

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Local 'Workers Over Billionaires' events

To the Editor:

The affordability crisis isn't an accident; it's the result of a system built for those at the top. That's why May Day Strong has organized a nationwide day of non-cooperation on Friday, May 1, to demand "Workers Over Billionaires." Workers, students, immigrants, and families in Willits and Ukiah will be joining over 1,000 cities to say: No School. No Work. No Shopping.

We need to show Washington that we don't just have numbers = we have economic leverage. While not everyone will be able to refuse work, school, or spending entirely, it's vital that each of us does whatever we can. If you do need to shop, please support local businesses, and if possible, pay by cash to avoid using credit cards that profit big banks.

What does this day of action mean for our community? For starters, the government continues cutting our public programs and attacking local communities instead of lowering the cost of living. Our tax dollars should go to our schools, healthcare, and public services — not to billionaire tax breaks or corporate handouts. We live with the uncertainty of whether further cuts will eliminate our local rural hospitals. We shouldn't need more than one job to pay the bills. Our housing, healthcare, and groceries should be affordable!

We're standing up to say that working people are done carrying the costs alone. We want to tax the rich so we can restore funding to health, education, housing, the environment, science, and culture. We want to stop the attacks on immigrants and endless, pointless wars.

There are two local actions you could join:

Willits: 3 to 6 pm at Babcock Park. Come when you want, and stay as long as you want. We'll be gathering in support of workers, students, and families who will be taking action across the country to demand a nation that puts Workers Over Billionaires.

Ukiah: 5 to 7 pm at Pear Tree Center. A coalition of local groups including Indivisible Ukiah, SEIU Local 2015, SEIU Local 1021, and Mendocino College Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 6322, invite community members to participate in an International Workers' Day March and Rally

More information is available at www.mobilize.us/mayday/evnt/934295

Mary Burns, 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, April 30: Chicken & Dumplings

Friday, May 1: Opened Faced Turkey Sandwich

Monday, May 4: Southern Fried Rock Fish, Rice Pilaf

Tuesday, May 5: Chicken Gyros

Wednesday, May 6: Italian Sub Sandwich

Thursday, May 7: Country Fried Steak

Friday, May 8: Chicken Florentine Pasta

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

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

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

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

Correction

In the story "Inspiring Young Authors" in the April 23 edition of Willits Weekly, the author's last name was misspelled. The correct name of the author is Natasha Yim. Willits Weekly regrets the error.

Correction

Members of Willits Indivisible were volunteering at Mike McGuire's April 18 Town Hall, but the local group was not a host of the event, as was incorrectly reported in Willits Weekly's April 23 story, "Town Hall: Congressional candidate Mike McGuire talks to Willits citizens about his campaign and answers questions."

Save the Redwoods donates 458 acres to expand Montgomery Woods

San Francisco – Save the Redwoods League announced on April 22 the transfer of its Atkins Place property – 453 acres featuring a coast redwood forest in Mendocino County – to California State Parks as a new addition to Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve.

The property donation, which required no payment from State Parks, was formally completed on April 16, 2026, and is one of three properties State Parks has acquired recently under new legislation Senate Bill 630.

Atkins Place, which Save the Redwoods League acquired in 2022, features a healthy second-growth forest with a mix of coast redwood and oak woodlands, as well as 1.25 miles of high-quality streams for imperiled salmon. The addition of these 453 acres increases the size of Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve by 16%. To date, Save the Redwoods has protected nearly 42,000 acres in Mendocino County.

"Donating Atkins Place to California State Parks is the realization of the vision we set when we launched our Montgomery Woods Initiative," said Steve Mietz, president and CEO of Save the Redwoods League. "This property was always meant to become part of Montgomery Woods, and seeing it formally join the Reserve on Earth Day is a fitting tribute to the supporters, partners and communities who made it possible. This transfer marks a new milestone for redwood conservation in Mendocino County."

Atkins Place fills a critical environmental "puzzle piece" in the protected landscape surrounding Montgomery Woods, expanding a protected greenbelt of more than 11,500 acres in the upper reaches of the Big River watershed – a vital wildlife corridor for endangered and threatened species,

including coho salmon and steelhead trout. To the east, the Atkins Place property connects the Reserve, as well as protected lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

"Montgomery Woods is an extraordinary place – ancient, irreplaceable, and deeply meaningful to the people of Mendocino County and to all Californians," said Armando Quintero, director of California State Parks. "We are grateful to Save the Redwoods League for their dedication and generous support, which builds on a long legacy of helping protect nearly all the Reserve's more than 3,000 acres since its founding in 1945. We also respectfully acknowledge that the Reserve is located on the ancestral lands of the Northern Pomo people, whose deep connection to this landscape long predates our own stewardship."

With Atkins Place now formally part of Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, State Parks can explore expanded public access and visitor experiences in this spectacular corner of Mendocino County. The addition of Atkins Place is expected to support future trail development.

Save the Redwoods League's purchase of Atkins Place in August 2022 for \$1.18 million was the founding project of its Montgomery Woods Initiative – a landscape-scale vision to expand protection around Montgomery Woods and improve visitor experiences at the Reserve. Save the Redwoods held and stewarded the property for more than three years, with the transfer to State Parks as the ultimate goal.

Read the rest of **Redwoods** Over on page 13



Above, from left: Susie Dodge is part of the residential staff at the CCC facility. There are many choices of toppings for the ice cream sundaes. The Willits Chamber of Commerce ice cream social is well attended by the grateful corps members. Below: Members of the Willits Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors have a moment with John Button, CCC district director. At right, from: Addie, a corps member, gets the finishing touch on her ice cream. Willits Chamber board member John Kvasnicka presents a plaque to CCC District Director John Button. This certificate from the CCC was given in appreciation to the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Chocolate, strawberry, and vanilla ice cream, and a berry sorbet are available to the corps members to choose from.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Grateful Sundae

Willits Chamber of Commerce thanks CCC members for their service to the community with an ice cream social

Eighteen hundred hours. That is approximately the amount of volunteering that has benefited this area, this year, through the efforts and largesse of the corps members at the recently occupied California Conservation Corps campus in Willits.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"They volunteered at the animal shelters, doing dog walking and cat socialization," said John Kvasnicka, a Willits Chamber of Commerce board member. "They've been down at Sunrise Horse Rescue, helping the horses and donkeys get acclimated to being adopted. They're also involved in the Steelhead Project, which is a project which helps preserve the steelhead population in the Russian River in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. They put flags out for Veteran's Day and set up the flags on State Street in Ukiah. They work at the Boys and Girls Club, impacting and mentoring young people."

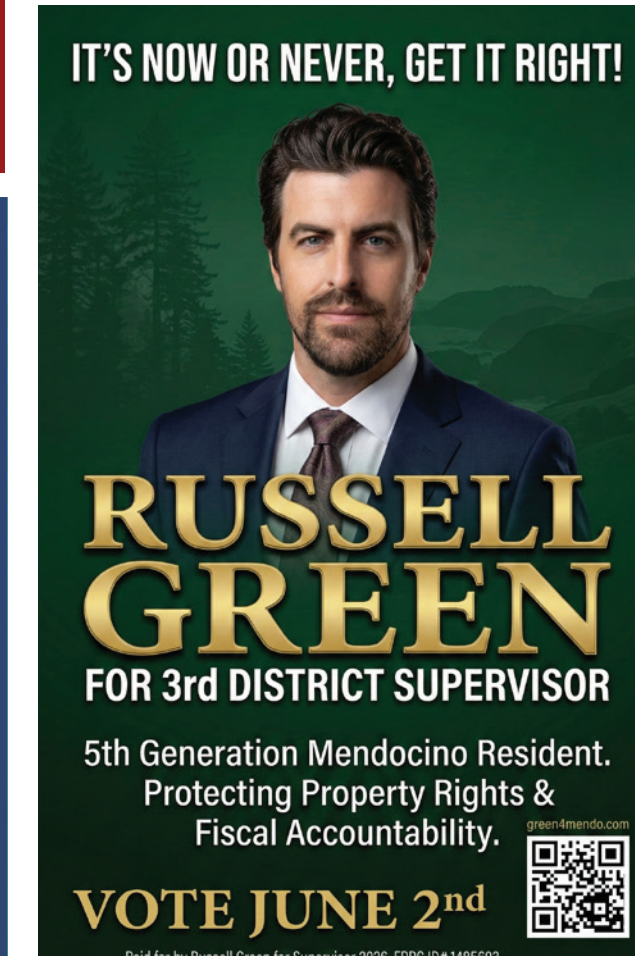
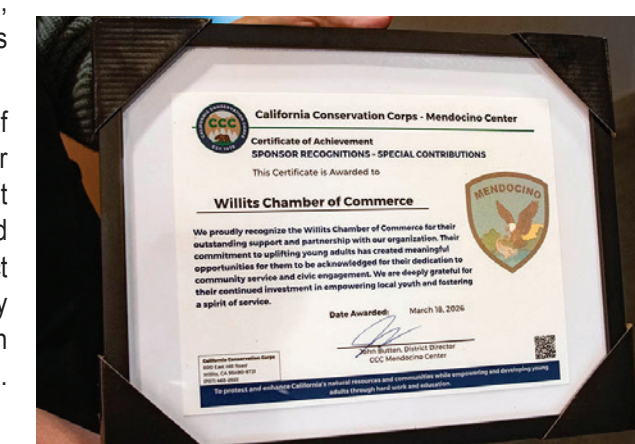
In order to recognize and show their appreciation to the young corps persons of the CCC, the Willits Chamber of Commerce brought 20 gallons of ice cream, shredded coconut, strawberries, waffle cone wedges, Rice Chex, M&Ms, mini-marshmallows, and a lot of whipped cream, among other toppings, to the All Purpose Building at the CCC campus, to treat the attendees to an ice cream social. Corps members came away from the ice cream buffet with cups filled to the brim with chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, or berry sorbet, topped to overflowing with their favorite extras. They were joined by several of the

CCC staff, chamber members (who helped dish out the frozen delights), Third District Supervisor John Haschak, Councilmember Gerry Gonzalez (who helped to serve), Mayor Tom Allman, and county supervisor candidates Buffy Wright Bourassa and Eric Hart.

Of course, there were speeches and plaques of commemoration while the corps members enjoyed their treats. Kvasnicka, of the chamber board, spoke about the positive attributes of having the CCC in Willits and about their accomplishments. He presented CCC District Manager John Button with a plaque, deftly laser-etched by Alex Bowlds, with a message of gratitude. "In appreciation of volunteer service of the California Conservation Corps. Thank you for your dedication and lasting impact."

A special corps member returned the sentiment by presenting the Chamber of Commerce with a mounted certificate that read, "We here at the CCC would like to thank the Willits Chamber of Commerce. We proudly recognize the Willits Chamber of Commerce for their outstanding support and partnership for our organization. Their commitment to uplifting young adults has created meaningful opportunities for them to be acknowledged for their dedication to community service and civic engagement. We are deeply grateful for their continued investment in empowering local youth and fostering a spirit of service."

