

Donations Accepted Edition No. 659

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Here is the second half of the YouTube transcript of the September 20, 2026 Willits Unified School District Board Candidates Forum, including the second half of questions from forum organizers and the audience, with answers from all four candidates running for three seats on the board of trustees: Nicole Karkar, Jeanne King, Mason Rescina, and Paula Nunez. This week's transcript also includes closing statements from the four candidates. Watch the candidates forum at the Willits Community Television YouTube page: www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgSaBqtoGpE&t=5695s

QUESTION: What is your assessment of the condition of Willits Unified School District facilities? Would you consider asking voters to approve another school construction bond? Why or why not?

Mason Rescina: We currently have a bond out for a bond measure passed in 2020, we're trying to sell it. I'm not knowledgeable enough in all those details to talk about it quite yet, but currently that bond, each taxpayer is paying 4

Read more of **Board**
Over on Page 9

**Submitted by the
Mendocino County
Elections Office**

Official ballots will be mailed to ALL active registered voters in Mendocino County by Monday, October 5, 2026, according to Katrina Bartolomie, Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder. Ballots will be available in the Elections Office on October 5, 2026, for the statewide General Election, to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. The Elections Office is located in Room 1020 of the County Administration Building, 501 Low Gap Road, in Ukiah.

The USPS normal delivery is five to seven days; if you have not received your ballot within 10 days (by October 15) from the date of mailing, please call our office at (707) 234-6819 for a replacement ballot. If you have moved since the last election, please re-register at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>

Sample ballots (local voter information booklets) were mailed by our vendor and should be arriving in your homes. If you do not receive your sample ballot please call our office so we can send you one. Local candidate

Read the rest of
Mailed
Over on Page 13



Above, from left: Head organizer of the event, and WELL team member, Laura Toomey Roland helped create corn husk dolls at one of the Harvest Celebration's crafting tables. An altar was set up in the middle of the room and displayed nuts, squash, plants, candles, ceramics, fruits and more. Claudia Wenning of Quantum Level Health speaks at the event. Below: Many of the event attendees gather together for a group photo at the Little Lake Grange.



Little Lake Grange and WELL host local-food awareness and celebration event with speakers, crafts, food and more

Local sustainability and appreciation for the season were the main focus at the second annual Harvest Celebration held last Sunday at the Little Lake Grange. The event was hosted by WELL and the Little Lake Grange and featured information on growing your own food, seed saving, crafts and demonstrations, speakers, and updates to the local food security movement.

Maureen Jennison
 Graphics & Photographress
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

The movement includes six action groups: Networking, community gardens, farm-to-school grants, land trust opportunities, health and wellness education, and local food distribution and food collection. Information on all the groups was available for those interested in learning more. The Food Security Mind Map is now permanently displayed on the wall of the Grange. Created by Brian Weller, the map digests the ideas from several town hall events down into a visual representation illustrating goals, challenges, ideas and opportunities for local food security.

Attendees also gathered to listen to presenters, including Prana, Brian Weller, Mike A'Dair, Buffey Bourassa, Michael Foley, Eric Hart, Claudia Wenning, Jennifer Ludtge, and Ashley Lueders.

"I enjoyed being part of the Harvest Celebration, connecting with neighbors, and sharing ideas about our community," said Bourassa. "Having participated in the earlier town hall meetings and the farm easements and grants group, I shared an update on agricultural conservation easements as an option for interested landowners to explore. Thank you to everyone who made it such a welcoming gathering!"

After the presentations, demonstrations began including corn husk doll making, and pumpkin painting, as well as wool processing, seed saving and processing, and acorn processing.

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



Above, from left: How to card and spin wool was one of the several demonstrations happening at the event. Brian Weller, a member of WELL and Brooktrails Garden group, is also the designer of the Food Security Mind Map. Fruit and veggies were available to take home – while they lasted! Below, from left: Mike Adams, local farmer, member of the Grange, super volunteer, and cider maker, took locally sourced apples and fed them into the grinder before taking the pulp and juicing it in the centrifuge machine. Third District supervisor candidates, Buffey Bourassa and Eric Hart, both spoke at the Harvest Celebration. Corn husk dolls were created out of carefully folding and tying husks with string. At bottom, left: The Grateful Gleaners brought fruit to share and information about their group to the event. Attendees enjoyed looking at the informational and demonstration tables including acorn pressing.



Here is part 2 of the transcript of the September 20, 2026 Third District Supervisors Candidates Forum, including the second set of questions and answers from candidates Buffey Bourassa and Eric Hart. Sponsors of the non-partisan Forum were Little Lake Grange, League of Women Voters of Mendocino County, Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, and Willits Economic Localization. Forum moderator was Denise Jessie, librarian Willits Branch Library. You can watch the forum on Willits Community Television's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@WillitsCommunityTV

QUESTION: A recent Mendocino Voice article raised questions about private funding of county law enforcement activities. What oversight should the board of supervisors have when private organizations fund or support county enforcement?

Buffey Bourassa: Public safety requires both an immediate response when people are in danger, and

Read the rest of
Supervisor
Over on Page 10

**Submitted by the
Mendocino County
Elections Office**

October 5 – Registered voters should receive their official ballot in the mail in the next several days, if it has not already arrived. Have you thought about how you will return your voted ballot to the Elections Office? Voters have several options for returning their ballot, including:

- Returning your voted ballot, in person, to our office in Ukiah, located at 501 Low Gap Road (we love to see people come in and bring us their voted ballots).

