

Willits Weekly

Online & Print



EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
Donations Accepted Edition No. 630 **Thursday, March 19, 2026**

Brooktrails board hears miscellaneous reports

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

As the most recent full gathering of the Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board of Directors meeting got underway on March 10, it appeared that there was only one item of business for those gathered to attend to: approving the latest Accounts Payable in the amount of \$159,114.30, to be paid on or about March 26.

This was delayed for a few minutes as General Manager Tamara Alaniz brought everyone's attention to a new item of business.

Board President Tina Tyler O'Shea stated the usual: "Does anyone wish to add an item or make an adjustment to the agenda?"

The group was immediately pleasantly surprised to hear the general manager announce: "I would like to ask the board to please allow me to add an item to the agenda, to consider the purchase of a new 2025

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

Housemate booked for attempted murder of Brooktrails woman, 72

By Sgt. J. Woida for MCSO

On March 13, 2026, at about 12:20 am, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to the 27000 block of Hawk Drive in Willits for a reported assault.

The reporting person notified MCSO Dispatch that their neighbor, a 72-year-old female from Willits, crawled to their residence and requested law enforcement due to her being assaulted by Don Wiltse (38-year-old from Willits).

Editor's Note: MCSO updated their press release on March 17 "to correct an inaccuracy that was published in the original press release from March 16, 2026. The original press release stated the 72-year-old female victim from Willits was assaulted by her relative, Don Wiltse.... The victim and Wiltse are not biologically related, but they lived together prior to the incident on March 13, 2026. The victim told investigators she considered Wiltse her

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



Above, from left: Museum volunteer Brent Walker shows off one of his favorite items in the museum, this giant painting from 1939 which was hidden behind shelving in the back of the museum's storage, and unearthed and then hung at the end of the long hall. The painting originally hung at the Mendocino County Courthouse. Museum curator Lindsey Dick shows off the locked doors to the Inner Archives which stores many important documents including thousands of photographs. Dick displays a copy of "Women's Hats of the 20th Century," one of many books available in the reference library. Below: Welcome to the Mendocino County Library's Exhibit Hall.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Behind the Scenes

Mendocino County Museum offers tours to check out the inner workings, ongoing efforts, and amazing items in their back storage rooms

Can you imagine that museums typically only have about 10 percent of their items on display? Well, Mendocino County Museum Administrator Karen Mattson says that the Mendocino County Museum located in Willits is trying to up that number, and increase transparency with their process, by hosting behind-the-scenes tours to showcase even more of the precious items entrusted to their care.

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
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When Mattson started with the museum around a decade ago, she noted things weren't in great shape in the back storage area, which takes up about two-thirds of the museum's total footprint. The volunteers have gone through massive efforts in the past years to organize, photograph, discover,

Read the rest of **Museum**
Over on page 10

Above, from top: Museum curator Lindsey Dick talks about items located in the furthest end of the museum's back storage. The car that was bombed with local activist Judi Bari inside is housed at the museum, and, during the ongoing organization efforts, received caster wheels underneath the frame to be able to move the exhibit more easily. Museum volunteer Tanya Musgrave said her favorite exhibit is the Willits Creamery display where she remembers sitting in "that seat!" and enjoying sweet treats with her family. Below, from left: Work is underway to organize, document and house thousands of items in the museum's back storage. Dick's favorite items in the museum include this display of the J.F. McNamee general store that was in the town of Fish Rock, near Gualala. Being the only general store in such a remote location made the two-generation-owned store a lifeline for the community. When the store closed, the museum received almost everything, making a wonderfully complete display of what it was like. The Dusty Whitney collection is also housed at the museum, and the display is filled to the brim with interesting treasures. At bottom: Nancy Walker, member of the Friends of the Museum board, just took her first behind-the-scenes tour, but still loves this large blue-and-yellow freight wagon the most. This wagon was gifted to the museum by Carol Holliday from the Holliday Ranch in Talmage.



Supes OK November ballot measure for 1 cent gas tax

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The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted 4 to 1 at their March 10 meeting to put a 1 cent gas sales tax measure within the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County on the November ballot to help fund repairs of public roads in those areas. First District Supervisor Madeline Cline voted no, citing what she said would be "lack of buy in" from her district's voters.

In a letter written as part of the staff report, county Director of Transportation Howard Dashiell states: "The Mendocino County Department of Transportation has been tasked with finding a way to treat old chip seals and paved sections of some 337 miles of surfaced roads which are not included" in the county's ongoing road corrective/preventative maintenance plan.

Dashiell says that, if passed, this 2-year sales

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

Rep. Huffman toured Howard Hospital, Little Lake Clinic last week

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As part of his visit to Willits last Tuesday, Congressman Jared Huffman toured Mendocino Community Health Centers' Little Lake Health Clinic in Willits and Adventist Health's Howard Memorial Hospital.

"Last week," Howard Hospital posted on their Facebook page, "our leadership team had the privilege of giving Congressman Jared Huffman a tour of our facilities and shared meaningful conversations about the critical role we play in keeping our community healthy and thriving."

"We discussed the challenges we face providing healthcare for our rural communities and the impact of House Resolution 1 on our local hospitals," the post continued.

"Thank you, Congressman Huffman for your partnership and

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

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

College mixer a great success

To the Editor:

The Mendocino College Willits Chamber of Commerce Mixer on Friday, March 13 was a tremendous success! We enjoyed a fantastic turnout, filled with energy and excitement from the community. The fundraiser raised over \$15,000, which will sponsor more than 50 students to attend the Mendocino College Summer Scholar program!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed auction items, and a special thanks to Mayor Tom Allman for leading such an engaging auction and creating a vibrant atmosphere!