Read the rest of **Social** Over on page 15



location	Mon Apr 20	Tue Apr 21	Wed Apr 22	Thur Apr 23	Fri Apr 24	Sat Apr 25	Sun Apr 26	weekly total	rainfall since 01Oct25
Northbrook Way	1.02	0.53	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	1.69	54.32
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.59	0.94	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.71	55.39
Valley Rd	0.65	0.38	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.14	39.03
Canyon Rd	0.88	0.42	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.41	43.22
Pine Mountain	1.18	0.38	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.70	49.24
South Main @ East Oak	0.91	0.48	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.54	53.60
average	0.87	0.52	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.53	49.13

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

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Rain Box

More April showers graced the Little Lake Valley last week, much to the delight of the May flowers already in bloom. Rainfall the first three days of the week yielded an average accumulation of 1.53", bringing the April total to 5.66", nearly three times the totals recorded the last two Aprils. With no additional rain in the forecast, April will likely end with a total accumulation of 49.13" since October 1, 2025. Historically, May brings just a few inches of precipitation, so I don't expect the total for the year to be much over 50".

– Tim Hanna, Willits Rain Box



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A Heritage & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Willits Weekly
EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Third district supervisor candidate Buffy Wright Bourassa enjoys a conversation with corps member Jeremy Wilson Johnson.

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



	1							
		5	6					9
					8	1	7	2
		7	1					
			8	6				
3				5		2		3
1	3							
6	9			2	7			8

Level: Intermediate

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

FARM AND AG WORD SEARCH

T C L U G N U V P E G A L L I T T F O
R A I U P K O B I V V Y N D A M I C H H S
F C A R E E T I V V Y Y T D U N K I L S
M K G G R O C E S R L I M T F U N K I B M G
L O A I G I Y O D O D Y C O I N V P M G
S P O R C R G N L T R U R U M N E S B T B
F I M C A H A A B O L E R A S O T H N C K
R T N I S B O S T T G A O T O Y R M F K
G M P B S G A G I I F Y O D R V B G I M
N A Y U F N N V T H O C P Y B S B A A K
I C H G U N I A M K R K N V P B C N V F L
D O D U L T V Y A S T S E V R A H V I
A Y A L I Y T I S R E V U I D O I B R L O S
E L I O R A G R I C U L T U R E U B T S
H R N G R T V Y A V Y O B A C M S N H R M
D P B S T K R O T A T I O N E R Y P V M
A A N I M A L S Y T S A M S N B E A P V U
E C R Y T I C A P A C N H S A V L K D
D B P P P E I G H A R I M H R A O T A S H
L V B V E G A N I A R D H Y O C V R V L

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| AGRICULTURE | COVER CROPS | FARMING |
| AGRONOMY | CULTIVATION | HARVEST |
| ANIMALS | DEADHEADING | HUSBANDRY |
| ANNUAL | DRAINAGE | IRRIGATION |
| APIARY | DRILLING | LIVESTOCK |
| BIODIVERSITY | ECOLOGICAL | ROTATION |
| BODYDYNAMIC | EROSION | SOIL |
| CAPACITY | | TILLAGE |

1	2	3				4	5	6	
7						8			9
10			11				12		
13						14	15		16
17			18			19			20
21				22	23			24	
				25				26	
			27	28			29		
			30				31		
			32				33		
								34	35
39	40							42	
43			44					45	
46								48	
49									50
									52
51									

CLUES ACROSS

- Purchase
- British news organization
- Midway between northeast and east
- Language specialist group
- Fancy automobile
- Small loop or series of loops
- Exploiter
- Don't know when yet
- Group of languages
- One who's finished
- After B
- Angled
- A place to adopt pets
- Swiss river
- Young boy
- Unexciting
- American comedian Vidale
- Peyton's little brother
- Corporate higher-up
- 'All in the Family' star
- Strike something

forcefully

- Up in the air (abbr.)
- Clay earth pigments (abbr.)
- Means to record brain activity
- Small constellation
- Embraces
- Brief description
- Exclude
- White (French)
- Insect
- A major division of geological time
- Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- Type of whale
- In tune
- A citizen of Yemen
- Actress Ling
- One who supports
- Circus performer
- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- Quantitative fact
- Utah city
- Where a golfer begins
- Attendant

- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- Benedictine monk
- Not turbulent
- Car mechanics group
- Buffer used in chemistry
- Fall heavily
- Pie ___ mode
- The Brits love it
- Children's TV channel (abbr.)
- Jacksonville footballer
- Helps little firms
- ___ and behold
- A way to resemble
- Fingers
- Excessive indulgences
- You might be an 'empty' one
- 'How the West Was Won' writer
- European river
- They begin the alphabet
- The body's messenger

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

April 13 to April 19

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department reported 76 incidents in this 7-day period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

April 13

7:29 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Lincoln Way and Brookside Drive and issued a warning.

7:45 am: Officers responded to a report of an illegal camping in the 1600 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:13 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Commercial Street and issued a warning.

11:21 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

12:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

2:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Hazel Street and Manzanita Avenue and issued a citation.

April 14

9:55 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and State Street and issued a citation.

12:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and California Street and issued a warning.

4:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Gregory Lane and issued a warning.

9:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Hazel Street and issued a warning.

April 15

7:55 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Blosser Lane and Robert Drive and issued a citation.

9:03 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:32 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of unwanted subjects in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Oak Street and Central Street and issued a warning.

5:56 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:09 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

April 16

7:57 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:43 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

9:16 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 2400 block of Sherwood Road and issued a citation.

11:16 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

1:33 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:49 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of East Valley Street.

5:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

8:13 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

9:47 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

April 17

8:19 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

10:31 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Holly Street and Manzanita Avenue and issued a citation.

April 18

8:52 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of South Lenore Avenue.

April 19

12:39 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of Holly Street.

8:50 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Central Street and Alameda Avenue and issued a warning.

2:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

4:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Street.



At left: Longtime Grateful Gleaner Prana shows some plant starts to a customer at the 2025 Plant Sale. Below: Jaime Chevalier will attend the Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale again this year with her Quail Seeds for those who wish to grow from seed. At bottom: Rachel Cash attends last year's sale and finds a plant start in a cup to bring back to her garden. Photos by Mathew Caine

Gleaners' Plant Sale

Get ready for the Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale on May 9, 10 am to 3 pm – look for signs near the Willits Post Office to nearby 130 Tuttle Lane

By Karen Gridley

Come explore the range of plants you can purchase at this annual fun event. There should be an assortment of some of the most popular flower and vegetable starts for your garden, as well as a wide selection of perennial flowers, vegetables, herbs and fruit, all at affordable prices.

The starts and perennial plants come from an all-volunteer effort, both Gleaner / gardener members as well as other gardeners in the community. The result is a lot of interesting plants not to be found in local nurseries: old-fashioned flowers, interesting ground covers, drought and deer-resistant varieties and those that are pollinator-friendly. Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions, but bring your cell phone to Google varieties.

Special guest vendors will include Golden Rule Gardens, Motherland Herbs and Quail Seeds. The setting, as always, is park-like, but we ask that you leave your dogs at home for safety reasons.

This is the annual fundraiser for the Grateful Gleaners, a 100-percent volunteer-run group. The group has been operating continuously for 22 years and began as an off-shoot of Willits Economic Localization. Every summer the Gleaners work hard (and have fun) harvesting fruit from trees in local backyards. The bounty of fruit is then distributed to community organizations, including the Food Bank, Senior Center, Willits Unified Schools, Willits Charter Schools and afterschool and soccer programs.

In addition to supporting the Gleaners' work, proceeds from the plant sale are used to give small but important grants to local farmers to increase food production and efficiency.

We welcome new Gleaner volunteers! Find out more by leaving your name and phone number on the Gleaner voicemail at 707-367-7391 or contacting us via email at gratefulgleanersofwillits@gmail.com.



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District 3 includes being safer, stronger and full of opportunity where families can thrive, small businesses can grow, and our roads and infrastructure are improved and our county government works with the people, right, and not around them.

My platform is centered on matters that matter most: public safety, roads, infrastructure, local jobs, and economic opportunity and accountability in our county government. But more than anything, this campaign is about people. That is what it is to me. My work in county government over the last 11.5 years has really centered around people. I started out in Han Resources. I moved over to Public Health where I spent at least six years working throughout Mendocino County making connections with our fire departments, our law enforcement, our schools, working on a subject that a lot of us don't want to talk about or look at, but it was really important and it was the opioid epidemic. It was affecting our community like nobody's business. We were off the charts with opioid overdoses. We did not have Narcan in this county, and we had a lot of push back at first because it was an unknown. And I spent those six years educating this community and getting us in a place where we're much better now, and we are not number one or number three in the state for opioid overdoses. And I'm very proud of that. And there's some other work that I did as well. So I'm running because I believe in this district. I believe in the people who call it home, and I believe that we can have a stronger future together. Thank you.

Clay Romero Opening Statement

Well, hello everybody. I'm Clay Romero. I've been in the area for 51 years, and it's largely been my home that entire time. I moved here with my folks when I was 14 years old, and I'll be coming up on 66 here very soon. My particular thing for running for the board is I would very much like to see better economic conditions.

Specifically, anything that produces a physical product is very important. We can operate off of tourism and we can operate off of the service jobs that we have, but we're not going to be able to do real well until we can actually have some physical thing. As you know, for a time it was timber, and I understand from some of the old-timers at one time it was hops, and then here lately it was cannabis. But I know things have been very difficult in that regard.

Now, there's five basic things that I do recognize are very important to the people, and it's what they expect from their elected officials. The first is safety. And this is where we get like our sheriff's department, the fire protection guys, our local police. And these are all things that are very very important that need to be funded because they separate us from disastrous situations and I'm thankful for that. The second thing is economic stability which is what I was touching on by having a physical product, and I know this is going to be very very important to do. The third thing is environmental cleanliness. And you know, I don't think there's anybody that says, you know, I just want to destroy the land. I really think that it's really important that that we're going to need this, not for ourselves, but for our children. It's extremely important. So, I'm very very mindful about environmental cleanliness.

The fourth thing is freedom. And I think our freedom should extend until we start bumping into the freedoms of somebody else. And I don't think this is too much to ask.

And the fifth thing that I want to be mindful of is basic fairness. And I know that people will tell me the world is not fair and I get that. But there's certain things, particularly coming from the county, that when people put down money for a permit, I would like to see where they actually get something from it sometime before they die. Time is money. It's very important. Thank you.

Russell Green Opening Statement

Well, I'm not much of a salesman, so it's hard for me to stand here and try to sell you something. It's hard for me to tell you that I am smart, virtuous, hardworking, and tough yet kind, even though I think that is true. I view this campaign as a duty, a direct response to what we have all been through over the last few years. I am not trying to convince you to vote for me. I am simply offering you the opportunity should

you be tired of the status quo. I'm not doing this for a job, for power, for revenge. I am doing it because I cannot stand any longer to see the injustices inflicted upon us all by our own government and in in many cases even by our own county. I am tired of a corrupt political system dominated by unions and political parties and special interests that has forgotten that the purpose of a government is to serve the people, not be their overlord. We the people have been placated and ignored over and over and over. And I stand for something different, something real, something honest and well-intentioned. Many politicians that came before me were worried about their reputation and their votes more than anything else. I am worried about none of these things. I only worry about leaving this place better than I found it, of being a good steward, and of getting the people their personal liberties and rights back.

