopefully we have Trinity 3 Ranch coming back to defend their Best Decorated Table Trophy, too," said Richard Baker, executive director of the Willits Senior Center. "We have six confirmed chili entries, and are looking for another eight chili entries that will fill our dining room to capacity."

If you are interested in signing up to make chili, stop by the Willits Senior Center and pick up a Chili Registration Form from the front desk. If you're interested in purchasing tickets as a taster/voter, they are also available at the center's front desk and cost \$15 each.

The center is located at 1501 Baechtel Road and is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm, and the funds raised from this event will help purchase food for the Meals on Wheels program.

For more information, contact Richard or Joliana at 707-459-6826 or give the center a follow on Facebook under the name "Willits Harrah Senior Center & Thrift Store."

The rest of **Polling** | From page 1

throughout the day and evening. After polls close, the Inspector packs supplies and equipment for the runners to pick up and transport to Ukiah.

Polls are open on Election Day, June 2, 2026, from 7 am to 8 pm.

If you are interested in working at a polling place, please call the Elections Office at 707-234-6808, or email us at mcvotes@mendocinocounty.gov. We would love to speak with you and send you some additional information. The county pays a small stipend to Election Day workers.

The county would like to keep this polling place open. If we cannot find people willing to work at polling places, the county may be forced to close polling places with insufficient staff.

The rest of **Baker** | From page 1

are engaged in significant work as we transition from a trimester system to a semester system beginning next school year. This is heavy-duty planning that involves careful coordination, scheduling, and alignment of courses. The semester model will allow students more time to engage deeply with academic content, strengthening understanding and improving overall outcomes. We believe this shift is a positive and important step forward for our students' academic success.

In addition, the district is moving forward with plans to renovate the high school roofs, which are long overdue for replacement. The project will include the main building, the boys' and girls' locker rooms, and the CTE building. Maintaining safe and updated facilities is essential to supporting teaching and learning, and we are pleased to be taking action in this area.

Looking ahead, we will also be piloting new math curricula in the fall of next school year to ensure students have access to the most current, research-based instructional materials. Teachers and district administrators will collaborate closely to select and implement a rigorous, high-quality math curriculum that supports student growth and achievement.

We are grateful for the continued support of our community and look forward to finishing this school year strong while building momentum for the next.

The rest of **Layoffs** | From page 1

Resources position is being eliminated, to be replaced with an outside contracted HR service.

The Community Development department is losing three of its six positions. The Services and Facilities department is losing two of its nine positions. The Police Department is losing four of its 20 positions; the four eliminated positions are currently vacant, so no police officers will be laid off.

There are no planned layoffs at the water department or the wastewater (sewer) department. Both have their own funds, separate from the general fund.

Eliminating the city staff positions and laying off the employees will save the city \$1.28 million a year, half of the \$2.4 million annual general fund deficit. Transferring the income from the special Measure K Sales Tax Fund to the general fund, \$1.2 million annually, will come close to eliminating the general fund deficit for the current year.

However, this is a temporary fix. The general fund, even with the staffing cuts, continues to run a deficit of more than \$1 million a year. Measure K will "sunset" (end) in 2031, no longer able to bail out the general fund. How to balance the budget in the future has not yet been addressed. The city's revenues, which rely heavily on sales tax, have been slowly dropping, with no indication that they will pick up anytime soon.

On the expense side, there are only a few places to find more savings. Even with the payroll reductions, salaries and benefits comprise 75 to 80% of the general fund expenses. At the meeting, council member Bruce Burton suggested that the city look into facing the problem now. "If you have to adjust, I think we should do it [now], at one time instead of three."

Burton mentioned considering pay cuts and reducing employee benefits or increasing deductibles employees pay to save on medical insurance costs. Burton even suggested that maybe the city council give up their medical coverage paid by the city. "I guess I'm being told here that those will come later."

Hopefully, not too much later.

Editor's Note: the video of the March 9 special Willits City Council meeting has been posted already on the Willits Community Television page on YouTube, at this link

www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8Le2cTDD7E&t=3871s

The rest of **Guilty** | From page 4

who were unsuccessful in their testimonial efforts to bolster the defendant's credibility of being a good parent.

One defense witness reluctantly had to admit at trial that she had been coached by the defendant to lie on his behalf to law enforcement – and did lie to the investigators as Kiger had instructed – while Kiger was on the lam.

Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Keith Faulder presided over the grueling two-week trial. Judge Faulder has now scheduled a bench trial for March 25, 2026 at 11 am for the prosecution to present any additional evidence, as required by law, on factors in aggravation.

After the aggravation trial has been completed, the case will be referred to the Mendocino County Adult Probation Department for a background study and sentencing recommendation to be considered at a future sentencing hearing on a date to be determined.

Due to the criminal statutes charged for which the defendant now stands guilty, defendant Kiger is ineligible for probation consideration at the time of sentencing; the court will be required to send him to state prison.