I also want to express gratitude to all the members of the North County Friends, an affiliate of the Mendocino College Foundation, and the Willits Chamber of Commerce for organizing such a lively event. Your hard work and dedication to education and workforce development are truly appreciated.

We were thrilled to have Tim Karas, president of Mendocino College, share the exciting Phase 2 construction plans for the North County Center campus. There are so many great developments happening in our unique community, and I'm enthusiastic about the future and can't wait to see what comes next!

Anyone interested in joining our efforts can reach out to me at dillonslaterwater@gmail.com.

Dillon Slater, chair, North County Friends of Mendocino College

Food security

To the Editor:

This topic grows more important with each passing day, and I want to give you advance notice about Town Hall Meeting #3 on food security. It will be held at the Little Lake Grange in Willits, in the Great Hall, on April 11 from 11 am to 1 pm.

Many of you attended the earlier meetings, and I'm deeply grateful for the connections we built,

the meaningful conversations we shared, and the clarity we gained about our common goals and the work that still needs to be done. This third town hall will focus on taking action, and I want us all to be as realistic as possible about what we can accomplish together.

We now need to discuss not just what is desirable, but what is truly implementable, and begin moving in that direction. If you took on leadership roles in the previous sessions, I would greatly appreciate your involvement again! We will be diving deeper into several key topics, and your expertise is essential as we move forward. Please let Annie Waters or myself know if you're able to participate and what you would like to contribute.

For those joining us for the first time, please know that your knowledge and experience are equally valued and are indeed very much needed.

Annie Waters, Mike Adams, and I once more intend to create a supportive space where people can come together, strengthen communication, avoid duplicating efforts, and build a viable, interconnected network to create solutions. Ideally, we would also like to gather more detailed information about current funding opportunities and explore ways to support grant writing. In addition, more outreach will be needed to agencies and funders at the private, county, state, and federal levels.

To give just one example, we hope to learn what progress is being made on farm to school initiatives and what we can do, in addition, to support and assist in that particular area.

We also want to identify concrete steps to increase local food production, food preservation, and storage capacity. As we all know, the food currently available in our region would last only a few days if deliveries were interrupted.

There is much more to discuss, which is exactly why coming together on April 11 is so important. We look forward to seeing you there.

Claudia Wenning, Willits

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, March 19: Ground Beef Tacos, Side, Soup

Friday, March 20: Pepperoni and Olive Stromboli

Monday, March 23: Penne Pasta w/Sausage, Red Sauce

Tuesday, March 24: Ground Beef Stroganoff, Side, Soup

Wednesday, March 25: Chicken Philly Sandwich, Side, Soup

Thursday, March 26: Tuna Casserole, Side, Soup

Friday, March 27: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

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 Juliana 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.

2026/27 Civil Grand Jury seeks grand jurors

Submitted by Mendocino County Superior Court

"All qualified citizens interested in serving on the 2026/2027 Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury are invited to submit their applications to the Superior Court for consideration," announced the Honorable Ann Moorman, presiding judge of the Civil Grand Jury. The deadline for application submission is Friday, June 26, 2026. The 2026/2027 Grand Jury will be sworn in at the beginning of July 2026.

Serving on the Civil Grand Jury is an excellent opportunity to learn about the inner workings of government while providing valuable service to the community. The 19 members of the Civil Grand Jury serve for one year and are empowered to investigate the operations of county, city, and district governments; provide civil oversight of local government departments and agencies; and respond to citizen complaints. The Civil Grand Jury sets its own agenda and meeting schedule. Much of the work is performed in small committees allowing for considerable flexibility in the work schedule and meeting locations.

To attract more residents from the geographically distant regions of Mendocino County, the Civil Grand Jury is making it easier for interested members of the public to participate. For example, the Civil Grand Jury has implemented remote meeting protocols using software platforms such as Microsoft Teams to maximize participation while reducing the demand for car travel.

Grand Jurors are compensated \$25 per full panel meeting, \$10 per committee meeting and attendance at public meetings. Mileage is reimbursed at the current County of Mendocino rate. There is free parking at the Grand Jury office. Each applicant is interviewed by a Superior Court judge before becoming eligible for selection.

Mandatory training for grand jurors will be scheduled for late July or early August 2026.

To serve as a Civil Grand Juror, the following requirements must be met:

- At least 18 years of age

Read the rest of **Jury** | Over on page 4

Mendocino County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund solicits grant applications

The Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services on behalf of the Mendocino County Fish and Game Commission, are accepting grant applications for the Mendocino County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund. Grant applications must demonstrate protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife, in conformance with California Fish and Game Code Section 13103.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, consisting of supervised formal instruction carried out pursuant to a planned curriculum and aids to education such as literature, audio and video recordings, training models, and nature study facilities.
- Temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.

Read the rest of **Propagation** | Over on page 9

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Mendo College Mixer

Over \$15k raised for dual enrollment program during Willits Chamber of Commerce event held at North County Center

There were dual purposes to the Willits Chamber of Commerce mixer at the Mendocino College North County Center last Friday. One was to let the attendees

know about the proposed addition to the campus on Commercial Street and the second reason was to raise money for the very successful dual enrollment summer program, which is open to high school students who wish to gain college credits while they continue their high school studies.

"The extension will go out on the grassy part behind the existing building," explained Tim Karas, president of Mendocino Community College. "The phase-two building: think of it as two wings of an 'L' building. The short part of the 'L' will be for core education programs, shared on one side by fire science and emergency services, and the other side by construction and a classroom for chemistry lab technology. Currently, we don't have any science facility here at the North County Center. The second wing will have some general-purpose classrooms, some faculty offices and a community room."