My platform is really pretty simple: Encourage economic activity through deregulation, bring fiscal accountability to the spending of our sacred tax dollars, restore personal liberties, and restore power to the individual. In other words, to get the government off your back and out of your wallet. I am different, not necessarily a radical, but I can see that we need to change our government and in a lot of ways our society as well. Both of which have been torn apart by polarization and extremism. I was forged by fire my entire life. From growing up through high school here during the lifted-up trucks, the crime, the fast money, the militarized police to the regulatory nightmare which is legalized cannabis, to its now somewhat downfall. I've seen what happens when a government tries to help and ends up destroying a way of life. I've been married. I've been divorced. I have two kids. I've built a house. I've built businesses, and I now likely run the most sophisticated AI cluster in the county, a tool that without it, I probably wouldn't have even been able to find the time to file the paperwork for this election.

My heart is in the right place. I deeply care and I have the technical skills to fix the county's broken systems and the vested local interest to never stop fighting for you. My name is Russell Green. I'm a fifth-generation resident of this county and I'd be honored to have your vote.

Eric Hart Opening Statement

Good afternoon. Thanks for coming out today. My name is Eric Hart, and I'm running for supervisor because I think we can do better at turning good intentions into real results for our communities. Mendocino County doesn't lack in good ideas, and it doesn't lack in good employees. It has a vision problem and it has an execution problem. Like everyone else up here, I care deeply about this county. Where I'm different is in my experience, what I've spent my career doing. I've worked for more than 25 years in operations and leadership roles, managing large budgets, fixing broken systems, and making organizations that actually deliver what they promise. Not just listening, not just talking, not just planning, but actual execution.

I've done that at scale with companies like AT&T, and I've done it through my own consulting for local small businesses and nonprofits. I've also served our community directly. I started a fire safe council that serves over 1,000 residents outside of Willits.

I've helped bring the Willits Center for the Arts back from the brink after COVID. I'm also on the board of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council as well as the Community Foundation advisory council, and I've served two separate terms on the county civil grand jury. What I've learned through all of this is that most of the challenges we're facing as a county aren't because we don't know what the problems are. We do. We all know what the problems are. The issue is follow-through. how decisions get made, how money is managed, and whether we actually deliver consistent, manageable results for the people who depend on us. That's where I focus: clear priorities and accountability and fixing the systems that aren't working and supporting those that are.

I also believe that government should be transparent, practical and grounded in the real lives of the people that it serves.

My wife and I live out off-grid outside of Willits. So, I understand firsthand the challenges that many of our res rural residents face from infrastructure to

emergency preparedness to just basic everyday services.

At the end of the day, this campaign isn't about politics. It's about making county government work better for the people who live here.

How to do that is six steps. The first is the internal county operations. That's the foundation for everything. From there, we go on to economy and the housing, public safety and infrastructure, healthcare, and the environment. Those are all based on that first one. We can't get any of those done if we don't fix the operations of the county government first. So, if you're looking for someone who will focus on execution, accountability, and real results, I'd be honored to earn your vote.

QUESTION: What would be your top three priorities as a newly elected District 3 supervisor?

Clay Romero: I would think probably my first priority was to see what can do for getting our local economy going. I know that when people come in, they put down money for a permit, that value of the money that they put down should be consistent with what they would reasonably expect to receive. You can't just put any old value on it and treat the people like a cash cow. It has to be consistent. And how could I put this? Where it's something that people could reasonably identify. Then this type of thinking came about when I heard a story from a man who had a house crushed in the outlying areas by snow. And so he called up a guy from the Bay Area. They cut it up and they hauled it off. And then he went to get a permit to build a house. But before he could get a permit to build the house, he had to get a demolition permit. Well, of course, he says, "Well, there's no mobile home here anymore." But he nonetheless was coerced into paying money to get that demolition permit to have a guy come out to confirm that, well, it's not there. There's things like this that just drive people nuts, the people here. Let's forget about all the politics. These are these are our customers. They deserve to be served like valued customers. And I think the county has not been doing that. So making it just fair and reasonable with people would be probably the primary thing I would go after first. Thank you.

Russell Green: OK, well, since this is basically a powerless position by itself, my first order of duty would be to figure out what and how I can get three more votes, especially like Clay just said, on the issue of planning and building reform. The number one thing at the county level that needs to happen. Almost all the other issues we are having come back to that one in one way or another. Next, I would freeze hiring because I think the incoming technological renaissance and job displacement that is coming that we will need to streamline, downsize, and automate the government. Computers don't take retirement pensions. So, I'd be looking to increase IT funding. I'd also be looking to start an audit of every debit and credit at the county and see if there are easy things to cut or where the money is actually going. Our county has an income of around \$750 million according to their own budget docs. And let's find out where that's actually going and what we can cut. Also, every single time I can vote for more liberty or freedom for the people, I will. That's not a talking point. That's a promise. Thank you.

Eric Hart: So, as I as I mentioned before, the foundation is the county government itself, how the county operates – that's where things need to start. The first thing to do is start looking at why isn't our government operating the way it should. And that comes back to root cause analysis, which is what I did for 25 years. I've already started that process by talking to our county leadership, the department heads, to find out what's going on there. The biggest issues they're facing right now are that they have not been modernized. Their MUNIS system, which was installed 20 years ago, and they stopped that process halfway through, never fully completely installed it, and they're still managing paperwork back and forth on spreadsheets. The other system, Moment, that runs our property taxes, I'm sure a lot of you have seen this, you'll get duplicate notices. You get notices that change from one to the next, say you owe money and then you don't owe money. Those are indications of how our county is not operating properly. From there, once we figure out how much money we have and where the money is coming from and where it's going, then we can start figuring out what we're doing next. The next step is to look at our new CEO and our new government and change the culture of how our county operates. The county needs to operate with a customer service focus, finding a way to Yes. After that, it's building a platform for those next six steps. The economy, housing, public

safety and infrastructure, healthcare, and the environment. Those are the focus items that we can build, you know, kind of a 100-day plan on. But we can't build that without a government that works and understanding what tools we have to work with. Thank you.

Buffey Wright Bourassa: OK, the top three priorities that I would work on when I got started. I'm really excited about this question, by the way, because I was at home before this and I was thinking, "Oh, what am I going to say?" And I didn't know what the questions were going to be. So, I'm kind of glad that I know how I should answer this one. The first one is improve roads, infrastructure, and emergency access because those are like basic things that we need right now, right? I don't know about you, but I live out in the Valley and my road is torn up. We have mitigation property out there, and big trucks have been coming through. So, we need them fixed, and I'm sure I know there's roads that are worse than mine. And we also need better maintenance and stronger evacuation processes like up there in Brooktrails. I don't know about you, but I'm worried about the people that I love and my family and friends and our community that are up there in case they need to get out of there in a hurry.

Second thing is strengthen public safety and community stability. We need a full sense of those words, you know, not just law enforcement, not just fire and emergency responses, but behavioral health support, re-entry and prevention.

The third thing is make our county government and more accountable, more transparent, right? So that when you're looking at the budget, you're not confused. You know, when you go to the website, you understand what's there.

Everything is already posted. There's nothing really hiding. It's just about making information easier to access. Am I not right? Being in the county, I understand how all of these systems have worked and what comes in and out. And so, I'm really well-versed in those systems and feel like I would make a strong commitment to these priorities. Thank you.

QUESTION: With declining revenue, should county departments be accountable for managing within their budget, and what are the consequences for not so managing?

Russell Green: OK, well, I'm not really a public sector guy, but I know that in the private sector, if you go over your budget or spend out of your means, you go out of business immediately. And all of our tax money that they collect I consider to be sacred. So I think it's very important that the departments themselves make sure that they are within budget and that the categories in which the budget reports are accurate/ I also think that in the public sector there's a lot of weird accounting that goes on. And I'd be interested in dig into that and see where exactly the money goes because \$750 million, from my understanding of gross revenue for our county, that's a lot, and I don't really know where it all goes and I don't think it's all being spent as efficiently as it could be.

Eric Hart: Department heads are already held to their budgets. They are very clearly told what their budgets are. The problem is things change during the year. So one thing that the county needs to do better, and we talked about this a little bit, is managing the budgets within the organizations and understanding what they are today. When a budget changes, MUNIS isn't really capable of handling that, and it's not capable of keeping not just the department heads but the board of supervisors up to date on what's happening. So there's no way of keeping ahead of those changes and understanding that, "oh we're on a trend to go over budget. We need to maybe make adjustments." So we're back again to the core changes that need to happen to modernize our county and make it run efficiently, so the people that run those departments have the tools to make those decisions. We also need a stronger representation from our board of supervisors and leadership by example there. Last year at a February board of supervisors meeting, it came out that they were 16% over budget themselves. How can they be asking the rest of our departments to make 6% cuts across the board when they're 16% over themselves? Leadership by example goes a long way.

The third thing would be to work with this new CEO that comes in and make sure that we have a good structure for these departments to understand where their budget money is coming from, what their priorities are, and where they should be spending that money so that we aren't spending it on things that are not needed



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Goofy Guinness

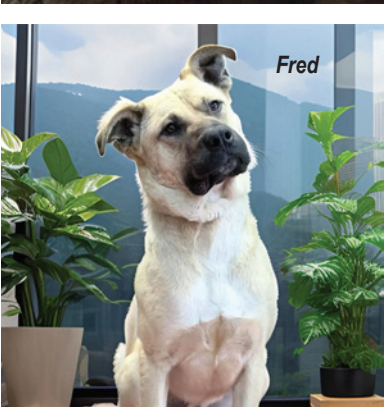
Guinness is looking for a forever family that enjoys life as much as he does. It's impossible to not smile when you see his big ears and happy face running toward you! Guinness doesn't just love people, he loves making new friends with every dog he meets. (No cats for this boy, though.) He is a social butterfly. This boy is happy, loving, energetic, and always ready for a playdate or an adventure.

A volunteer had this to say about Guinness: "Guinness is a very sweet boy who is not fully aware of his size and strength. He needs a little training to learn not to jump up and / or pull on his leash, but at heart, he is a goofball gentle giant."

To learn more about Guinness, 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.

Shy Chicken Noodle Soup

Chicken Noodle Soup was previously a feral kitten who hasn't quite let go of his roots. He is a fool for Churu, though, and will definitely take a bribe. Once you start petting him, he purrs and relaxes. Chicken Noodle needs someone with a mile of patience, and heaps of love to help him bond with his new family.



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 (closed select Thursdays, check website for details). Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com. Call 707-485-0123 for more information.