- Mailing your voted ballot via USPS.

- Depositing your voted ballot into one of our Official Ballot Drop Boxes (see chart for locations, which are also listed on an insert provided with your ballot).

- Taking your voted ballot to a Polling Location on Election Day (locations listed on the insert provided with your ballot).

The safest, most secure and least expensive (no postage required) way to return your voted ballot is to return it via one of our Official Ballot Drop Off Boxes (see chart). Many are available 24/7. The

Read the rest of
Return
Over on Page 13

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Feel empowered by your right to vote

To the Editor:

Over the course of the years, the U.S. has become a lazy democracy; “we the people” have become complacent. A complacent population is one described as self-satisfied and accompanied by an unawareness of actual dangers or possible deficiencies. Additionally, at least the middle class have felt entitled to a good life.

But skyrocketing costs are currently strangling any sense of self-satisfaction. The good life doesn’t feel so certain for an increasing number of people. In this situation, the only power we have is in our voices, singly or collectively through the vote or on the streets. The right to vote must never be taken for granted. Prepare yourself before this next important election on November 3, less than a month away. Study the candidates and the propositions. Learn more at group discussions. Feel good and empowered by your right to vote.

Two more local in-person discussions on the ballot measures in California – sponsored by WELL and WEC – are available as follows:

Sunday, October 11 at 2 pm at the Hub (two doors south of Mariposa Market) and Monday, October 12 at 5:30 pm, also at the Hub

Hope to see you there.

Karen Gridley, Willits

No on Proposition 44: Read the fine print

To the Editor:

In November, voters will decide Proposition 44. The ballot measure sounds reasonable in a sound bite, but it isn’t. If it passes, we could lose community health centers throughout the county – something none of us can afford.

Why Prop 44 is dangerous

As a clinician and healthcare administrator, I can tell you this measure is misguided. It allocates resources without regard for how care actually gets delivered, and the penalties for noncompliance are steep enough to shut health centers down rather than bring them into line. Since this is a statewide initiative, it would affect health centers throughout California, but rural areas like Lake and Mendocino counties would feel the biggest impact due to lack of other resources. Closing centers across Mendocino and Lake counties (and across California) wouldn’t just be devastating for healthcare access. It would also cost the local economy hundreds of jobs (thousands statewide).

Prop 44 is offered under the guise of accountability, which is almost laughable given the depth and breadth of regulations health centers comply with to assure safety, quality, and adherence to strict federal healthcare standards. We do not lack oversight; we are not mispending money. This measure attempts to solve a problem that doesn’t exist, while putting

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 Weekly

A Strategic & Media Brand of Community and Life in Willits

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

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Correction

In the October 1 edition, YouTube’s transcript of candidate Jeanne King’s first answer at the Willits Unified School District board candidates forum was in error about COVID monies, and Willits Weekly’s efforts to clarify made things worse. Willits Weekly regrets the error. Under the first question, “What do you think is the school district’s biggest problem?,” Jeanne King’s answer should have read:

Jeanne King: The biggest problem currently facing the Willits Unified School District is our finances. So, four years ago, a board majority voted in favor of a raise for staff that the school district said it could not afford. But the board majority, which I was not part of, disregarded that advice and voted for a substantial raise. And it took a while for it to have a full impact because of the COVID monies that were coming into the district, but those COVID monies had to be spent by a certain time. When I came onto the board there was a 13% prudent reserve which is what the California School Boards Association recommends, but we are now below 3% which is what the district knew was going to happen with the large raise it gave to staff. So we need to be more prudent how we spend our money.

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR’S UPDATE

September 2026

By Supervisor John Haschak

The County declared a State of Emergency for the expected “Super El Nino” event. We must be prepared for flooding. The State of Emergency allows for expedited purchasing, advanced positioning of emergency supplies, and alignment with the State for additional aid. In order to prepare, we can all have a 14-day supply of life-sustaining medications, have battery-operated flashlights and radios, and establish a check-in buddy system. These are especially important for older adults.

Through the persistence of neighbors living on the west side of 10 Mile Creek north of Laytonville, they finally don’t have to wet cross the creek in the summer or park and walk on a pedestrian bridge during the winter. Determined neighbors had me visit over eight years ago when it was a dream, pursued grants for many years until the bridge was finally built. It will keep cars out of the creek, maintain water quality for the Chinook and Coho salmon and steelhead, and provide a safer crossing year-round.

Replacing the collapsed Green Bridge in Covelo won’t take as long. The Department of Transportation is scheduled to rebuild the bridge next year as planned.

With campaign season here, there are many opportunities to get to know the candidates at all levels, who they are, and why they are running for office. Mike McGuire has often been in Ukiah and our district as he runs for Congress. Damon Connolly who is running for the McGuire’s State Senate seat, is holding a Town Hall in Covelo on October 9 at 11 am. Our Assemblymember Chris Rogers said that he will attend the next Nuestra Alianza/Rotary fundraiser in Willits and has hosted Town Halls in Willits, Laytonville, and Covelo. I appreciate that candidates for huge geographical areas are showing up in our communities and continue to represent us well.