DA Eyster's motion to convert the defendant's in-custody status to a no bail hold was granted at the end of this morning's proceedings.



Above: Local, state and national dignitaries, including U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman, center, attended Tuesday's press conference at Mendocino College's North County Center campus in Willits.

Photo courtesy 'Mike McGuire for Congress'

The rest of **Visits** | From page 1

3. Major expansion of the healthcare technician and skilled lab worker program.

"Thousands of lives will be changed through this collaboration with Congressman Huffman," the post continued, "and the investments will help meet the needs of the region, employers and grow our local economy. Groundbreaking coming in early 2027!"

The Willits Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a mixer on Friday, March 13 from 5 to 7 pm at the North County Center, 372 East Commercial Street, for the public to learn more about the expansion plans, "adding construction, solar, fire, art, and sciences courses right here in Willits." Enjoy hors d'oeuvres by Scoops Catering, and a raffle (with a free ticket for each attendee), and live auction with auctioneer Tom Allman to benefit local high school students taking college classes over the summer.

Congressman Huffman was also set to tour Howard Hospital and the Little Lake Health Clinic on Tuesday after the stop at the North County Center campus.

Join us to hear about the **North County Center Expansion**
Willits Chamber Mixer

Join us for an initial reveal of the upcoming phase two expansion, adding construction, solar, fire, art, and science courses right here in Willits

March 13, 2026 | 5:00-7:00pm

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres & live Auction

Join us at Mendocino College North County Center 372 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490

Auction proceeds support local high school students taking college classes over the summer

Come bid on some of our amazing local auction items

- Call Creek Carpet: 24 pairs of carpets, Agave Brand wall-to-wall of flooring materials
- Skunk Train ballistics for groups of four, with a picnic lunch at Camp Noyo
- Northern Aggregates: 1 Transfer Load Pallets, 25 bags of 1/2" Screen or Drain Rock
- 2 Night Stay @ Julia Morgan Redwood Grove Cottage in Garberville
- 1 Queen mattress, 1 King Bed, 1 Queen Bed, includes linens

AND MORE...

Silent Auction | FREE raffle ticket for all attendees

The rest of **PG&E** | From page 2

has been an increase in recent months of customer reports of utility imposters coming to their door and asking to see their PG&E bill, indicating that scammers are adopting new tactics.

"If you receive a phone call threatening disconnection if you do not make immediate payment, or if someone at your door asks to see your utility bill, hang up, close the door, and slam the scam. Then, call our 800 number or log into your account at PGE.com to verify your billing details," said Matt Foley, lead scam investigator for PG&E.

"Remember, PG&E will never ask you for financial information over the phone or for payment via pre-paid debit cards or money transfer services like Zelle, and we won't ask to see your bill at your door," he said.

Small and medium-sized businesses are also a target, and scammers will focus their efforts during busy business hours, preying on business owners' sense of urgency to keep the doors open and the lights on. In fact, PG&E received nearly 850 reports of scam attempts targeting business customers during 2025.

Signs of a potential scam

- Threat to disconnect: Scammers may aggressively demand immediate payment for an alleged past due bill.
- Asking to see your bill: If someone comes to your home and asks to see your bill, they are not with PG&E.
- Request for immediate payment via prepaid debit card or money transfer service: Scammers may instruct the customer to purchase a prepaid debit card, then call them back supposedly to make a bill payment, or they may ask for payment via a money transfer service like Zelle.
- Refund or rebate offers: Scammers may say that your utility company overbilled you and owes you a refund, or that you are entitled to a rebate, and then ask you for your banking information.

How customers can protect themselves

Customers should never purchase a prepaid card to avoid service disconnection or shutoff. PG&E does not specify how customers should make a bill payment and offers a variety of ways to pay a bill, including accepting payments online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

If a scammer threatens immediate disconnection or shutoff of service without prior notification, customers should hang up the phone, delete the email, or shut the door. Customers with delinquent accounts receive an advance disconnection notification, typically by mail and included with their regular monthly bill.

If someone comes to your door claiming to be with PG&E, customers should know that PG&E personnel carry identification and are always prepared to show it upon request. If a customer still has doubts, they can call 800-743-5000 to confirm whether an individual is there on official company business. And remember, if someone asks to see your bill, they are not with PG&E and you should close the door.

As a reminder, PG&E will never send a single notification to a customer within one hour of a service interruption, and we will never ask customers to make payments with a pre-paid debit card, gift card, any form of cryptocurrency, or third-party digital payment mobile applications like Zelle or Venmo.

Signing up for an online account at www.pge.com is another safeguard. Not only can customers log in to check their balance and payment history, they can sign up for recurring payments, paperless billing, and helpful alerts.

Scammers impersonating trusted phone numbers

Scammers are now able to create authentic-looking 800 numbers which appear on your phone display. The numbers don't lead back to PG&E if called back, however, so if you have doubts, hang up and call PG&E at 1-833-500-SCAM. If customers ever feel that they are in physical danger, they should call 911.