Playful Fred

This big, lovable mixed-breed boy is full of sweetness and fun! Fred has a playful spirit and a heart of gold. He's the kind of dog who's always ready for a game, a walk, or just hanging out by your side. His happy-go-lucky personality makes him a joy to be around, and he's sure to keep you smiling.

Fred has previously lived with a female dog and did well, but like any new friendship, he'll need a proper introduction to any new canine companions to help set everyone up for success.

If you're looking for a sweet, playful, larger-sized pup to add some love and energy to your life, Fred might just be your guy.

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.

Garberville CHP welcomes 6 new officers

Posted by Garberville CHP
Exciting news from the California Highway Patrol Garberville area office!! We are thrilled to welcome six new officers to our office. After 26 weeks of rigorous training, they have officially graduated and are ready to kick off their field training.

Join us in celebrating their achievement and welcoming them as they hit the road to serve our community.

The California Highway Patrol Garberville Area is proud to serve Southern Humboldt and Northern Mendocino counties, from the Pacific Coast to Trinity County. We provide the highest level of safety, service and security to thousands of residents, commuters and tourists each day. Our office patrols US 101, and State Routes 1, 271, along with the historic Avenue of the Giants, State Route 254, in addition to over 4,000 miles of unincorporated highway.

At left: Six new officers have started field training at the CHP Garberville area office.

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Acts 2:37
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Willits, CA 95490
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If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
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april@willitsweekly.com

Thursday, April 30

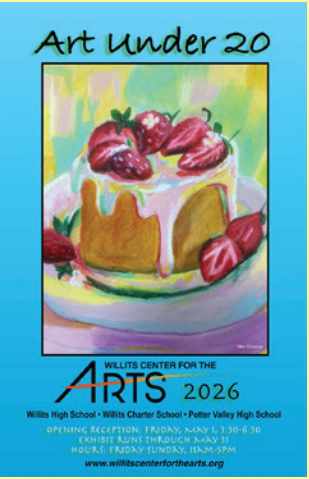
Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors for an early May Day celebration as market moves to City Park for the summer. Thursday, April 30, from 3 to 5:30 pm, for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits to double your dollars.

Friday, May 1

Art Under 20 at WCA: Art Under 20 show of emerging artists at the Willits Center for the Arts is created and hung by the students themselves under the direction of Willits High art teacher Carolyn Bakewell. Opening celebration is set for after school on Friday, May 1 from 3 to 7 pm, and the public is welcome. Opening night features live music by the Willits High School Jazz Band, and refreshments. The exhibit will be on display until Sunday, May 31 during normal WCA gallery hours, Fridays through Sundays from 11 am until 5 pm. 71 East Commercial Street.

First Fridays Summer Concert Series: Get ready to rock the block as Gas Money kicks off the First Friday Summer Series of free outdoor concerts, on Commercial Street between Humboldt and Main. Willits Chamber of Commerce presents: "Let's start the summer right - shop local, listen loud, and help Willits thrive!" Friday, May 1 from 6 to 9 pm. Food and merchant vendors.

4 Dogs and a Bone' at WCT: Playwright John Patrick Shanley's 'hilariously savage' Hollywood satire opens Friday, May 1 at 7 pm and runs through May 17 at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Directed by Mathew Caine; starring Dayle Deer as Bradley the producer, Zoe Robertson as Brenda the hopeful new starlet, Jeremy Daw as the impressionable writer Victor, and Sarah France as the wily leading lady Collette. Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm; Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$25 and available online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door.



Pete Sawyer & the Left Hand Monkey Wrench Gang at the Grange: Doors open at 7 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street; show at 7:30 pm. Pete and the Gang offer a high-energy "all killer, no filler" Grateful Dead experience every time they take the stage. Grab your friends, show up, and be part of the fun! Tickets available at Flying Dog Pizza or the Grange Office. \$35/ \$30 in advance.

Blue Luke at Shanachie: Prodigy guitarist "Blue Luke" Andrews takes the soul of the blues, the groove of funk, the grit of rock & roll and the harmonies of jazz into the modern world. With special guests on Friday, May 1, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, May 2

WHS Senior Class Golf Fundraiser: Saturday, May 2 at the Brooktrails Golf Course. One of the last fundraisers for the Willits High School Class of 2026 before graduation. \$60 entry fee. Teams of 4 are invited to arrive at 8 am, and tee off at 9 am. Best Ball Scramble. "Support of any kind is very much appreciated."

Noyo Theater Anniversary Show: "Celebrating 86 years at - Loudly," Saturday, May 2. With 2 showings of cult classic film "Heavy Metal" (1981) at 5:30 and 8:30 pm, and live music by MendoFire at 7 pm. \$20. All Ages. 57 East Commercial Street.

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Back Porch Trio at Shanachie: fun-loving sound, original songs and covers, influenced by folk, blues, classic rock, jam band, americana, and bluegrass. BPT is Rosie Wetzel (ukulele and vocals), Steve Hahm (acoustic guitar and vocals), and Jeff Taylor (bass). Friday, May 2 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, May 3

4 Dogs and a Bone' at WCT: Playwright John Patrick Shanley's 'hilariously savage' Hollywood satire Sunday, May 3 at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. \$25. See Friday, May 1 listing for more details.

Mendo Cup at the Grange: The 2nd annual Mendo Cup is a friendly competition for licensed sungrown cannabis farmers in Mendocino County. Sunday, May 3 at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street, from 2:15 to 9 pm, features exhibits and farmer booths, great food, the awards ceremony after blind judging, and a chance to meet the farmers and sample their best flowers in the outdoor consumption lounge. Profits this year will be shared back with competing farmers. More info: themendocup.org

Thursday, May 7

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Summer Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, May 7, from 3 to 5:30 pm, 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.

Friday, May 8

Art Talk at WCA: This month's Art Talk, "Fakes and Forgeries," is by Ruby Ming, lecturer from the Institute for the Study of

4 Dogs and a Bone' at WCT: Playwright John Patrick Shanley's 'hilariously savage' Hollywood satire Sunday, May 3 at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. \$25. See Friday, May 1 listing for more details.



'4 Dogs and a Bone' at WCT: Playwright John Patrick Shanley's 'hilariously savage' Hollywood satire Friday, May 8 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. \$25. See Friday, May 1 listing for more details.

Seraphin Band at Shanachie: Performing as a full band and playing original music in classic Northern California guitar-heavy rock & roll style, Friday, May 8 at 8 pm. With founding member Michael Parlangas, along with Joe Morf on bass, Remedy on drums, and Raleigh (formerly with Michael Franti) on keys. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, May 9

Mother's Day Craft Fair: Little Lake Grange presents a Mother's Day Craft Fair on Saturday, May 9, from 11 am to 4 pm at the Grange, 291 School Street. Local crafters & artisans; handmade goods & unique gifts; Jewelry, Candles, Art & more; one-of-a-kind treasures for Mom.

'4 Dogs and a Bone' at WCT: Playwright John Patrick Shanley's 'hilariously savage' Hollywood satire Saturday, May 9 at 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. \$25. See Friday, May 1 listing for more details.

Studio 54 Redux at WCA: Tommy G Presents Studio 54 Redux, a Disco Dance Party and Costume Contest, featuring D.J. Smoke Show. Saturday, May 9, 7 to 10:30 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Mocktails by Botanical Beverages and food by Zenith Rose Catering. \$20. All Ages.

Sean Lehe Trio at Shanachie: California based guitarist for West Coast festival favorites Jelly Bread, Sean Lehe, also formerly with Poor Man's Whiskey and Izabella; plus special guests on an Emerald Triangle Tour. Saturday, May 9 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, May 10

Succulents & Teacups at the Museum: Friends of the Mendocino County Museum presents a Succulent Teacup Making fundraiser, Sunday, May 10, from 12 to 4 pm. Enjoy creating this fun planting project for Mother's Day, or purchase one ready-made as a gift. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, Willits. Email FOTMCM@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

'4 Dogs and a Bone' at WCT: Playwright John Patrick Shanley's 'hilariously savage' Hollywood satire, Sunday, May 10 at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. \$25. See Friday, May 1 listing for more details.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Michael'

The Story: A biopic of Michael Jackson, the chirpy-voiced front man (front boy) of the massively successful, now legendary Motown R&B group The Jackson Five. The flick begins when young Michael is 12, though they tell everyone he's 8 because it's show business. We see him and his older brothers rehearsing in their suburban Gary, Indiana living room.



Dan Essman
Columnist

Their dad, whose name is not really important, is their manager. He demands perfection. When Michael is not perfect, Dad whips him with a belt until he screams and cries. It's brutality that's hard to watch. Dad tells them that if they are not perfect, they can go work in the steel mill just like he did.

As Michael gets older, he starts writing his own music. His drive to create, to produce his inspirations, puts him at odds with The Jackson Five, and especially with the Dad. Also, Michael becomes the most famous musical artist in the world.

My Thoughts: The "American Dream" doesn't come without physical and emotional pain for our artists, but Michael's struggles with his venal, controlling father are really beyond the pale. So, this flick's narrative has a good guy vs. bad guy conflict right at its center. We all know that Michael Jackson wins, but his wins are at a serious cost.

I liked this movie, especially the dancing. Maybe it was a little bit long. It got a 97% positive audience rating at Rotten Tomatoes. Any other thoughts I have about the flick are just opinions.

Parents: This is a movie for teens and up. Children don't need to see a grownup whipping his son with a belt.

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

Waldorf School's Spring Soirée at Frey Tasting Room, May 8

Waldorf School of Mendocino County invites family and friends, old and new, to the newly opened Frey Vineyards Winery & Tasting Room in Redwood Valley for our fabulous Spring Soirée & Silent Auction, Friday, May 8, from 5:30 to 8 pm. Live music by Mama Grows Funk, tasty food, award-winning organic wines, silent auction showcasing unique pieces from local artists, and the Super Raffle drawing. Frey Winery & Tasting Room is located at 11700 West Road in Redwood Valley. Tickets are \$10 to \$25 sliding scale and include food! More info and online tickets: www.mendocinowaldorf.org/event-details/spring-soiree-1



It's my birthday. Come Celebrate with me. With one of my all-time favorite movies. A story about second chances and redefining who you are. On our biggest screen.

FREE SHOW
Sunday May 3
1:45

Free tickets available at the Box office one hour before showtime. Limit 1 per guest. Please no seat saving.

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

\$8 ALL WEEK! MARIO BROS GALAXY MOVIE
(PG) 1H 38min
Fri: 4:30, 7:00
Sat/Sun: 1:30, 4:30, 7:00
Wed/Thurs: 4:30, 7:00

MICHAEL
THEATER (VELVET LUXURY RECLINERS, LASER PROJECTION)
(PG13) 2H 7min
Fri: 4:15, 7:15
Sat/Sun: 1:15, 4:15, 7:15
Wed/Thurs: 4:15, 7:15

HEAVY METAL
(1981)
(R) 1H 26min
Fri: 10:00
WITH MENDO FIRE Sat: 5:30, 8:30
Wed/Thurs: 7:30

JURASSIC PARK
(1993) (REAL 3D)
(PG13) 2H 40min
Fri: 4:00, 7:00
Sun: 4:00, 7:00
Wed/Thurs: 4:00

Mid week promotions: Wednesday - Matinee prices to all shows all day.
Showtimes: May 1 - May 7 Closed Monday/Tuesday Thrifty Thursday: \$8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.