As I write this, there is still fire danger. The rains have yet to fall, and temperatures are still high. Remember that the Redwood Complex Fire started in October. Praying for rain but until then, please be careful.

The next Talk with the Supervisor will be on Thursday, October 8, from 10 to 11 am at Brickhouse Coffee. You can always contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-972-4214.

Volunteer cashiers sought for Fall Book Sale

The Friends of the Willits Library, aka FOWL, are planning the big Fall Sale that will take place October 15 to October 18 at the Willits Library, from Members Night on Thursday, October 15 to “\$3 a bag” day on Sunday, October 18. Everyone is very excited about raising money for Library books and periodicals, while providing great deals on good quality books for the community. Volunteers are still needed as cashiers, so if you can help out, please sign up for a two-hour shift at the Willits Library front desk, 390 East Commercial Street.

– Friends of the Willits Library

City of Willits solicits application for cannabis dispensary

Submitted by City of Willits

October 6 – The City of Willits invites interested parties to submit an application to establish a Cannabis Dispensary within the city limits of Willits. The City currently has one (1) available Cannabis Dispensary Permit. Pursuant to Willits City Code Section 17.85.110(A)(3), no more than three (3) Cannabis Dispensaries shall be permitted to obtain a Dispensary Permit and operate within the City at any given time. The City intends to award up to one (1) Cannabis Dispensary Permit to an eligible applicant through the City’s dispensary selection process.

Applications for a license to operate a Cannabis Dispensary in Willits will be made available on Monday, October 12, 2026. Applications and additional information are available at the Community Development Department or on the City website at <https://www.cityofwillits.org/240/Cannabis-Activity-Program>.

Deadline for receipt of applications is 3 pm, Pacific Time, October 29, 2026.

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. To-go lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, in front of the main desk, 1501 Baechtel Road. Due to increasing food costs, dine-in and to-go meals are now \$9.

Thursday, October 8: Mediterranean Chicken Sandwich

Friday, October 9: Shephard’s Pie

Sunday, October 11: Pancake Breakfast

Monday, October 12: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans

Tuesday, October 13: Mini Pepperoni Pizza, Green Salad

Wednesday, October 14: Spicy Peach-Glazed Chicken over Rice

Thursday, October 15: Chicken Pesto Pasta

Friday, October 16: Meat Loaf w/Sides



‘Uncorked and Uncharted’

Friends of the Mendocino County Museum host fundraising luncheon for the county institution

Established in 2020, the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum have made it their goal to support and help fund the Mendocino County Museum at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits. The volunteers, including founder and board chair Brent Walker, help with the preservation of historic artifacts, the creation of new exhibits, educational programs, and more. They run the front desk and the museum gift shop and recruit volunteers to help keep the museum open and thriving. In order to help fund the museum, they hold events. Last Sunday, the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum held their second annual lunch at the coach house at Ridgewood Ranch, called “Uncorked and Uncharted,” and inviting all interested in helping to keep this institution going.

Each year, the Friends select a funding need and raise money to bring certain attractions to the museum or find a project that enhances the historical preservation of relics of the county’s colorful past. “One of the things we’re raising money for [again] this year is to help move the Mark Walker sculptures from Highway 101 to a safer location that’s more accessible, where they can be cared for and more visible.... Last year, one of things we were raising money for was to document the courthouse murals from the old courthouse, so we can have documentation that that was done and, hopefully, they are going to be reproducing them at the new courthouse,” explained board member Neeka Aguirre, who also served as the master of ceremonies for the event, introducing the various aspects of the fundraising afternoon.

Another funding target of the Friends is new lighting systems at the museum, specifically motion-activated lights in the Long Gallery and lights for the Engine House, so people can better enjoy the area. The money is also for the development of Indigenous and guest curation programs, as well as community education programs.

One of the attractions of the luncheon is the reading of tidbits of the colorful history of the county. For the second year, three actors from the Willits Community Theatre brought the history to life. “We have the same great actors as last year, Kathy [Vellis], Arris [Vellis], and Kevin [Moore],” said Karen Mattson, museum administrator. “They are going to do stories from our volunteer Carol Cox’s research of, basically, newspapers. She is always helping doing research for almost everything that we do.” This year, Mattson explained, they were particularly looking for stories about the Redwood Highway to complement the “Road Trip” exhibit the museum has hosted over the summer.

During a tasty buffet-style lunch with

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

Library Fall Book Sale

October 15th - 18th

at the **Willits Branch Library Conference Room**

Thur Oct 15th 5 pm to 7 pm FOWL members only

Fri Oct 16th 10 am to 5pm
Sat Oct 17th 10 am to 5 pm
Sun Oct 18th 10 am to 3 pm

Sunday all books only \$3 a bag!