"The new building will have about 18,000 square feet. The existing building is probably half that size. On the backside of the building, on Lenore, there will be a large yard, because fire science and construction, a lot of their learning happens outside. They need a big outdoor space for fire trucks or ambulances or a place to practice building walls. There will be a canopy over it to shield students from the elements, sun or rain."

"Our academy and most of our fire science courses will be here, making Willits the hub for the district," Karas said. "It will speak out to Lake County, to Fort Bragg, and Ukiah, Laytonville and Covelo. It's a great spot for the program, especially with the [California] Conservation Corps having their new campus here. When students at the CCC campus leave, they can come here to further their education."

The new building is 80 percent funded currently, through money from the state and federal government programs. The total cost is approximately \$28 million to complete.

Several speakers outlined the dual enrollment program, including North County Friends of Mendocino College President Dillon Slater, who spoke of the benefits of the program.

"We do fundraising events like the one this evening and we are working to make money for dual enrollment programs," said Slater. "This fundraiser, specifically, is for the summer sessions program, which is

a six-week course in the summer, where eighth-graders through the 12th grade take classes to get college credit and get exposure to college in the high school level. Statistically, when they do this, the likelihood that they are going to go to college or seek higher education, the odds go way up. Last year we had real success with the summer session program. We had a record enrollment, and we spent the money that we raised in the last mixer we did."

A couple of the participants in the program also addressed the sizeable crowd of interested residents. First was Layla Whaley, who has earned college credits while she being a student in Leggett. "I have taken college courses throughout my entire high school career to get my associate's degree by 17 years old," said Whaley. "This program has played a key role in my getting my associate's degree. It taught me the structure of how a college course would be. It has also provided me with multiple connections that I cherish to this day," she told the attendees.

Timothy Southwick, a student at Willits High School, said "I took Sustainability Overview and Health and Nutrition. Those classes helped me understand what a college course is. I have taken multiple other courses here. I'm taking Microeconomics and Public Speaking."

The speakers were introduced by dean of centers for the college, Amanda Xu, who said, "We have choices between three morning classes, three afternoon classes. We coordinated with Willits Unified to buy free lunches for students and through the wonderful effort of our fundraising group, we are able to provide stipends for students. That really makes a huge impact in our region. The benefit of that additional financial consideration is that the students don't have to take on a summer job. They are able to make some income during the summer, as well as explore higher education."

A variety of fruits and slider sandwiches were provided by Scoops Deli and Catering and various silent auction items were available for bidding. The most exciting part of the evening was provided by Mayor Tom Allman as he expertly and humorously auctioned off several items, generously donated by local businesses. These items included a box of wine, whiskey from Low Gap Distillery, tons of gravel and compost, a Julie Morgan Redwood Cottage stay, a rail bike excursion from the Skunk Train, and a dinner for eight provided by Adam Celaya and Jolene Carrillo.

By the end of the evening, over \$15,000 was raised to help the kids along their path to higher education.

Photos by Mathew Caine



At top, from left: There are several renderings of the phase two plans - in the photo on the left, the existing building is in the lower left with the proposed building on the right. There are several architectural renderings of the proposed phase two interiors. Dean of Centers Amanda Xu, along with her daughter, pose for a photo with Rose Mehtan, operations manager of the North County Center. Jim and Marlyn Harden are longtime supporters of the North County Friends of Mendocino College.



Above: The Chamber of Commerce and Mendocino College North County Center mixer is very well attended. At left, from top: Tim Karas, president of Mendocino College, stands in front of the architectural renderings of the new Mendocino College North County Center addition. Dean of Centers Amanda Xu introduces Timothy Southwick, a dual enrollment student from Willits High School. Mayor Tom Allman greets some of the volunteers from the California Conservation Corps. Below: High school student Layla Whaley from Leggett has earned almost all her credits for an AA degree while still in high school through the dual enrollment program.



PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

From 12 to 3 pm at J.D. Redhouse

Digital images by Maureen Jennison are just \$5 each!

No appointments, just come by and get in line!

The snugly, live bunnies are back too!

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.

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SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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290 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Church of Christ

"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:00 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church

Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Worship Service
10 a.m.
For appointments call:
(707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at
707-459-2252
https://stanthonywillits.org/
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

St. John Lutheran Church

Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
Facebook.com/stjohnswillits
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714
Friendly, open worship
Saturdays
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
399 W. Mendocino Ave.
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Church

Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort
where all are welcome
Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchild
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@outlook.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willitsumc

April Tweddell

(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com



Thursday, March 19

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.

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 12:30 pm at the Museum. The Willits Gem and Mineral Society has loaned dozens of specimens that are on exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, now through April 26. More info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum or (707) 234-6365.

Grief Ritual Group at Inner Earth Tea House: All are welcome for this supportive discussion group centered on grief and healing every third Thursday of the month from 3 to 4 pm (arrive early for prompt start at 3) at Inner Earth Tea House, 48 East San Francisco Avenue. Suggested donation \$5 to \$10.

Creative 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.



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.

Friday, March 20

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.

Emergency Radio Tutorial at Laytonville High: Gain information and practice using FRS or GMRS emergency radios, including the pros and cons of different radios and what to buy with radios available to check out on Friday, March 20 from 1 to 2 pm in the Book Room at Laytonville High School, 250 Branscomb Road, Laytonville.

Create It, Make It, Break It STEM Activity at the 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.

Disaster Preparedness Workshop at Willits Community Center: Nuestra Alianza De Willits in collaboration with NCO invite you to our Disaster Preparedness Workshop and Resource Fair this Friday, March 20 from 5 to 7 pm at the Willits Community Center.