Written by JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY
Directed by MATHEW CAINE
MAY 1 - 17, 2026

FOUR DOGS AND A BONE

SHOWTIMES:
Fri & Sat at 7:00 pm
Sundays at 2:00 pm

Jeremy Daw Dayle Deer Zoe Robertson Sarah France

Mother's Day Craft Fair
Saturday, May 9, 2026
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Little Lake Grange - Willits, CA

HAPPY Mother's Day!
YOU DESERVE TO BE CELEBRATED!
BUFFET STYLE MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, MAY 10
(SERVING FROM 8 AM TO 11 AM)

ENJOY A DELICIOUS BUFFET FEATURING:
• Scrambled Eggs
• Vegetarian Egg Casserole
• Sausage
• Bacon
• Pancakes
• Biscuits & Gravy
• Fresh Fruit
• Orange Juice
• Milk
• Coffee

• A Special Treat! FOR ALL THE MOMS!
• FREE MINIS! FOR ALL THE MOMS!

291 SCHOOL ST. WILLITS, CA 95490

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Y'ART SALE
is coming!

We are Seeking Donations of Art & Craft Supplies

Drop off at Willits Center for the Arts Fri-Sun 11am-5pm ~ before May 18 pls.
The WCA Y'art Sale will take place on May 23-24, 2026 ~ Details TBA
72 E. Commercial St. Willits

~ WCA Thanks You! ~

FREE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

UKIAH AIRPORT DAY

FIERY HEROICS, LIFE-SAVING RESCUES, SKY AMBULANCE, PARCEL PILOTS, VIP JET SETTERS, & HOMETOWN ENTREPRENEURS

9 AM - 2 PM
UKIAH AIRPORT

JOIN THE FUN, TAKE THE STAGE, OR SHOWCASE SOMETHING AMAZING IN AVIATION! CALL 707-467-2855

06 JUNE 2026

THE DAY FEATURES: SKY-HIGH FLYING DEMOS, HISTORIC WARBIRODS, CAL FIRE, CAL STAR, GENERAL AVIATION, & DJ KEN STEELY SPINNING TUNES!
LOCAL NON-PROFITS FOOD, DRINK & CRAFT VENDORS

TOMMY G PRESENTS
STUDIO 54 REDUX

feat. D.J. SMOKE SHOW

A DISCO DANCE PARTY with COSTUME CONTEST sponsored by BOTANICAL BEVERAGES hosted by ZENITH ROSE CATERING

SATURDAY MAY 9th 2026
7:00 - 10:30 pm

\$20 ALL AGES (SUGGESTED \$15+ PER PERSON)

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
71 E COMMERCIAL ST
A MENDOCINO PRODUCERS GUILD EVENT

Noyo Theater's Anniversary

CULT CLASSIC FILM. LIVE BAND. ONE NIGHT. Saturday May 2

MENDO FIRE (Live) Heavy Metal (1981)

5:30 - Film
7:00 - MendoFire
8:30 - Film

Celebrating 86 years - Loudly

Birth, Baby, and Beyond

3 in person classes to get you ready!
Next series May 2nd, 14th & 21st from 6-8:30pm
or
June 4th, 11th, 18th from 6-8:30pm

Brought to you by:
Adventist Health Ukiah Valley First 5 Mendocino 90.FIRSTMENDO.org/BirthBeyond
or call 707-462-4453 ext. 105J

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
A MUSICAL FEAST for Mother's Day
Sunday May 10, 2026 ~ 4-6pm

A beautiful bouquet of classical & contemporary piano combos
With champagne, artisanal pastries, & community

Spencer Brewer, Paul Yarbrough, Elizabeth MacDougall, Ed Reinhart, Frankie J, Wenbo Yin

Tickets \$25 online ~or~ \$30 at the door
71 East Commercial St. ~ Willits ~ www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Friends of the MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM

SUCCULENTS & TEACUPS fundraiser!

\$25.00 All Materials included

Enjoy this fun planting project, or purchase a ready-made creation!
Saturday May 2, 2026
12-4 P.M.
Mendocino County Museum
400 East Commercial Street

Contact FOTMCM@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

MENDO FOOD NETWORK

FOOD POP-UP WILLITS

1250 Blosser Lane, Willits CA
Every 1st Thursday
10am-11:30am

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707-615-6654

FREE SHOWS!

WILLITS FIRST FRIDAYS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

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MAY 1 GAS MONEY
JUN 5 FARGO BROTHERS
AUG 7 AUDIO SOUL
SEP 4 LA ONDA

5/1/26 PRESENTED BY:

ON COMMERCIAL ST
BETWEEN HUMBOLDT & MAIN ST | 6 - 9 PM

Eric HART

FOR MENDOCINO SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 3



Covelo Forum May 2, 3-5 at the Commons
Laytonville Meet and Greet May 4th, 5:30-7 at the Garden Club
Willits Office Hours 1st and 3rd Thursday at Brickhouse Coffee

Paid for by Eric Hart for Supervisor 2026

ERICHARTFORSUPERVISOR.COM FACEBOOK.COM/ERICHARTFORSUPERVISOR



PEO Spring High Tea Fundraiser, May 9
Above: Members of Willits PEO getting ready for the first annual High Tea Fundraiser at the Willits Methodist Church on Saturday, May 9. From left: Barbara O'Reardon, Marna Garcia, Jane McCabe, and Lynn Williams.

PEO Chapter XO of Willits is inviting you to our first annual Spring High Tea Fundraiser.

We are raising funds for local high school graduating young women.

Come celebrate the day with your mother, daughter, granddaughter, or special friend.

Serving a traditional High Tea menu of scones, savorys, sweets and of course, teas.

Put on your fancy hat, and join us for an afternoon of conversation, fun, and silent auction.

Saturday, May 9 at the Willits Methodist Church, 286 School Street, from 1 to 3 pm. Ticket price \$25. Contact Jennifer Jergenson for ticket purchase or more info: 707 972-5237

Spring High Tea

May 9, 2026 – 1-3pm
Methodist Church
286 School St., Willits

Limited Seating
Get tickets early.

"A fun time to dress up and wear a hat!"

Tickets: \$25/person
For information or ticket purchase, contact Jennie 707/972-5237



Fundraiser and silent auction held by Willits P.E.O. Chapter XO for women's scholarships

SHERWOOD SCHOOL

Cinco de Mayo OPEN HOUSE and YOUNG AUTHORS' FAIR

MAY 5TH AT 5:00 PM

Enchilada dinner fundraiser and dessert auction
Meet and Greet for incoming Kindergarten families at 4:45PM

32600 Sherwood Rd. | 707-984-6769

Spring Soirée

Friday, May 8th
Music by Mama Grows Funk
silent auction • raffle • dancing • food



21+ EVENT

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Power down steep terrain, pass through a historic tunnel, and take in breathtaking redwood views on this 15-mile journey, complete with a picnic lunch.

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299 East Commercial Street
Willits, California 95490



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- ▶ Pass Medicare for All
- ▶ Make billionaires pay their fair share

ENDORSED BY: Local Firefighters Nurses & Teachers

VOTE BY MAIL STARTING MAY 5 OR ON ELECTION DAY, JUNE 2

Paid for by Mendocino County Democratic Party FEC #C00404145 FPCC #82268

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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>

'Soul Travel: Doorway to Higher Awareness'
Join us for an open spiritual discussion, Tuesday, May 5th, 11:00 to noon, Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St. Questions? Please call Joy, (707) 367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of CA & NV. (This program is neither sponsored by nor affiliated with the Mendocino County Library.)

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 Rent
Spacious 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Close to town and Howard Hospital. Newer with well-appointed kitchens. Laminate floors throughout and window coverings. \$1800.00/mo. 707-489-1080.

Yard Sale
Friday, May 1st & Saturday, May 2nd. 8 am to 2 pm. 1550 Padula Drive, Willits CA. Priced to sell. Cash or Venmo. Rain or shine. Everything must GO.

Homemade 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, May 9 from 8 am to 4 pm

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for two weeks. Email us your ad today!

The rest of Basketball | From page 1

followed their code of conduct, but also met the grades minimum all season long. Hefte also celebrated the boys first-place achievement informing the board: "Every year for 57 years there's been a basketball tournament up in Crescent City. This year there were 64 teams.... We went up there. We were in the B2 division. We did something that no basketball team from Willits has done. We took first place." Coach Hefte also highlighted some players' individual achievements before turning the floor over to the sixth-grade boys basketball coach.

BGMS Coach Bryan Mann, a city league and middle school coach, celebrates each boy on his team as, he said: "This team went 11 and 0. They were undefeated!" Also informing the board, all sixth-grade players were also eligible to play all season, meaning, all team members stayed out of trouble and met the grade minimum. Coach Mann closes his recognition stating: "It was an honor to coach these boys. I hope the school allows me to come back next year. I see some great things ahead for the future of this group of athletes, and our school district as a whole."

Following the celebratory updates on the boys basketball achievements, Carolyn Bakewell, Willits High School art teacher, spoke on the Art Under 20 program. Bakewell has been in the district since her student teaching in 2001, where she worked under the program's founder. Art under 20 is an annual WUSD student art exhibition held at the Willits Center for the Arts in May.

Bakewell and her team of many students and artists work hard to curate and hang the exhibition's artworks, host the opening reception, and ensure a smooth presentation of the exhibition. Bakewell also highlighted efforts made by her team, sharing: "Voila, the show is hung and looks great. Everything looks beautiful. There [are] over 150 artists in the show this year. It's always a challenge to see how to fit it all in, but we managed to do it." "Art Under 20" is ready to be underway this year, their 26th year, with an opening reception set for Friday, May 1, from 3 to 7 pm.

Following Bakewell's presentation, the board heard a presentation on the Baechtel Grove Middle School period intervention program. BGMS Principal Shane Topolinski explained that the 5th period intervention program is structured to aid and improve student outcomes in both reading and mathematics.

"We have some overall support as well as some targeted intervention classes," Topolinski said, "where the goal is to 'help [students] improve in both the reading and or mathematics as well as other skills like confidence." This program came about due to Baechtel Grove's last year's English Language Arts data being 81.2 points and their math being 125.3 points below standard.

In addition, he highlighted the growth: ELA had a 19-point growth, and math has increased by 15.6 points. Baechtel Grove is hoping to see growth, improve grade level proficiency, and have more students performing at

or above their grade levels – improvement the program is already starting to show after being in place only a couple months, as was echoed by two middle school teachers.