Willits Library
390 Commercial Street, Willits

Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library



Above, from left: Mendocino County Museum administrator Karen Mattson thanks the luncheon guests for attending and donating generously. Kevin Moore recited the story of an elephant, Big Diamond, who died during the construction of the Redwood Highway. Longtime friends Jolene Carrillo and Jill Persico enjoyed the lunch and the trivia game at the Friends of the Museum fundraiser. Aris Vellis recounted tales of Mendocino County and the construction of the Redwood Highway. At left: The attendees lined up to receive turkey, polenta, vegetarian lasagna, fruit and broccoli salads, spanakopita, and quinoa salad. At right: Brian Bowles and his mother enjoyed attending the “Uncorked” luncheon together. Below, left: The lunch crew worked diligently to provide a great variety of buffet foods. Below, right: Steven Proctor, along with Susana Wilson, won the trivia contest by knowing almost all of the answers. At bottom, left: Kathy Vellis from Willits Community Theatre told some interesting Mendocino Redwood Highway tales. At bottom, right: Dessert consisted of creamy vanilla and chocolate cupcakes.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Mike McGuire
CONGRESS

FIGHTING FOR WORKING FAMILIES

When Donald Trump cut funding to fight wildfires, Senator Mike McGuire doubled the number of state firefighters and made our communities more wildfire safe. Mike never backs down from Trump.

McGuire: Hold ICE Accountable. Mike led the way in the State Senate to force ICE agents to take off their masks, allow Californians to take ICE agents to court, and ban ICE agents from schools and hospitals.

McGuire: Medicare for ALL. Mike is working day and night to guarantee health coverage and mental health care for everyone. When Trump defunded Planned Parenthood, Mike kept all 100 of their California health centers open.

McGuire: Make Billionaires Pay Their Fair Share. From Day One in Congress, Mike will fight to fix Trump’s rigged economy and repeal MAGA Republicans’ \$2.2 trillion in tax cuts for billionaires.

Mike McGuire for Congress
Vote October 6 to November 3

PAID FOR BY MENDOCINO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
FEC# C00404145 FPPC# 82268 P.O. Box 28, Ukiah, CA 95482

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church

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

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

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

Church of Christ

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

- A University for Soul
- Spiritual Living Courses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

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

St. Francis Episcopal Church

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

St. John Lutheran Church

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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

Willits United Methodist Church

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

If you want to be included in
this column please call:

April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Thursday, October 8

Book Club at the Library: Come be a part of a welcoming community centered around the love of reading every 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 to 4:30 pm, Thursday, October 8 this month, at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Open to readers 18 and over with a passion for good books.

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Fall Market outdoors at City Park on Commercial Street, Thursday, October 8, 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. Fall abundance is the theme now at market, set for outdoors through the end of October. Market honors EBT and WIC cards and has extra benefits for qualifying seniors and WIC card holders. And we can help out the cash-strapped with Market Bucks for a swipe of your credit or debit card.. Thank you for shopping local and supporting our local farms and small businesses – we appreciate you!

Friday, October 9

WHS Homecoming Game: Willits High School Wolverines play the 2026 Homecoming football game against the Upper Lake Cougars on Friday, October 9. JV starts at 5 pm; varsity game starts at 7 pm. WHS, 299 North Main Street.

"Mesopotamia" Art Talk at WCA: Willits Center for the Arts presents the next installment of its popular Art Talks lecture series, featuring art historian Gary Martin, M.A., on Friday, October 9, 2026, at 6:30 pm. The evening's presentation will explore the remarkable art, architecture, mythology, and culture of ancient Mesopotamia, the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which gave rise to some of the world's earliest cities, writing systems, monumental architecture, and organized societies. Free and open to the public at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. The program is designed for anyone with an interest in art, history, archaeology, and the civilizations that have shaped human culture.

Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: An original psychedelic family band happy to play music and extend Peace, Love, and Positivity. They invite you to come and let your creative juices flow (dance, art, crafts, circus acts, etc.) as they embark on a musical journey through the Universe. Friday, October 9 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, October 10

Ranch Rodeo at WFD Rodeo Grounds: Willits Frontier Days presents the 15th annual Mary Burgess Memorial Ranch Rodeo, Saturday, October 10, 423 East Commercial Street, start time 10 a.m. Come out to watch local cowgirls and cowboys compete on a three man team in ranch events. A full day of Western action, great food – enjoy the BBQ Rib Cookoff – and



family fun. Western / vintage vendors. Bulls, Broncs, and Breakaway to follow rodeo. Support Local, Community Strong, Western Tradition.

'Behind the Redwood Curtain: Cannabis in California' at the Museum: The new cannabis exhibit "Behind the Redwood Curtain" opens with a reception Saturday, October 10 from 5 to 7 pm at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street in Willits. Cannabis has been an integral, yet veiled, part of life in California, with complex stories and histories largely undocumented. In collaboration with the Cannabis Culture Museum, HappyDay Farms, and the greater Mendocino County community, the Mendocino County Museum and Exhibit Envoy have partnered to create a homegrown exhibit to empower audiences to reflect on and learn about the culture of cannabis in California, with a focus on the years between the 1970s to legalization in 2016. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum, and don't miss a performance by the Raging Granannies of Mendocino County at 6 pm.