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

Saturday, March 21

Willits Gem and Mineral Society Yard Sale at Napa Auto: Find some cool items while helping us raise funds for our new lapidary shop on Saturday, March 21 from 10 am to 4 pm in the Napa Auto Parts parking lot at 1571 South Main Street. If you wish to donate to the society, visit willitsgms.wordpress.com.



Wednesday, March 25

Lunch to Live Music at Brickhouse: Enjoy live music while you eat every Wednesday from noon to 2 pm with March 25 performance by Deanne California, AKA Bunny at Brickhouse Coffee, Willits.

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: Rock Painting and special Rock Hunt. Cost is free with valid Mendocino County library card. 400 East Commercial Street, Willits.

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.mendolibrary.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.

Thursday, March 26

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 19 listing for more details.

Storytime at Laytonville Library: Every 4th Thursday of the month bring the little ones for a story the whole family can enjoy from 1 to 1:30 pm at the Laytonville Library, 44960 Highway 101, Laytonville.

Friday, March 27

Cookie Competition at Willits Charter School: Come taste a variety of cookies at this Student Leadership fundraiser which will award 1st and 2nd place prizes for the categories of Prettiest, Most Unique, Best Tasting, and Best gluten free.

'Mean Girls: The Musical': Willits High School's presentation of this high-energy, comedic and heart-filled story based on the Paramount Pictures film and directed by Timothy Fischer will show for one weekend only, beginning Friday, March 27 at 7 pm and continuing Saturday, March 28 at 7 pm and Sunday, March 29 at 2 pm at the Allen J. Garcia Auditorium at Willits High School. Cost to attend is free though donations at the door are encouraged.

Blue Luke at Shanachie: Luke Andrews brings the soul of the blues, the groove of funk, and the grit of rock & roll on Friday, March 27 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Warren Pash and Ezra Meredith at Shanachie: These veteran songwriters and musicians bring a unique, bluesy soul sound on Saturday, March 28 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.

Saturday, March 28

Battle of the Bands at the Grange: Come enjoy music by Surfsquatch, MendoFire, Tangles Ends,

Friends Anonymous, Handful of Days, Post-Modern Prometheus, Splynter, Alchemic Transmutation, Weevliism and more and help choose the top band.



Chili Cook-off Fundraiser at the Senior Center: Try various chili recipes and vote for your favorite, plus enjoy cornbread and root beer floats on Saturday, March 28 from 5 to 7 pm at the Willits Senior Center. There's a Judge's Choice award with official judges (won in 2025 by Little Lake Fire) and all event attendees are welcome to cast their votes for winners of the People's Choice (won in 2025 by Mendocino County Sheriffs Activity League) and Best Decorated Table (won in 2025 Trinity 3 Ranch). Tickets are \$15 with proceeds going to support the center.

BanjerDan Performs at WCT: Enjoy a lively and intimate performance by Dan Banzer, AKA BanjerDan, who uses his banjo, guitar, mandolin and dobro to combine bluegrass, Americana and storytelling in an original and unexpected way on Saturday, March 28 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at the door or online at wctperformingartscenter.org.

'Mean Girls: The Musical' at WHS: Saturday, March 28 at 7 pm in the Allen J. Garcia Auditorium at Willits High School. More info see March 27 listing.

Warren Pash and Ezra Meredith at Shanachie: These veteran songwriters and musicians bring a unique, bluesy soul sound on Saturday, March 28 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub.



Sunday, March 29

Photos with the Easter Bunny and his live, furry friends: Come by J.D. Redhouse on Sunday, March 29 from 12 to 3 pm and have your photo taken by Maureen Jennison, local photographer, with the Easter Bunny, and some live, furry bunny friends! Digital images are just \$5 per arrangement of people, and will be available to download online. As always, this event is a 50/50 fundraiser for the Soporistimist international of Willits. For questions or information: 707-972-7047 or maureengetsmail@gmail.com.

PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
From 12 to 3 pm at J.D. Redhouse
Digital images by Maureen Jennison are just \$5 each!
No appointments, just come by and get in line!



'Mean Girls: The Musical' at WHS: Sunday, March 29 at 2 pm in the Allen J. Garcia Auditorium at Willits High School. More info see March 27 listing.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Hoppers'

The Story: Disney/Pixar animated feature. Mabel is the hero. She's a high school girl with a big heart and a love of nature. She's manic, she's impulsive. We first see her "rescuing" adorable animals from terrariums and cages in a school biology classroom. She's caught. The animals are sent back to their cages. Her beloved granny takes her to their "quiet place" to calm down. They are seated on a boulder overlooking a serene beaver pond.

Dan Essman
Columnist

terrariums and cages in a school biology classroom. She's caught. The animals are sent back to their cages. Her beloved granny takes her to their "quiet place" to calm down. They are seated on a boulder overlooking a serene beaver pond.

My Thoughts: Mabel is fanatically self-important. When she believes something, she goes 100%. Through her experiences as a beaver, she learns that compromise is not personal failure, and is sometimes the most effective way to achieve her goals. It's part of being an adult beaver, or an adult young woman.

Parents: Good movie for kids.

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

The City of Beaverton (which could be Beaverton, Oregon adjacent to Portland) is building a freeway and dynamites the beaver dam. Mabel is incensed! While in a fury, she meets scientists who have invented a technique to transmit human consciousness as "Hoppers" into the bodies of various robot animals. Our Mabel chooses to become a beaver. Her wild adventures follow. Some of her adventures are quite violent.

Parents: Good movie for kids.

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

WILLITS COMMUNITY CENTER
FIRST CLASS FREE! IT'S THE WAY TO THE STAGE
YES, AND!
An After-School Improv Class for Teens
WHAT IS IT?
A fun, fast-paced improv class where teens learn to think on their feet, work as a team, and build confidence through games and scene work. No scripts, no memorization—just creativity, listening, and laughter!
Led by local performer and instructor Chuck Mankoff, this class offers a supportive space for teens to take creative risks and discover their voice onstage. No prior theatre experience required. This first class, a \$125 value, is free!