Next school board trustees shared their comments. Beginning with April Lamprich, who shared gratitude to all the administrators for meeting with her and answering her questions. She also reports that Sober Grad fundraising is going well, and that putting on the annual Drive-Thru Tri-Tip dinner has kept her extremely busy since the last meeting. Trustee Paula Nunez congratulated WUSD athletes who have been recognized, and also highlighted students who have yet to be recognized for their athletic achievements in the district. She also thanked Principal Topolinski for continuing to keep educational intervention programs at Baechtel Grove Middle School saying, "I, more than you can imagine, really really do appreciate that you have done so much hard work." Board Trustee Nunez also shared that she received multiple shoutouts from the community based on the wrestling program, their achievements, resilience, and hard work.

Board President Jeanne King said she had been heavily onsite this past month, observing and supporting the WUSD staff's and students' hard work. President King also shared: "The district is now slightly above the 3% minimum reserve. I would like to see the district move forward to develop a fiscal recovery plan." She added: "I also want to thank the district administrators [for sharing informational items at the meeting]."

After President King, Willits vice president of the California School Employees Association, Justin Walker, spoke on WUSD layoffs. "We'd like to take a moment to recognize the staff members that are no longer going to be with us." Walker then read each name of the individuals who have resigned and the individuals who are being laid off. He also mentioned CSEA appreciation week in May stating, "I hope the district would engage in recognizing the contributions of our CSEA staff."

Superintendent John Baker then thanked teachers for preparing students for state testing. Baker also detailed the happenings of the next month with prom, middle school dances, open houses, Willits High School barbeque, and more that he is excited for as the school year finishes on positive notes.

In closing, Baker stated: "I want to thank everyone for all the hard work you're doing," and continued: "summer is just around the corner. Hopefully you're also going to be looking at spending some relaxing time, because you know you're working hard the whole year and thank you so much."

Following these comments, the board heard comments from the public and voted on agenda items. The entirety of the meeting can be found on WUSD's YouTube channel. Visit www.youtube.com/@willitsunifiedschoolidistrict5651 and scroll down for "Willits Unified Board Meeting 04/16/2606".

LEGAL NOTICES

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

WW607 Fictitious Business Name Statement 2026-F0160
The following person or persons are doing business as Adam Trattoria, 42 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490; 707-972-9500.
Registered owner: Adam Calaya, 2677 Primrose Dr., Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on April 27, 2026.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on April 27, 2026.
/s/ Adam Calaya
Publication Dates: April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

The rest of Permits | From page 1

Property owners conducting hazard-reduction burning are responsible for checking the burn day status. Burn day status is regulated by Mendocino County Air Quality Management District.

Burn Day Information Line: 707-463-4391
Mendocino County Air Quality Management District: 707-463-4354

Hazard Reduction Guidelines are listed on the permit



CAL FIRE Burn Permit MEU LinkTree Mendocino Co. AQMD

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Have something to say? Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor about local issues. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com
REMEMBER: Deadline is end of day Monday for each week's Thursday edition.

Word search grid with words like BUY, ENE, LIMO, USER, GONER, ANIMALS, JEANS, WHAM, ELEG, BLUR, BLANC, ERA, TAA, PICOT, TBA, KWA, BENT, AAR, LAD, TAME, THEA, CE, O, STAPLETON, OCHRE, HUGS, OMIT, BEE, SSR.

Number grid with numbers 1-9 in a 9x9 layout.



Charles Foltz

May 27, 1939 – April 12, 2026

Charles Duane Foltz was born on May 27, 1939, in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and passed away at home in Willits, California, on April 12, 2026. Though he enjoyed the solitude of his house in the forest, he always felt an unmistakable pull towards people. To his brothers and sisters, he was Duane; to many others, Charlie. In both names lived the same openness of spirit.

Charles grew up in Laytonville and graduated from Laytonville High School in 1957. Soon after, he joined the United States Air Force. Following basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, he was stationed at Hahn Air Base in western Germany. There, he gathered experiences that he would carry with him for the rest of his life, ones vividly remembered and lovingly retold. He spoke of postwar communities, of his work in the Department of Finance & Accounting and at the base theater, of a romance with a festival queen, and his time as an extra in the German film, "Schwarzer Kies."

His storytelling felt immersive and magnetic. Most were true, some gently embellished, but all were delivered with such conviction that fact and invention often merged into one reality.

Returning to the U.S. in 1961, he set down roots in San Mateo before returning to Laytonville, then Willits, where he spent decades working for Mendocino County as a road foreman. Roads suited him. They were practical, necessary, and above all, connective. He took pride in them. Even in retirement, he kept a watchful eye over road crews, as though their work still fell under his supervision.

Among the many projects he oversaw, Branscomb Road held particular significance, as it was tied to his childhood in the Branscomb area. He often recalled early years hunting in the woods, fishing in the streams, and the modest, sometimes difficult beginnings that shaped his character.

What defined him, above all, was the way he lived among others: with generosity, humor, and just a pinch of stubborn rebellion. "Make a friend every day," he would say, and we believed it possible, because he did. Charles carried a deep sense of responsibility for friends and family. He helped build many homes, stood beside others in their hardest hours, and took on the solemn duty of executing several wills and final wishes. He made himself useful in the truest sense, guided by his own experiences navigating loss and hardship.

Within the community, he acted with the same sense of altruism. He gifted Christmas cookies to the drive-through workers who knew his daily order, cut wood and plowed driveways for neighbors on snow days, and handed out full-size Hershey bars on Halloween. Many gestures were small enough to overlook, yet too sincere to forget. He remained busy, curious, and ever engaged with our changing world, often seeming much younger than he was.

And always, there were his children. Here, his voice softened. He loved and protected them with a steadiness expressed through action. He drove them to practices, never missed a game, and actively encouraged education, creativity, and confidence. As an older parent, he obsessed about preparing them for the future. He was proud, but more than that, he was present. It is no surprise that many others, too, found in him something of a father figure.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Sally; his brother, Dick; and his sister, Milly. He is survived by his former second wife Leslee and their two children, Charlie and Elizabeth. He is also survived by his sister Joanne and her husband, Tim. He will be remembered by a wide circle of extended family, and by those who, through affection rather than blood, came to belong to him.

Among them are Joanne and Tim's children, Dan (wife, Lorraine) and Sandy (husband, John), and Sandy's children, Sarah and Leah (husband, Kurt), and their families; his nephew Rick (wife, Kafey; son Austin); niece Kary (children Kayla and Michael), and their families; nieces Debbie and Carla; nephew Colby and niece Sarah. He also held a special place in the lives of his godchildren, Lindsay and Travis, and was cherished by members of the Hurt family, including Rodney and Bobby.

A memorial service will be held at the Laytonville Lions Club at 1 pm on Sunday, May 3. All are welcome to join. And if one were to ask what remains, after everything, it is this: He did not pass through life unnoticed. He met it directly, spoke to it, laughed with it, and, above all, shared it. He was dearly loved, and he will be forever missed.

OBITUARY |

Lila Lauderdale

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother and friend, Lila C. Lauderdale, who left this world peacefully on April 22, 2026, at the age of 94. Lila was born on April 4, 1932, in Nicaragua to her cherished parents, Moises and Adela LeFranc.

Lila's journey led her to marry the love of her life, Richard Lauderdale, in December 1952. Together they built a life filled with love and laughter, raising their family amid the bustling streets of South San Francisco. Their commitment to each other was evident not only in their many years there, but also in the retirement home they lovingly built in Willits, California, where they enjoyed their golden years together from 1986 onward.

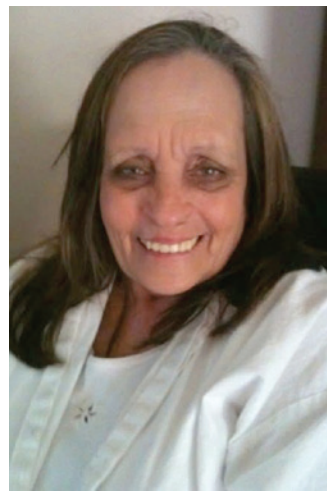
Lila was predeceased by her devoted husband, Richard (Dick); her beloved son Rick Lauderdale; her caring parents Moises and Adela LeFranc; and her dear sisters, Adela DeFletes and Vilma Pigg. Despite profound losses, she remained the heart of her family, and nurturing those around her with her unwavering spirit.

Lila is survived by her sons, Jim Lauderdale, Tom (Deb) Lauderdale and Terry (Tamme) Lauderdale. And her granddaughters, Chantel (Robert) Schlager and Megan (Ryan) Moore, who were her pride and joy, and she treasured the times spent with them.

Lila enjoyed gardening, watching and feeding the local wildlife, and finding solace and beauty in the simplicity of nature. Her sewing skills were unparalleled. Above all, Lila cherished the moments spent with her family and friends, always opening her home and heart to those she loved.

A Viewing at 10 am and Rosary at 10:45 am to honor Lila's life will be held on May 4, 2026, at the Anker-Lucier Mortuary, located at 95 West Commercial Street in Willits, followed by a Graveside Ceremony at Little Lake Cemetery, located at 875 East Hill Road in Willits.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Adventist Health Homecare & Hospice for their compassionate care and support during Lila's final days. Lila C. Lauderdale's legacy ... family, love and kindness that will forever remain in the hearts of all who knew her.



OBITUARY |

Margaret Flanagan-Venable

Margaret Clair Flanagan-Venable, lovingly known as "Mickey," was born on September 4, 1949, in Bakersville, California. She passed away peacefully on April 12, 2026, at Enloe Medical Center in Chico, California, surrounded by her family.

Mickey earned her nickname at a young age, as she never cared for the name Margaret. At a young age, she and her twin brother, David, moved to Willits – a place she would always consider home. Though life took her

many places over the years, she consistently returned to Willits, where her roots and heart remained.

She was raised in a large family alongside her nine brothers and three sisters, an upbringing that shaped her deep love for family. Mickey cherished time spent with loved ones, whether playing cards, board games, dominos, or simply enjoying the company of those around her. She had a playful spirit, a major dislike for the color green and thunder, and a special fondness for Thanksgiving – her favorite holiday – because it brought everyone together without the stress of gifts, just good food, laughter, and connection.

Throughout her life, Mickey was a dedicated and hardworking woman. She held positions at a senior hospital in Napa, Northbrook Convalescent Hospital, Willits Casino, and worked as an IHSS caregiver. In her later years, she continued to serve others while working at a senior living community in Willits.

Mickey is survived by her beloved son, Shawn (Nancy), and daughter, Kelleigh (Greg); her fiancé, Randy; and her cherished bonus children, Lynda, Annette, Kayla, and Cody. She also leaves behind her brothers David, Roger, and Danny; her sisters Bonnie and Linda; 20 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews who will miss her dearly.

She was preceded in death by both sets of parents; her grandchildren, Merrick and Kaysha; her brothers Carl, Bill, Loren, Micheal, Johnny, and Gary; and her sister Tancy.

Mickey will be remembered for her love of family, her warmth, her resilience, and the joy she found in life's simplest moments. Her presence will be deeply missed and forever cherished by all who knew and loved her.