Snag at Shanachie: A versatile guitar, bass, and drums trio delivering a high-energy blend of blues, classic rock, and psychedelic rock with a touch of reggae. With Morten Jensen on guitar & vocals, Jake Sutter on bass, and Ross O'Brien on drums. Saturday, October 10 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

More Ballot Info Parties: Confused about the 14 state Ballot Measures on the November 3 ballot? Find out who's in favor, who's against, who's funding them. Ask questions, exchange opinions.... All viewpoints welcome! Bring your ballot! (Ballots in California are set to go out October 5). Sponsored by WEL



Willits Frontier Days 15th Annual Mary Burgess Memorial Ranch Rodeo
Saturday, October 10, 2026
423 EAST COMMERCIAL ST.
START TIME 10 AM
All full days of western action, great food, and family fun! Come out to watch local cowgirls and cowboys compete on a three man team in ranch events. A full day of Western action, great food – enjoy the BBQ Rib Cookoff – and family fun. Western / vintage vendors. Bulls, Broncs, and Breakaway to follow rodeo. Support Local, Community Strong, Western Tradition.

People Help People Stronger Communities

Warm Clothes Brighter Days

Some Community Stronger Together

Bring Lightly Loved:

Warm Winter Coats

Sleeping Bags

Socks

Sweatshirts

Tents

etc.

Clean Usable Tents Please!

Meet Miss Rosie our Senior Lab who needs a home

Donate to our local organizations who keep our community going through the winter months.

People PETS COMMUNITY A WARMER TOMORROW

Location: Les Schwab Tire Center 1565 S Main St, Willits, CA 95490

Sunday, October 11th

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Some Community Stronger Together

Bring Lightly Loved:

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Some Community Stronger Together

Bring Lightly Loved:

Warm Winter Coats

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Sweatshirts

Tents

etc.

Clean Usable Tents Please!

Meet Miss Rosie our Senior Lab who needs a home

Donate to our local organizations who keep our community going through the winter months.

People PETS COMMUNITY A WARMER TOMORROW

Location: Les Schwab Tire Center 1565 S Main St, Willits, CA 95490

Sunday, October 11th

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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Adventist Health welcomes new nursing graduates to RN residency program

Posted by Adventist Health Ukiah Valley

To say we're excited to welcome these new faces to our team is an understatement! Join us in welcoming these new nursing graduates to our Adventist Health family as part of our new RN Residency Program. Over the next year, they'll learn, grow and work alongside our experienced teams as they make the transition from nursing school to professional practice.

This is an exciting milestone in their careers – and they won't be navigating it alone. Our seasoned preceptors and entire nursing team will be there to guide, support and encourage them as they become familiar with their departments, our hospitals, and our culture of caring.

We're especially excited (and proud) that so many of these nurses are already familiar faces. Many have grown their careers with us, while others have spent time training at our hospitals during nursing school. We're thrilled to now welcome them as colleagues!

You'll start seeing them at both Adventist Health Ukiah Valley and Adventist Health Howard Memorial caring for you or your loved ones. We're also welcoming several new nurses to our nursing float pool. These nurses will spend time learning at both campuses, getting to know our teams and facilities so they can step in and support our departments where they're needed most.

We couldn't be more excited to have this incredible group on board, and we can't wait to see the difference they'll make in the lives of our patients and communities. Join us in saying congratulations and giving them a warm welcome!



SECOND ANNUAL
Rummage SALE
OCTOBER 10
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
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286 SCHOOL STREET, WILLITS, CA
Benefiting
NUESTRA ALIANZA

Great Finds Good Cause

DROP-OFF After October 5
Monday: 10 AM – 2 PM
Tuesday: 1 PM – 3 PM
Wednesday: 10 AM – 4 PM
All at Nuestra Alianza during weekdays and from 9-11 on 10/9



Eric HART THE THINGS WE COUNT ON
FOR MENDOCINO SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 3

A home we can afford. Healthcare we can reach. Safe roads and help when we need it.

That is what Stronger Together should mean in everyday life.

- A LIFE WE CAN BUILD HERE**
Expand housing people can afford and help local businesses and agriculture grow and create jobs.
- SERVICES WE CAN RELY ON**
Maintain roads, improve cell and broadband access, and strengthen emergency preparedness and crime prevention with priorities and accountability for results.
- A HEALTHIER PLACE TO CALL HOME**
Work with providers to stabilize healthcare services and improve access to care. Protect water and forests, and work to expand access to public land.

These are the everyday needs I will bring to the Board of Supervisors as priorities. I'm asking for your vote to help move them forward.

1st: Fix the Foundation > 2nd: Find a Way to Yes > 3rd: Stronger Together
Each builds on the last.

EricHartForSupervisor.com | Paid for by Eric Hart for Supervisor 2026

More of Board | From page 1

cents per \$100 in terms of property value. So if your home costs \$450,000, you're paying an extra \$180 a year in property taxes. So no, since we're already paying on a bond and I believe that we'll continue paying on it for the next few years, I will not be voting for any new bond measure in my first term on the school board. Thank you. Oh, actually, can I reserve a little more time? In terms of our facility, we are using our bond money to make repairs. Our TK transitional kindergarten wing at Brookside School just had a major remodel. It looks great. Our high school just had a large portion of its roof replaced. We're also working on other projects. There are things here and there that I'll see, and I'll email the superintendent saying, "Hey, can we address this sooner rather than later?" And, he always gets back to me in a timely manner. So, I appreciate that and thank you.