Customers who suspect that they have been victims of fraud, or who feel threatened during contact with one of these scammers, should contact local law enforcement. The Federal Trade Commission's website is also a good source of information about how to protect personal information.

For more information about scams, visit pge.com/scams or consumer.ftc.gov

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is a combined natural gas and electric utility serving more than 16 million people across 70,000 square miles in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit pge.com and pge.com/news.

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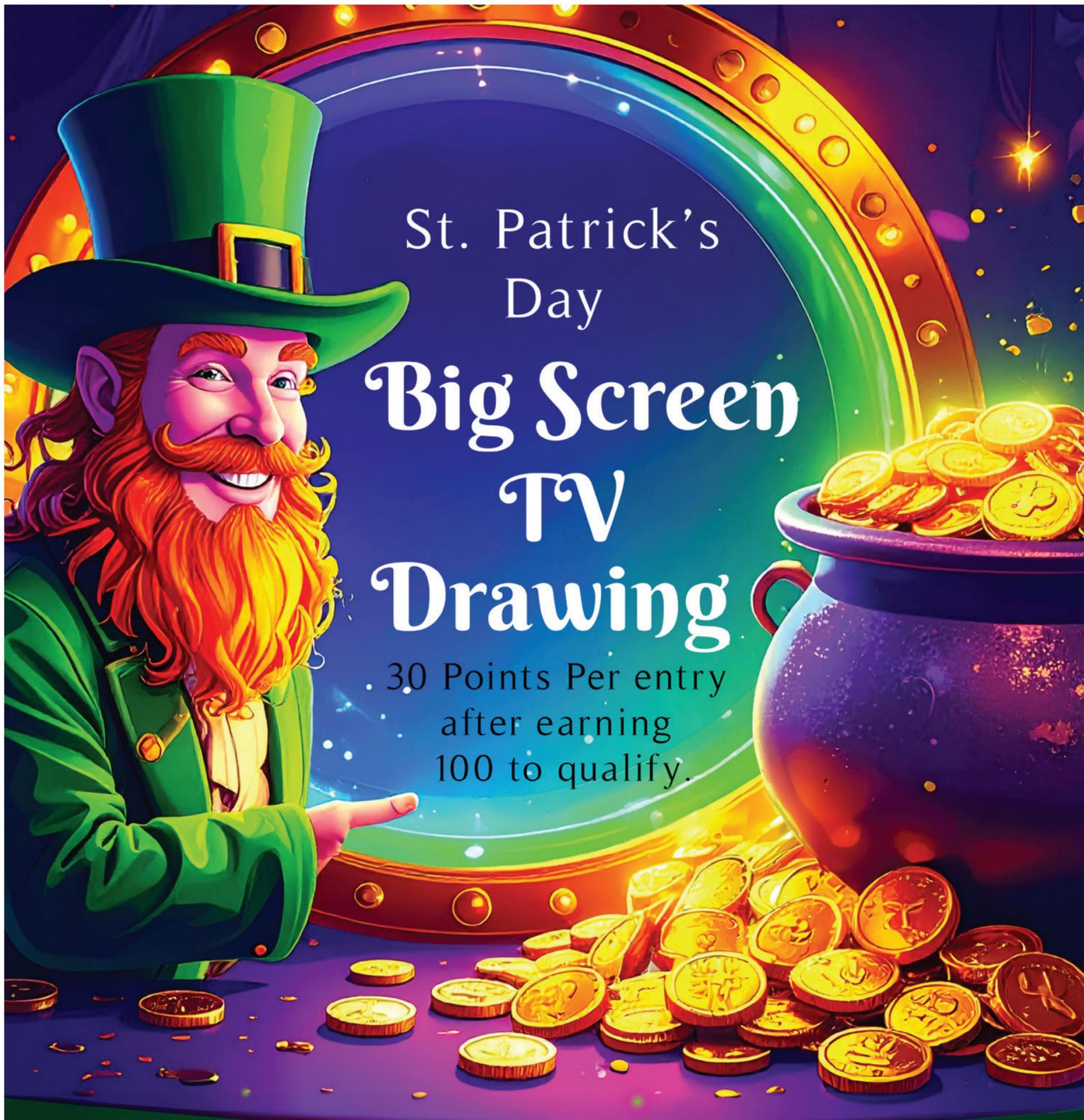
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St. Patrick's
Day
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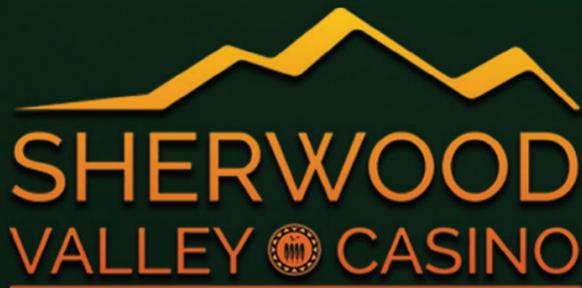
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