WHO	High School Freshmen - Seniors	INSTRUCTOR	Chuck Mankoff
WHEN	Monday, April 6 - May 25, 8:00-9:00 PM	CLASS SIZE	12-16
WHERE	27 W. Yale Ave. Willits, CA 95490	COST	FREE

HOW TO REGISTER
Visit: www.mendocinocounty.gov/way-to-the-stage
Email: improv@willitscommunitycenter.org
Call: (707) 234-6366

Willits Charter School
Student Leadership Fundraiser
COOKIE COMPETITION!
Vendor Information
Friday
March 27th
5:00-8:00 pm
Free to sign up!
Please sign up by March 22nd.
We are seeking people interested in entering the cookie competition to make about 3-4 dozen cookies.
The day of the event cookies vendors will put out a sample platter of cookies.

Categories:
Prettiest
Most Unique
Best Tasting
Best gluten free

More information:
Aurille Cline
(707) 448-2258 or
aurille@willitscharter.net
1403 S. Main St., Willits, CA
www.willitscharter.org

Cal OES
Volunteer Network
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESOURCE FAIR
Friday, March 20
5:00 pm- 7:00 pm
Willits City Hall Community Center
111 E Commercial St. Willits, CA
Free community resource fair.
Get tips disaster preparedness and connect with local resources for your family.

Willits Senior Center
Easter Bake Sale
FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD, 2026
8:30 AM - 1 PM
1501 BAECHELT RD., WILLITS, CA 95490
All proceeds benefit the Willits Senior Center Programs and Services

MENDOCINO COUNTY SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR S.T.E.A.M. EXPO
SATURDAY MARCH 21, 10AM - 4PM
MENDOCINO COLLEGE GYM - 1000 HENSLEY CREEK ROAD, UKIAH
Student projects • Hands-on activities • Interactive booths & demonstrations • Community organizations • Art activities
Live music • Food trucks
FUN FOR ALL AGES!
Bring the whole family and enjoy a day of discovery as we celebrate this year's theme, "Exploring Curiosity. Free and open to the community."
BIT.LY/MENDOSCIE

A-Bit-and-A-Bite
History at the Mendocino County Museum

Join us for light refreshments, history, and conversation! Special guest David Mueller and additional members of the Willits Gem and Mineral Society will discuss the unique gems and minerals currently on exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum.

Thursday March 19, 12:30
LEARN ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
MEET NEW PEOPLE
REFRESHMENTS

MENDOCINO COUNTY Museum
"Telling Our Story"
400 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490 | (707) 234-6365
museum@mendocinocounty.gov
www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum
Wednesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12-4 p.m.

NOYO Theater
Willits, CA.
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyoteater.com
Midweek 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

PROJECT HAIL MARY
(PG13) 2H 36min
Fri: 3:15, 6:30
Sat/Sun: 2:00, 6:30
Wed/Thurs: 3:15, 6:30

EARTH'S GREATEST ENEMY
(NR) 2H
Fri: 4:15, 7:00
Sat/Sun: 1:30, 4:15
Wed/Thurs: 7:00

DAVID
(PG) 1H 55min
Sat/Sun: 1:30, 4:15
Wed/Thurs: 4:15

THEATER 1 DELUXE LUXURY RECLINERS, LASER PROJECTION
NO DELUX SURCHARGE ALL WEEK!
Ad your local event to our calendar!
Email posters and text to willitsweekly@gmail.com

EASTSIDE RANCH
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

Mendo County Science & Engineering Fair & S.T.E.A.M. Expo, March 21 at Mendo College:
Calling all families and science enthusiasts to dive into a world of wonder and learning with hands-on activities, interactive booths and demonstrations, art activities, live music and food trucks on Saturday, March 21 from 10 am to 5 pm with public viewing of student projects from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Mendocino College Ukiah Campus, 1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah. Admission is free.

Golden Odie

Odie is a sweet lovebug but he needs an owner who is going to work with him to provide reassurance in training and who will have the patience and time to introduce him slowly to new things. While Odie is initially nervous around new dogs and he may bark or growl, he also play-bows with a happy, wagging tail. This is not uncommon in a stray that's had to find his way on the streets. A little reassurance and more socialization with friendly dogs will be helpful to get him over his concerns. He cannot be around small animals as he does have prey-drive.

Odie needs a rural setting to live in as he would not do well in an urban or city environment.

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

Young Rascal

Rascal is one of several big, adorable puppies at the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino who is looking for a home! He is just past the puppy-breath stage but still ready to be your baby. Rascal and our other



big boys and girls come to us from Bones Pet Rescue in Covelo, and we would love to show them the good life. Fosters and adopters needed. Puppies

are a labor of love and we would love to support you in bringing home a new friend!

Rascal's adoption fee is sponsored by

Bobbi Kelley-Ryan.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check

out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendocinohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com. Call 707-485-0123 for more information.

Frisky Trey

Trey is a 5-month-old bundle of energy that's always ready for his next adventure. Playful, curious, and full of kitten enthusiasm, he loves to explore his world, chase toys, and turn just about anything into a game.

This little guy is all about fun, whether it's zooming around the room, pouncing on wand toys, or investigating every new sound and sight. When he finally slows down, he's happy to hang out and enjoy some well-earned rest before the next round of play.

Trey would thrive in a home that's ready to keep up with his playful spirit and give him plenty of enrichment, toys and love. If you're looking for a lively, joyful kitten who will keep you smiling, Trey might be your perfect match!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from 9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinoshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for more information.