Jeanne King: You only have to look around at the schools in Willits to know that our schools are very very very old. The newest school is Blosser Lane, and that's over 30 years old. And the other schools, the high school was built in the 1930s. And I believe that that Baechtel and Brookside were built in the 1960s or 1950s. So our schools are very old. The bond money is being used to fix up the schools, and there's no new construction going on. It's all repairing roofs, replacing windows, fixing up for the TK wing, which was required by the state, that we have to offer transitional kindergarten. And all the money from the bond is going for fixing up these aged schools in Willits.

Paula Nunez: I didn't approve the first one. I didn't approve the second one. I would certainly not ask for a third. I truly believe there is funding. The state about 12 years ago offered funds as grants to repair certain parts of our school district. We applied and were given those, but it doesn't cover enough. It's really true, as everyone has said, our buildings are very old. I do have a belief in the priority of how you fix those buildings. And I do believe that it's most important to start where the students are constantly, as opposed to remodeling offices or paving driveways or paving tennis courts, but we've done a lot of that. It's interesting and this time we'll see. And it is real true. There was a 4 to 1 vote for the money, it's \$5 million to be set out for the rebuying of bonds. And this one I have to finish. And you'll get to feel that this year and if all goes well with the interest rates and it'll just be an extension from my understanding that, you know, you won't have more taxes, you'll just have them for longer.

Nicole Karkar: Based off of our schools right now, they are in a bit of a rough condition. With our financial issues, it seems that that's not our top priority. I think we need to fix our budget first, but I wouldn't necessarily approve of a bond to fix our schools. I would try to find another solution to where we could get money, such as getting help from a grant writer and trying to get as much grant money as we can to fix our schools, and as well as utilizing the people that we also have here. We have a really deep and strong construction roots in this town, and have a really good program up at the high school. And I see that they do the best that they can to beautify the schools. So, I think we could think of creative solutions to try to beautify our schools and not do anything major right now until we have the funds to do so.

QUESTION: What do you think should be the policy on artificial intelligence, AI, in education, and how would you address its potential risks? Please address AI used by students, teachers, and other district staff.

Jeanne King: A few months ago, I sat in on a presentation by an AI company that was directing its business at Willits Unified. And during the time that he made the presentation, he misspelled a word and he said, "Oh, don't worry. AI will correct it, and it corrected it, and he says it doesn't matter, but it does matter. It matters a lot, and under the current superintendent we're making a big move back into more direct instruction and less online. Online got away from us because of COVID – kids had to be educated at home – but we're really making great inroads at each school site about moving back into paper and pencil tasks and person-to-person interactions. Thank you.

Paula Nunez: For AI, I believe strongly it can help teachers a lot: set up lesson plans to a certain extent, help write letters more tactfully or directly. I think those things are good for our students. It is a modern age of technology. However, if you don't know how to do your work without electricity or without a computer, then you're lacking in your education. That's the only way I can see it. And so you're usually lacking in social skills too. So I believe really strongly in learning what you need to you to learn and then incorporating it into some of the technology, and mostly it depends a lot on our teachers if they are really masters of the craft when it comes to technology. They are very very skilled in how to intertwine it with their paper and pencil tasks. It's true. We can't skip handwriting, but yeah, they can be an asset. You just need it controlled.

Nicole Karkar: I don't support AI at all, just to be straight up. I think to get that baseline of education, it needs to be pen and paper, throwing it back, I guess. But technology doesn't work unless we have that baseline of reading and writing, of communication, of being with one another, and technology can help with that. I don't think that's necessarily AI. I think the potential risks it has on our environment and our students is far too high than its benefits for us right now. Thank you.

Mason Rescina: I think AI is certainly an up-and-coming thing. There's no denying that, but we do need to strongly regulate it, especially in our schools. I had a co-worker reach out to me sending me this email that they had received asking me, "Do you think that this was AI?" And it was so clearly AI.... I can't remember what it was exactly about, but it just goes to show that administrations are using it, teachers are using it, students are using it, everyone's using it, and we really should try and cut back on it. In terms of students, it's really worrying, because I'm a college student myself. And on these discussion boards where students type, I'll be able to see it, and I'll be like, "Yeah, that was made by ChatGPT or any of the other hundreds of artificial intelligences." Students in high school and middle school, we need to have the teachers be looking at their essays really closely, running it through systems, making sure that they're not written by artificial intelligence, because this started when I was in high school and that was a few years ago. So that's a big concern of mine. I'm not sure about you guys, but I don't want a surgeon working on me just because they passed a class due to ChatGPT writing their essays, and the same goes for someone flying an airplane. I think it's very important that we get back to face-to-face learning and limiting AI. Thank you.

QUESTION: From the audience: Passing Prop 3 this November is crucial to protecting existing funding for our public schools. If Prop 3 does not pass, Willits Unified will lose more than \$3.6 million every year. As a school board candidate, are you willing to fight for Willits Unified by supporting Prop 3 to keep \$3.6 million available to students and educators in this community?

Paula Nunez: Yes, absolutely. I would fight for Prop 3. I've already got some of my little papers, and I've joined up with the Willits Teachers Association to go door-to-door and make sure people are aware of what they stand to lose or better what they stand to gain if they can keep that amount of money.... Basically, it's a very, very important proposition to me. And we're already having some issues. I don't believe that they're so dire we're going to fall apart. But it always helps to have at least a baseline you can trust.