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The rest of Q&A | From page 6

and aren't necessary. And that the valuable money that's coming in from our constituents and our residents is going to the right place and being spent in the right way. Thank you.

Buffey Wright Bourassa: I can understand that that question seems to be valid, but at the same time working in the county, I have a real intimate knowledge that our department heads are following their budget. Some of the things that people may not be accounting for is things like wildfires, right? floods, COVID – these things change the dynamics in budgets really quick. Or if we unfortunately have high crime rates in certain areas of our county, you know, when murders happen, those things cost a lot of money. and so that inflates our budget extremely. I know that that's been a hot topic. We've been talking about it. We think that, you know, maybe our county departments and our board of supervisors aren't following those budgets. They worked really hard in the last couple years to really stop spending as much money and bring it down like 6%. And when we say the board of supervisors went over by 16%. I mean, we need to get honest about this. That's five people. They're not going on all the trainings that we need them to go on. They're not going out and meeting the state leaders and the federal leaders to ask for more money to make sure that the dollars that we deserve are coming into this county. Those are the things that we need. So we need to re-look at what we're talking about when we say budget deficit, and look at are we bringing in money, and then look at how we're spending that money. As far as that money, I don't think it's being nefarious. There's nothing nefarious going on. And I know that's me going out on a limb and maybe asking you to believe in something that you may not. It may have not been a popular thing, but being a county employee, as a program manager for the last few years working in in those programs, I understand what our budgets are doing and what our leaders are doing. Thank you.

Clay Romero: Concerning budgets and accounting, I've often heard people say that, "oh, we have a balanced budget, and we're staying inside of it." And although that sounds nice, what I really want to know is how much did you spend and what did you spend it on? And this is really at the crux of the matter. I happened to print out a piece of the budget here that I was looking at, and I don't quite understand what's going on here, but I believe this is the sheet that went along with what's paid to the board of supervisors. And it says here that they're budgeting \$93,900 for looks like county health insurance. In 2022 it was \$52,000. Why is this? Is it just because it's an insurance company, it's OK to spend the public's money on this? Can we do something different here? Now for me, I happen to be familiar with health insurance funding systems. I designed a healthcare funding system for the United States. I understand it well.

And if I'm elected, I would really like to see if we can do something here locally that would save people at least a third on their health insurance. It's very expensive. I also noticed that what was formerly a special department expense of \$14,000 in 2022 is now \$40,000. I don't know what that's about. Maybe I should do a little bit more looking into it. But I just printed this out earlier today, and you can pretty much count on me to watch money and to see where it's going to go because it's not my money, it's yours. Thank you.

QUESTION: What strategies would you use to support housing development while preserving open space for agriculture?
Buffey Wright Bourassa: That's a great question and you know in all honesty I haven't thought about that because you're

talking about agriculture and open space, and we got a lot of that in the county. But one thing that I do know is that out in my conversations with folks, there are folks that are willing to give up some of their property for housing issues. I was actually at the Food Security Town Hall just a week ago, and there were some folks that came that had 30 acres that they wanted to donate for agriculture and housing, which is a nice little switch.

The other thing that I've been going to is the Willits Shelter Action Group, and they're looking at building tiny homes for our unhoused, and they're looking for property. So really my focus would be looking for the folks in the community who are able to give that property who want to work with these other organizations and bringing them together and helping facilitate that.

The rest of Burn | From page 1

be conducted under strictly controlled weather and fuel conditions. Smoke and aircraft may be visible in the area.

This project adds to significant work underway throughout the state and brings California one step closer towards meeting state fuels reduction goals directed by the California Fire Plan and the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. To track the progress being made, both in your community and throughout California, visit the CAL FIRE fuels reduction dashboard at www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/fuels-reduction

For more information about how you and your family can prepare for wildfire visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org

The other thing that I've heard, just here in Willits, I haven't had time to really research it, is that our high school actually rezoned some of their property for housing. And if we did something like take the CTE program for construction and turn that into our young people building homes on that property, we would be able to offer some affordable housing for our teachers and maybe some other people that are working in our community. Those are some of the ideas. I would love to do more investigation and research on that, and if you have any suggestions, please see me afterwards. Thank you.

Clay Romero: This is an interesting question. I know that there's actually a requirement for building more housing. It was handed down, I think, by the state legislature for doing this very thing. This is a little difficult because ordinarily housing is something that is paid for by people that want the housing. But the state government is mandating that this be put into place, when there's not necessarily any private buyers for it. So I'm not quite sure how this is going to work.

Now, maybe I've missed something there, but I've read over this very very heavily. Now, to make affordable housing, it pretty much comes down to making houses that are just simply smaller. And when you're talking about balancing it between agriculture and where people live, well, it's very unlikely you're going to have some agricultural product being grown on the same piece of ground that the house is sitting on. And I get that, and I understand it very well. I think the best that the county could do is to be very very favorable to anybody that wants to build a house, instead of maybe the regulations or the fees that are required to do this. Maybe they can be moderated somewhat. so as people can reasonably get this house and then once they get building, they need to be let alone so as they can proceed. They have to get this done because time well time is money and you can't just be dragging out people for too long. Thank you.

Russell Green: So for me the affordable housing issue comes back to an efficiency of government issue and the fact that it is really really difficult to even pull a permit to build houses here, even if the activity could happen anyways. Often times I find that Planning and Building actively obstructs you. I don't know how many of you have actually tried to pull a permit to build a house, but it's over and over finding one little box to check and another little box to check and effectively making your project unfeasible. One of the tools that we have is the accessory dwelling unit, and a lot of these parcels up here already qualify for one or possibly two accessory dwelling units, which would help our housing issue greatly and with more stock of housing the housing would get more affordable. But a lot of that comes back to again running our government efficiently so that so that when people have a project that they can actually do it. Another one is, you know, tiny home villages or some expanded Class K, something like that would just make it easier. We need to get out of the way of people who want to do economic activity

so that they can actually do it. We should be rolling out the red carpet, not the red tape. I don't support necessarily reducing minimum parcel sizes, but I would support something like annexing more parcels into the City of Willits or having denser housing near the city centers.

The rest of Redwoods | From page 2

"This transfer represents the culmination of years of fundraising, stewardship and partnership with State Parks," added Mietz. "It is a gift from Save the Redwoods League's generous supporters to the current and future generations of Californians."

About Save the Redwoods League's Montgomery Woods Initiative

The Montgomery Woods Initiative is a multi-year effort by Save the Redwoods League to expand the protection of lands surrounding Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve and improve the park experience for visitors. Key milestones include the purchase of Atkins Place (2022), a conservation easement on the 3,862-acre Weger Ranch (2023), the transfer of the 80-acre Rocky Ridge property to California State Parks (2024), and the acquisition

of the 390-acre Dark Gulch property (2024). Together, these protections contribute to a growing greenbelt of conserved lands in the upper Big River watershed.

Recreational improvements funded by Save the Redwoods include the creation of a gathering area in the Reserve's old-growth grove, providing an immersive experience to visitors while also better protecting the grove's root system and floodplain. Other improvements include the expansion of the parking lot and an update to interpretive and directional signage. Save the Redwoods

and State Parks continue to engage local Indigenous communities and historically underrepresented communities in project development. To learn more, visit www.savetheredwoods.org/project/montgomery-woods-initiative

QUESTION: Would you consider eliminating the CEO position for our county and would you consider substitution of an income tax rather than a sales tax?

Eric Hart: Count on Mendocino to come up with some interesting questions and ideas. The first one is actually something I have considered before. When I was on the civil grand jury, one of the things we looked into was the structure of the CEO versus CAO for Mendocino. It brings up a lot of questions. The financial tradeoff for eliminating the CEO would mean either we go to a CAO or we go to no executive, which means the board runs the county directly. I don't know if you've ever had more than one boss. That doesn't work very well. The CEO is kind of the half-in-between option. That person is administering but not making any executive decisions. That means that there's a whole lot more pressure on the board of supervisors, more work that they need to do, which means they're going to need staff. So, there's an economic impact to that. All those need to be considered. It's hard to tell at this point which is the best because the two people that we've had in that CEO position have been interesting and not – how do I say this? – not quite the person I would have selected to put in there. So, it's hard to say whether that CEO is working for our county. As for the income tax versus sales tax, that's actually something I have not looked into and I don't like making comments or decisions on something that I haven't done my research on. If the question was would I consider it? Yeah, I'll consider anything. I'll research it. I'll talk to the folks who know about this better than I do and understand what the implications are and then we'll talk about it with the rest of the board of supervisors and make a decision. But I think that's unfortunately whoever asked that question that's as much as I can give you at this point.

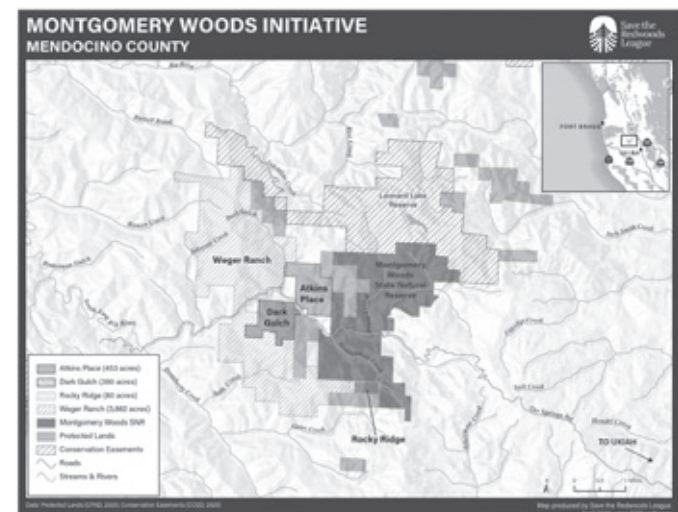
Buffey Wright Bourassa: So I mean

there are differences and there aren't differences. It really depends on the job classification and how the county lays it out. So, if they decide to have a CEO or a CAO, right, they could give it the same job classification title or they could make one lesser than the other, like Eric was talking about. Whether or not we should change that process, we would have to come up with a strategy, because then you would be requiring not just one supervisor but all five supervisors to take on other duties, where each of these supervisors, I don't know if you know this or not, they work on their own they don't have staff, and CEO answers to the board of supervisors. I think what's gotten a little imbalanced, if I may say, is that it seems that the CEO has a little more power over our board of supervisors. So, that's something that actually needs to be addressed right away. As far as the income tax and the sales tax, what are we talking about? What are we taxing? I mean, I have questions right away, right out the gate. Are we talking about business owners and we want you to have an income tax on versus a sales tax on the goods that you're selling? So, I would just have more questions, and I wouldn't be able to give you an educated even guess about that question. So, my apologies and if you want to talk about it later, we can. Thanks.