Above, left: The newly improved staging area at Valley View Cemetery. Above, right: The beautiful view from the Valley View Cemetery in Round Valley.

Covelo Public Cemetery District thanks Wylatti Resource Management for helping improve Valley View Cemetery

Submitted by Martin Drewry Holzhauser

March 12, 2026 – The Covelo Public Cemetery District would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Wylatti Resource Management for generously donating time, equipment, and materials to complete much-needed staging area improvements at Valley View Cemetery in Round Valley.

Thanks to their contribution, access has been greatly improved, making it safer and easier for families and visitors to reach loved ones' resting places. The new surfacing provides a level and smooth area for visitors and gatherings for years to come.

This was a wonderful gift to our community. Wylatti Resource Management stepped in with professionalism and generosity, and their support made improvements possible that would have been very difficult for our

Below, left: A Wylatti Resource Management truck dumps materials to improve the staging area at Valley View Cemetery in Round Valley. Below, right: A Wylatti Resource Management crew completed much-needed improvements at the Valley View Cemetery.



small district to fund on our own.

Valley View Cemetery is an important part of the Round Valley community, serving as a place of remembrance and reflection for generations of families. The district works to maintain the grounds with limited resources and relies on community partnerships to help keep the cemetery safe and well cared for.

The Covelo Public Cemetery District is deeply grateful to Wylatti Resource Management not only for the quality of the work completed, but for their commitment to supporting local public services and the Covelo community.

For more information about the Covelo Public Cemetery District or recent improvement efforts, please visit: www.covelocemeterydistrict.com



At left: Congressman Huffman, center, poses with locals at the Little Lake Health Center in Willits.

At right, below: Adventist Health North Coast Network President Parker Pridden, left, stands with Adventist Health's Government Affairs Executive Judy Leach, Congressman Jared Huffman, and Adventist Health Howard Memorial Director, Quality and Risk Management Kristy Bower, right, at the Willits hospital campus, in front of the bronze statue "Three Friends" of Dr. Raymond Babcock, Charles Howard and Seabiscuit, the legendary racehorse.

The rest of Huffman | From page 1

tireless advocacy for keeping care local," the post concludes.

Congressman Huffman's candidate Facebook page posted photos from Tuesday's visit to Little Lake Clinic. "Thanks to the incredible staff at the Mendocino Community Health Clinic in Willits," the March 10 post reads, "for showing me your facility and giving me a glimpse into the care you provide for our community."

The rest of Ballot | From page 1

tax increase, along with "self-help county" funds from the state, could generate \$5.5 to \$6 million per year for an "18-year corrective maintenance program."

In addition, Dashiell writes: "We believe that the sales tax would generate enough additional revenue to restore seven to 11 road maintenance worker positions lost between 2019 and 2022."

Supervisors also heard a presentation on the results of a poll, conducted October 24 to November 3, 2025 that was presented to the Mendocino Council of Governments last year.

Consultants FM3 Research polled more than 600 likely voters living in the unincorporated areas of the county. The poll questions included an example of a potential ballot transportation sale tax measure, reading as follows:

"Mendocino County Road Maintenance, Resurfacing, and Safety Measure. To maintain and improve deteriorating roads; permanently resurface potholes; improve safety on local roads; all in the unincorporated areas of the County only, shall the Mendocino County measure establishing a one-cent sales tax in those areas for 20 years, providing approximately \$5.5 million annually, with public disclosure of funds, independent annual audits, and all funds legally required to be spent locally only on Mendocino County

The rest of Brooktrails | From page 1

Freightliner M22106 dump truck for \$136,257."

Director Mary Ziady remarked, "That's a bargain!" And it was determined that Brooktrails can pay cash for this new addition which has a 5-year warranty, not incurring any additional debt. It was noted that it will fit the available storage space perfectly. The brand-new truck will be delivered from Los Angeles, and it will be acquired very soon. The board

The rest of Murder | From page 1

'grandson," but they are not relatives."

Officers with the Willits Police Department were first to arrive on scene, and first aid was rendered by medical personnel who confirmed the victim sustained injuries to her face consistent with strangulation and broken bones in her lower extremities. The victim was examined and initially transported to a local hospital before being transferred to an out-of-county hospital for further treatment.

Sheriff's Office deputies initiated an attempted murder investigation upon meeting with the victim at the local hospital. Willits Police Department officers remained in the area and observed Wiltse walking around the driveway of the victim's residence where he also resided. WPD officers detained Wiltse pending further investigation by MCSO deputies. While being detained, Wiltse made threatening statements to a WPD officer and an MCSO deputy sheriff regarding his intent to cause them harm.

During the investigation, MCSO deputies learned that an argument occurred between the victim and Wiltse leading to Wiltse physically assaulting the victim inside the residence. Wiltse chased the victim into her bedroom and strangled her while making threats to kill her. The victim attempted to call 911, however Wiltse took her phone. The victim was able to jump from a window which was approximately 9



roads, be adopted?"

"And what we saw," said FM3's Lucia Del Puppo, who presented the polling to the MCOG board, "was that two-thirds of likely November voters said that they would support this measure. They said they would vote yes. 29% were opposed and 5% were undecided." Del Puppo said taking off those who only lean yes, results still showed 61% to 62% yes.

Poll respondents also agreed strongly about the need for more spending on the roads," Del Puppo said. "Nearly three-quarters of voters feel there is an appreciable need for additional roads funding in the county."

"Two-thirds of them are very concerned about roads," Supervisor John Hashack said. "Are we going to let this survey flounder and not do anything, or are we going to give it to the people to vote on something they've expressed a real need for.... We've heard it many times at the podium, and I think this is the time to let the people vote on it."