Nicole Karkar: As I stated earlier, I am a wholehearted believer of Prop 3. The teachers have been mentioning it at almost every board meeting and meeting I've had with them about school board, and so it seems to be very important for them, and I think that we should listen. I think it would get us out of this hole that we might be in. Thank you.

Mason Rescina: I proudly support Prop 3. This tax will not affect anyone in this room, and I truly believe that: I don't think anyone in this room is a multi-millionaire or a billionaire. So I strongly encourage you all to vote for Prop 3 this November, because if we lose that \$3.6 million in funding, it's going to be detrimental to our district. It's going to be terrible to this county if we lose that funding and to the entire state of California. So, we have to pass Prop 3 and keep on taxing those people that make, I can't remember what the exact number is. I want to say it's \$700,000 a year? There we go, thank you, Amanda. Yeah, let's prop pass Prop 3 and thank you.

Jeanne King: Prop 3 is an existing tax, it's not an added tax. It's an existing tax, and it benefits the school district and I will support Prop 3 publicly.

QUESTION: From the audience: Do you support banning cell phone use in the classroom?

Nicole Karkar: I do support banning cell phone use in the classroom – as a student that went through Snapchat and everything was going crazy when I was like in sixth grade. Seeing the effects that it had throughout my life and everybody else's life on social media, people are feared of being recorded and so they're not being their like wild crazy selves that they can be because of this underlying fear of cell phones and recording. And I just don't think it helps our teachers. I don't think it helps student learning if they have access to their phones. I think limiting that technology use and going back to our roots of educators and teaching the basics exactly how they've been taught for a long time is the most beneficial thing that we can do. Thank you.

Mason Rescina: I do believe that we need a cell phone ban, but I think it's important to dictate or to say that we need a cell phone ban inside the classroom. I think if you go to ban cell phones outside of the classroom, say during passing periods and during their lunch and snack break, I think that's when students start to feel a little overmanaged. I think it's important to manage but not overmanage. These kids are going to be heading into the workforce in just a few years, and they need to learn how to go without their phone for say an hour, hour and a half, because their employer is not going to like seeing them on their phone every two to three minutes. Thank you.

Jeanne King: I'm a big believer in restricting cell phone use in the school district. I know that we currently have in place – I'm sorry, my name is Jeanne King – we currently have a cell phone ban on use in classrooms. but it's up to each teacher as to how that's managed and as to where the students keep their cell phones. Some teachers have pockets in the front of the classroom where the students come into the classroom and put their phone in the pocket. Other classrooms the student just keeps it in their backpack. And I think it makes a big difference in students being able to pay attention to the instruction that is currently in front of them rather than some "like" or some notification they're getting on their cell phone. I think cell phones intrude on education a lot.

Paula Nunez: I agree with the rest. We need to have cell phones put away. I also don't think it hurts them to lose it during a 7 minute passing period or a 5 minute passing period either. That's when you can look up when you walk and say hello to the people that pass by you. The issue that concerns me is not so much their lunchtime free time or their walking to school or riding to school, whatever, or the going home. It's the type of things they run into that are on their phones that lower self-esteem for people in an instant that allow people to do all sorts of cyber bullying. And there is no fear of being a cyber bully just because you don't think anybody can find out who you are. You say things that are not OK. And then to send that child into a class and learn whatever they're supposed to be learning at the time, it just sets you up for a real bad while.

QUESTION: What do you consider to be the most important civic values that the city, county, schools can and should be actively promoting?

Mason Rescina: Good question. civic values. When I think of civics, I think of government, local government, county government. It's important for everyone to be informed and to stay informed, because everyone should know what's going on in their community, including their schools, which are overlooked quite frequently. I think we should be holding monthly town halls where school board members and city council members and supervisors can come speak. They should be encouraging their council members and schoolboard members and supervisors to be holding coffee talks like where you go to Brickhouse Coffee, and you have conversations with people. It's so important to be civically engaged, and that's why I appreciate you all being here today. Thank you.

Jeanne King: Civics is a requirement to graduate from Willits High School as it is in every high school in the state of California. We currently have an excellent excellent civics and econ teacher at Willits High School, Trish Silver Brown. She does an excellent job. Part of the high school graduation requirements from Willits High School is that each student has to complete 10 hours of volunteer work in the community. And I firmly believe that this kind of message from the school district, from the teachers that students need to be involved in their community is really important. Thank you.

Paula Nunez: I believe very strongly as well that civics is a very encompassing subject that everyone should be involved in. But I believe that the community as well as the school district can make that type of information clear by making sure they're very transparent, especially of their budgets, especially of their goals and their willingness to make a set of rules for the good of the majority and then stand by them. I also believe that community support comes from all directions. Our schools require, I don't even remember, I think it's 30 or so hours of community service before their students can graduate. It might be more or less I don't remember, but whatever at least it teaches you that you're a part of a group and you need to help support that group go forward.