Clay Romero: I'm not real big on having a chief executive officer. And this is primarily because this is a person that's unelected who has a very significant amount of power – even more than the board itself in some ways. That is just not tenable in my mind. Now, I think a CAO is probably a better way to go, but it's something I have to look at to see what the division of duties are. When people elect their supervisors, this is a person that must be accountable and not somebody like a CEO. The other thing you mentioned is about the difference between a sales tax and an income tax. I would have to look at that more and something I would consider, but the general guiding thought that I have on this is that I've never ever known any government to tax itself into prosperity. I think we're already carrying a fairly significant tax load as it is, and so I would probably not be in favor of it. Thank you.

Russell Green: In regard to whether I would consider to dissolve the CEO position, well, that would depend a lot on how good the CEO was and if I liked them and if they were doing what I was expecting them to do as a good CEO. If I didn't like them, I'd be interested in getting rid of the position. But I question if the answer there wouldn't be to just simply fire the CEO. However, running everything with the board itself that takes five people to agree on something seems like a nightmare, especially when the problems are small or controversial. I'm not sure that requiring a majority on a five-person board would be the best way to solve many problems.

I've also seen many cases of where the board with good intentions votes for something and then it later gets twisted around by staff from its original design. The cannabis ordinance was a huge example of that. It looks good generally, but then when it gets down to staff, the way it actually gets applied is far different from its original design. And I don't know if dissolving a CEO would help that or not, but that's one thing in regards to governance and how successfully the board is actually in charge and can take action on problems, I see them get thwarted by their own staff a lot. In regards to taxes, I think we should get them as low as possible. I think taxation is theft. And I think if a government's going to tax us for our money, they should be very, very careful on how they're spending it. I wish we could get rid of or lower property taxes as well, but it's not allowed under state law, and we do need some way to run our local government. Property taxes are part of that. A promise to my campaign is to get the government out of our wallets. They vote to tax us every chance they get, and it needs to stop. We can't afford it. Thank you.





Above, from left: These paintings are careful copies of famous works by Winslow Homer, said art teacher Ann Maglente. "To be able to copy from a master, like Homer, requires a lot of skill and dedication. I am very proud of all of my students," she said. Top left, "Sloop Bermuda" by Kristin Schuman; "Driftwood" by Terri Reddin; and "Crab Fishing" by Julie Muzzy.

Below: Mendocino College students from Ann Maglente's watercolor class last semester. In back, from left: Ken, Emily, Lynn, Kay, Scott, Chris, Lynn, Josephine, Robert, and Lynne. In front, from left: teacher Ann Maglente, Jullie, Janet, Terri, Kary, Andrea, Warren, and Jeannie. Not pictured: Margaret, Lani, Ron, Stacey, Kris, Charla, and Gretchen.



College watercolor students' works inspired by Winslow Homer on display at North County Center

Submitted by Ann Maglente

The onsite watercolor class at Mendocino College, taught by Ann Maglente, spent last semester exploring the work of Winslow Homer, widely regarded as one of America's most celebrated watercolor artists. Known for his powerful storytelling and masterful technique, Homer often planned his travels – to places like Europe and the Bahamas – around the people and communities he wished to paint, capturing moments of everyday life with honesty and depth.

Inspired by his approach, students in the class studied Homer's techniques and artistic vision, then created their own watercolor paintings reflecting his style. Each piece tells a story, echoing Homer's

ability to bring human experience vividly to life through color and composition.

The students' work is now on display at the North County Center of Mendocino College in Willits, 372 East Commercial Street. The exhibit is currently open to the public and will remain on view throughout the summer.

Everyone is invited to enjoy these expressive watercolor paintings during open hours at the North County Center, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am to 5 pm. Winslow Homer's work celebrates creativity, storytelling, and the timeless beauty of nature and watercolor.

Waldorf School's Spring Soirée at Frey Tasting Room, May 8

Submitted by Waldorf School of Mendocino County

For decades, the Waldorf School of Mendocino County and the Frey family have worked together to champion independent education, biodynamic farming, and land stewardship. This spring, WSMC invites you to join our family and friends, old and new, at the newly opened Frey Vineyards Winery & Tasting Room in Redwood Valley for our fabulous Spring Soirée & Silent Auction, taking place Friday, May 8, from 5:30 to 8 pm.

Expect live music by Mama Grows Funk, tasty food, and award-winning organic wine, in gorgeous surroundings only Mendocino County can offer. The evening will include a silent auction showcasing unique pieces from local artists, and the Super Raffle Drawing.

The Waldorf School of Mendocino County is in its 54th year of providing education for

children from preschool through 8th grade. The Waldorf educational philosophy is grounded in the understanding that children learn best when their development is nurtured in ways that are appropriate to each stage of childhood.

Proceeds from the event directly support WSMC's mission to nurture curious, and capable children with a love of learning and appreciation for the natural world. Your presence at the Soirée helps ensure that this unique opportunity continues.

Frey Winery & Tasting Room is located at 11700 West Road in Redwood Valley. Tickets are \$10 to \$25 sliding scale and include food! More info and online tickets: www.mendocinowaldorf.org/event-details/spring-soiree-1



The rest of Social | From page 3

Mayor Tom Allman spoke briefly about the impact that the CCC was having on local businesses: "Let me just say this. I do a lot of auctions in our county for fundraisers," said Allman. "The CCC is always there, whether at the Boys and Girls Club or what. They are there helping. Honestly, there are organizations in this county that would not be as successful as they are without the volunteer community hours of the CCC. You make a difference. I appreciate everything the CCC has done to reach out to the Willits community. The money that you spend in Willits makes a difference. I know that sounds too capitalistic, but it makes a difference. We have small stores here that depend on us spending local dollars here. Thank you very much for shopping local."

When volunteering, the corps members are always on point, looking for ways to assist. As if to illustrate this aspect of their volunteerism, one of the attendees (not a corps member) dropped some change on the floor. Before she could bend down to retrieve the coins, a corps member was already there to pick them up for her with a smile.

The California Conservation Corps Mendocino Center in Willits was completed last year, with an official opening on

September 26, 2025. Since then, they have been involved in learning and engaging in various environmental projects and fire crews. For corps members who have not completed their high school diploma requirements, there is the on-campus John Muir Charter School to assist them in meeting their needs. Matthew Callahan is one of the teachers at the school.

"If corps members take the job and they don't have a diploma, then they have to come see me," explained Callahan. "I teach whatever they need. It's called a continuation school. If they need English, math, social studies, science, I help them to get whatever they need to get their diploma."

The corps members are supported in many aspects of their training and activities while at the campus. "I'm basically like the den mother for our corps members who live here," said Susie Dodge, a member of the residential support team. "We support them in their after-work-hours life. We have a number of different trainings. They have an independent study component that we oversee. They're doing a career-development training. We are here to support them in their journey, meeting their goals in a well-rounded life of adulthood."

Art Under Twenty celebrates 27 years of student creativity at the Willits Center for the Arts

Art Under Twenty returns for its 27th year, showcasing the creativity and talent of high school artists from Willits High School, Willits Charter School and Potter Valley High School. The exhibition will open on Friday, May 1, from 3 to 7 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts.

This annual exhibition highlights an impressive range of student work, including painting, drawing, ceramics, woodworking, papier-mâché, metal sculpture, and mixed media. The show offers a vibrant glimpse into the emerging voices and diverse perspectives of young artists in our community.

Opening night will feature live music by the Willits High School Jazz Band, along with refreshments for guests.

The Willits High School Art Department invites community members, families, and art enthusiasts to attend and support the next generation of artists.



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At top, left: Monica Chavez holds one of the Art Under 20 2026 posters. "I've enjoyed art since I could remember, and being able to share my work one last time as a senior is bittersweet, but it's a final celebration of my growth and a grateful goodbye to the community that shaped me. I am really grateful to all those who support me and my art!" At top, right: Bayleigh Maughs and Stella Arkelian show off their weaving project.



At far left, below: Mariah Levine with her coil pot. At left, below: Monica Chavez holds her art work that graces one of the 2026 Art Under 20 posters. "It feels good to have my art on the poster. Art is a good way for people to express themselves creatively and it's really relaxing. I like to sketch out my ideas first and then put them into action."

CITY OF WILLITS SWIMMING POOL

JUNE 8TH - AUGUST 14TH 2026 SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER)	6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER)	6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18 & OVER)
8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS	8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS	8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS
10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON	10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON	10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON
12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM	10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON	12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM
3:45PM-5:15PM OTTERS	12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM	3:45PM-5:15PM OTTERS
5:30PM-6:30PM SWIM LESSON	3:45PM-5:15PM OTTERS	5:30PM-6:30PM SWIM LESSON
6:30PM-7:30PM AQUA AEROBICS	5:30PM-6:30PM SWIM LESSON	6:30PM-7:30PM AQUA AEROBICS
	5:30PM-7:00PM LAP SWIM	

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAYS
6AM-12PM LAP SWIM (18&OVER)	6AM-12PM LAP SWIM	10AM-11AM LAP SWIM
8:30AM-9:45PM OTTERS	10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON	11AM-4PM PUBLIC SWIM
9AM-10AM AQUA AEROBICS	12PM - 3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM	
10AM-12PM SWIM LESSON	3:45PM-5:15PM OTTERS	
12PM-3:30PM PUBLIC SWIM	5:30PM-6:30PM SWIM LESSON	
3:45PM-5:15PM OTTERS	6:30PM-7:30PM AQUA AEROBICS	
5:30PM-6:30PM SWIM LESSON		
5:30PM-7:00PM LAP SWIM (18&OVER)		

ADMISSION PRICE

PUBLIC SWIM \$5
LAP SWIM \$5
LAP SWIM PASS (20 ENTRIES) \$80
AQUA AEROBICS \$7 (SENIOR \$6)
AQUA AEROBICS PASS (20 ENTRIES) \$125
SWIM LESSON \$50
(DISCOUNT OF \$5.00 PER SIBLING)
(UP TO 4 SWIMMERS)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (707) 459-5778

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Our community came together with so much love and kindness to support Marley and her family. We are beyond grateful.

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- ♥ DS Detailing
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- ♥ Scoops
- ♥ Candy Coated by Britt
- ♥ Wild Quail

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE MUNCHERY for donating their venue, staff and service as well as a portion of the proceeds from the sales during the event. Your generosity made a huge difference!

THANK YOU TO OUR PAINTERS! A special thank you to Asya Seward and Michelle Hutchins for leading the painting and sharing your time, talent and creativity!

THANK YOU TO E.Z. Balloons and more for donating the balloon décor!

THANK YOU TO Craft House Baking for donating delicious and elegant mini cupcakes!

THANK YOU TO M n B Bakes for the gorgeous and delicious handmade and decorated fox sugar cookies!

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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.

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; now open Sundays, 12 to 4 pm. Closed 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.

Art Session: Join other artists every Thursday and Friday from 1 to 3 pm in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss and work on your personal projects. For ages 18 and up.

Create it, Make it, Break it! 3:30 to 5 pm, 1st & 3rd Fridays: Join the S.T.E.M. club to explore creativity and reasoning through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Each meeting will present new ideas and challenges! For ages 9-14.

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

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