Supervisors will next have to approve the actual ballot language, which is anticipated to be before the board this summer.

The rest of Propagation | From page 2

Temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence.

Breeding, raising, purchasing, or releasing fish or wildlife that are to be released upon approval of the department pursuant to FGC Sections 6400 and 6401 onto land or into waters of local, state, or federal agencies or onto land or into waters open to the public.

Improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, including, but not limited to, construction of fish screens, weirs, and ladders; drainage or other watershed improvements; gravel and rock removal or placement; construction of irrigation and water distribution systems; earthwork and grading; fencing; planting trees and other vegetation management; and removal of barriers to the migration of fish and wildlife.

Construction, maintenance, and operation of public hatchery facilities.

Predator control actions for the benefit of fish or wildlife following certification in writing by the department that the proposed actions will significantly benefit a particular wildlife species.

Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental agencies, if approved by the department.

Applications must be complete, provide all requested information, and be submitted by the deadline. This includes applicant's Taxpayer I.D. number, project timeline, project budget, maps and photos, and at least one letter of support for the proposed project. For more information, please review the Grant Guidelines and Application information on the Department of Planning and Building services website at: <https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/planning-building-services/fish-and-game-commission>

Grant application deadline is Friday, April 3, 2026 at 4 pm.

Applications may be submitted via email to pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.gov with the subject line "Fish and Game Commission Propagation Fund Grant Application" or in person to the Fish and Game Commission c/o Mendocino County Planning & Building Services, 860 North Bush Street, Ukiah. If you have any questions, contact Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services via telephone at 707-234-6650.

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.

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.

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

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!

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/tp>

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

Email us your ad today to include your ad here next week!

Online survey seeks anonymous input on special ed services

Submitted by SELPA Community Advisory Committee

The Mendocino County Special Education Local Plan Area Community Advisory Committee is inviting parents, guardians, foster parents, and other close family members to share their first hand experiences with special education services by completing a brief, anonymous online survey. The information gathered will help shape policies, improve accountability, and enhance educational outcomes for students with special needs across the county.

The CAC is a state mandated advisory committee composed of volunteers who are mostly parents of special education students. The primary purpose of CAC is to advise on the SELPA Local Plan. An appointed CAC representative serves on the SELPA Policy Council, voting on special education policy at the county level. CAC initiatives, driven by its members, empower parents as informed advocates, and assist in awareness of educational issues, such as students' and parents' rights.

Our students deserve the highest quality educational support, and that starts with listening to the families who know their needs best. The insights we collect will directly inform program improvements and ensure that resources are focused where they're needed most.

Key details:

- Who may participate: Any parent, legal guardian, foster parent, or other close family member of a student who has requested special education services, is currently receiving those services, or has recently completed them.

- One survey per student: Families with more than one child in special education are asked to submit a separate survey for each student to capture unique experiences.

- Survey format: Fully anonymous and online; no personally identifying information is collected.

- How to take the survey: Visit Mendocino County Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Special Education Student and Family Survey. The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

- Survey deadline: A survey may be submitted once a year for each student. All responses will be analyzed before the end of the school year.

- Why does your input matter? Responses will be aggregated into a county wide report that will guide resource allocation and staffing decisions; development of individualized education plans that better reflect student needs; strengthening of accountability measures for service providers; and targeted professional development for educators and aides

For more information about the survey or to get involved in CAC please contact: mendocinocac@mendoselpa.us or 707-467-5170. To learn more, visit <https://sites.google.com/mcoe.us/mendocinoselpac/about-sobre>

It may be time for your screening.

A colonoscopy offers a complete evaluation, with support every step of the way.

It may be time to update your colorectal cancer screening. A colonoscopy provides a comprehensive evaluation, and MCHC Health Centers can assist with arranging the referral.

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Clarence Ray Holmes

May 4, 1948 – February 25, 2026

Clarence R. Holmes of Laytonville, passed away at the age of 77. Clarence was with his two favorite people, wife of 59 years Sharon, and daughter Kimberly.

Clarence lived a life devoted to service, hard work, and a deep love of family, community, country, and the U.S. Constitution.

Clarence proudly and honorably served four years in the U.S. Navy, including three tours of duty in Vietnam. His service on the U.S.S. Carpenter included participating in the post-splashdown recovery of the Apollo 11 astronauts, the first men to set foot on the moon.

After his honorable discharge from the Navy, Clarence continued his public service as an officer in the California Highway Patrol. He served 28 years in the CHP, with assignments in Banning, Marin, and Laytonville. Clarence was very proud to end his CHP career at home as Resident Post Officer for the Laytonville area. Known for his professionalism and fairness, he earned the respect of colleagues and members of the community throughout his career.

Clarence continued doing what he loved after retirement— driving the open road. He became proprietor of Holmes Trucking, hauling hay and timber throughout Northern California. Clarence loved being behind the wheel with a can of Tab (later Diet Coke) while chatting with one of his many friends or family, spotting wildlife, or listening to the radio.

Clarence had a natural gift for storytelling and anyone lucky enough to know him could expect to be regaled with his many tales. He seemed to find himself in the middle of many people's funny stories, and he loved hearing them over again. Please remember your "Clarence stories" and write them down so we can share them at Clarence's memorial service. But you may want to bring a cushion for your chair— hearing loving stories about Clarence from family and friends could take a long time.

Clarence loved his community, and he took pride in being a "local boy." He was born and raised in Willits and lived in Laytonville for nearly 45 years. He sponsored many local teams and events throughout the years, and he was a founding member of the Laytonville MAC.

Clarence was happiest when he was with his family. He is survived by the loves of his life, wife, Sharon, and daughter, Kim, and by his grandchildren, Connor and Raina Robson, who were his pride and joy. Other survivors include his sister Jenny Senter (Chuck), many nieces and nephews, and all those friends who became family.

Clarence will be remembered as the grizzly bear with a teddy bear heart. A memorial service will be held May 23 at a location TBD.





Willits 4-H Club members work on their Easter eggs Monday afternoon to hide around town for a community egg hunt.

Photos by Natalie Spackman



Willits 4-H Club brings Easter fun to Willits with a community egg hunt

Submitted by Brian Spackman, Willits 4-H

Spring is in the air, and the members of the Willits 4-H Club are spreading a little extra cheer around town with a festive Easter egg hunt for the whole community.

Now through April 5, Easter Sunday, residents are invited to keep their eyes peeled as colorful Easter eggs begin popping up all around Willits. Hidden by the hardworking members of the Willits 4-H Club, the eggs may appear in parks, inside or near local businesses, and in other fun spots throughout town.

Children and families are encouraged to join the hunt whenever they're out and about. Whether you're walking downtown, visiting a park, or running errands, you never know when you might spot one of the hidden eggs tucked away nearby.

The idea is simple: If you see an egg, you've found a little bit of 4-H fun! Snap a picture, post it, and tag the Willits 4-H Club along with the location it was found.

The egg hunt is designed to bring our community together and, for the members of the Willits 4-H Club, it's a chance to practice the spirit of service and community involvement that the 4-H program is known for.

So next time you're around town, take a closer look, you might just find a colorful surprise waiting for you. Happy hunting, Willits, and Happy Easter from the Willits 4-H Club!



Willits FFA takes the Donkey Basketball win over Sheriffs Office

Submitted by Angelina Leyva

On March 8, the Willits High School gym was filled with excitement and laughter as the crowd watched from the stands, Willits Future Farmers of America and the Mendocino County Sheriffs Office go against each other in a game of Donkey Basketball!

The event was hilarious as both teams rode donkeys while trying to shoot hoops, make passes, and steal the ball. Even trying to stay balanced on the donkeys made the game more entertaining for the crowd! But great job Willits FFA! Because they took the win with the score of 46-40. All the laughter, cheers and energy made the night filled with new memories and great moments.



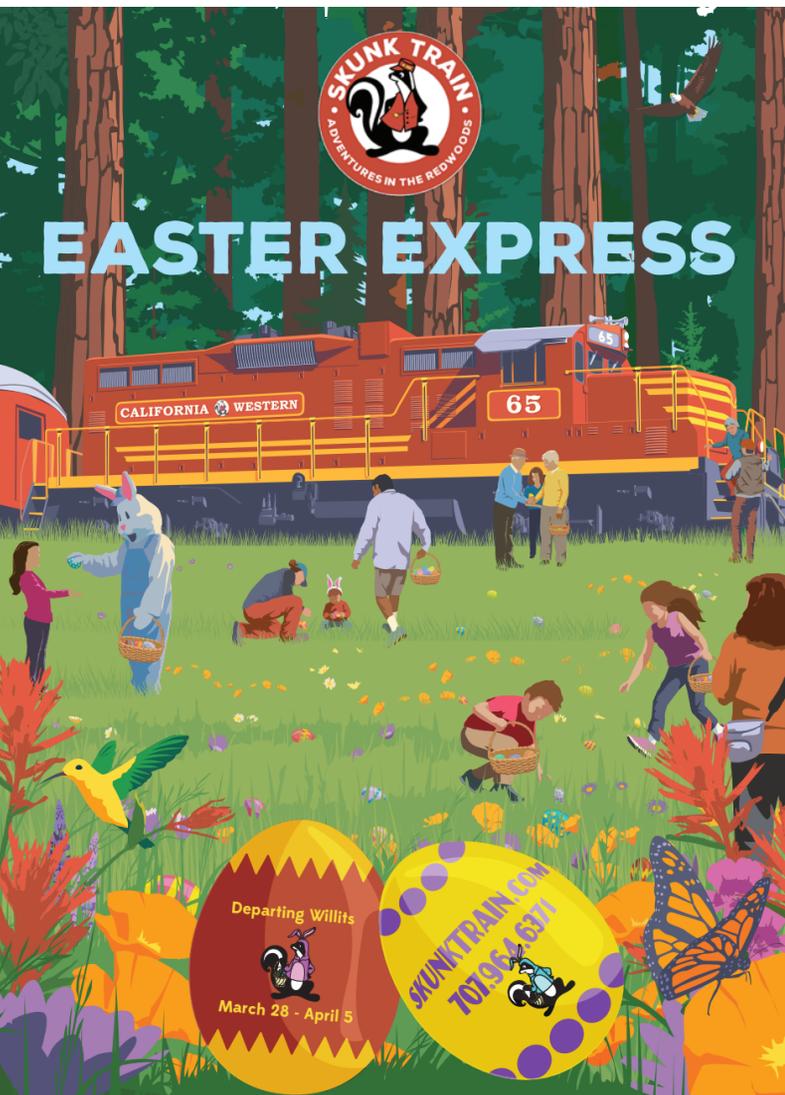
At very top: Donkeys and riders up close to the net as a member of the Willits FFA team tries for a basket. At top: Members of Willits 4-H and the Mendocino County Sheriffs Office line up for a photo with one of the donkeys from the evening's event. Above: Willits 4-H ended up with the victory, 46-40, at the Donkey Basketball game March 8.

Photos by Kelly Brackett

Congrats Happy 12th Birthday River

You've reached the bridge, the golden gate, Where childhood dreams and "grown up" wait. Happy 12th birthday to our sweet girl, You are a shining light in this beautiful world.

Love, Mom, Dad, Alaska & all the animals



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