Nicole Karkar: When I think of civic values, I read a lot about Stoic philosophy. that's what I studied, philosophy, in school. The Stoic values are wisdom, discipline, temperance, and courage. I think those values are very important in our community. I think they lead to having stronger individuals that may lead our town that can come into positions like this and be courageous, have self-control, have the wisdom, and have the discipline to do so. So I think those values ... we kind of need to figure out what they are for our town and for our county and what our overall goal is together. For me, temperance is my hardest one. So I work on that almost all the time, every day. I think if we have our core values, kind of our core mission in our system, in our district that we all kind of follow, that makes that pathway a little bit easier for us to follow. Thank you.

QUESTION: From the audience: There are currently three charter schools in the Willits area. Your thoughts on school choice and what the charters have done over the years to contribute to the education of Willits area students.

Jeanne King: Well, I mean, charter schools are a reality, and I'm glad that that families and parents in Willits have a choice as to what kind of education they want for their child. And I think there's a good working relationship between the Willits Unified School District, which is the chartering school district for the charter schools, and the charter schools. There's a lot of discussion back and forth, and it's a good working relationship.

Paula Nunez: I must say that initially I was not at all impressed with charter schools. They seemed to be a source that took money from the district. There's ADA per student and if 100 of them are going somewhere other than the school district schools, it's a major cut to the budget. But that was a long while back, and now I must say that I believe they're doing a fine job. The kind of drawback in my mind is that there being an alternative way to teach or secure various educational systems doesn't seem to be quite that much more alternative than any of the district schools. It is a reasonable and a relatively good relationship, the district as the umbrella for the charter schools. However, we've had a couple of issues that were pretty strong, and it took an awful lot of district time from district administration to straighten those out.

Nicole Karkar: I think the charter schools are pretty good.... I think parents should be allowed to have choices of where their child goes to school and have as many choices as possible. I think it creates different types of people, and they grow up to be different types of adults to have different ways of thinking, and I think that's an amazing thing. I think if we all went to the same system and learned the same thing from the same people, then we wouldn't have anything interesting to talk about, and so I believe that the charter schools benefit our system. Thank you.

Mason Rescina: OK, I do support charter schools. I don't support school vouchers. I don't know if they do vouchers here in Willits in terms of our charter schools, but I do definitely support school choice. So then parents can send their children to whichever school they please. I've heard from different people that have attended charter schools, and I've heard from parents that their class sizes are smaller. So, there's a little ... not more one-on-one, but there's not 30 kids in one classroom like some classes in Willits Unified.

So I could see why some parents opt to go to charter school for their children, but yeah, I can't say that I know too much about charter schools because I didn't go to one, but as Nicole said, when children and students go to other schools, they see things from a different perspective, they learn differently, and I think that ultimately it benefits our community.

Closing Statements

Paula Nunez: Listen, I've been on the board for a long while and in the district for a whole lot longer. I've been involved with just about every aspect of education except I've never driven the large yellow bus, and I haven't been the superintendent although I was assistant superintendent in a small school for years and years. Nonetheless, I would like your vote. I figure that there are a couple of things that I'd like to finish up, and I feel I can do that. I don't have quite the take as everyone else does on what goes on in our district, but it's just differing philosophies on what you expect to see. I do believe strongly that employees have to be a priority as well as do families, because they send the children and we take care of them – or not we anymore, but in the past – and now other teachers take care of them. I like the highest qualified people

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we know this, and also long-term, you know, a long-term plan to fight future crime. But when it comes to funding, it should be transparent. We need to know what's happening with those dollars, how they're being spent, and why are they being spent, why are they coming into the county? One of the questions that's been asked to me is, you know, that \$4. whatever million dollars that came in to tackle the illegal grows in the county: Is that money actually going to be used for that? Well, if it's not, then we're in violation of that grant funding, and we'll have to answer to the state for that. And there's some other things that are involved in that as well. And I know that that seems like a silly answer, but those are true things, and as a county supervisor, we have to hold these departments accountable to those deliverables of those grant fundings. Otherwise, you will lose that funding. Period. And we will have to pay it back. Thank you.

Eric Hart: Transparency applies across the board. It's all public money. The sheriff's department is no different. When they apply for grants on the county's behalf, that should be going through the board. When money comes in, how that money is spent should be open to the board and not just to the board, but to the public. Those numbers should be published so that we understand where that money is coming from. Are there any asks that come with that money? Is who's giving the money asking something specific out of the sheriff's department or uh trying to influence the sheriff's department? And then on the back end, where is that money going? Where is it being spent? And most importantly, what results are we getting for the money when it is being spent? We're seeing money that is going out and no enforcement, no arrests, and that is concerning. Where it's not just where the money is going, but we are actually getting results for what we're spending?

QUESTION: From the audience: It is my understanding that over 70% of the county budget is for law enforcement. What are your thoughts about this? And what is the largest budget you have ever supervised?

Eric Hart: 70% is a lot of our discretionary spending. The question is, how is that compared to other counties of our size and our character? And in the research that I've done, we are not too far off. Where we are having problems is the results that we're getting for that money. We need to make sure that we are spending it properly and just like we talked about before, that it's being spent efficiently and that we're reviewing the results and pulling that back. The second part of the question ... what is the largest budget you have ever supervised? At AT&T the departments that I oversaw where I created the budgets, I oversaw the budgets, we did multi-year planning, were in the \$40 to \$50 million range on an annual basis, and that was what I was personally responsible for and directing.

Buffey Bourassa: My thoughts about the county budget and the law enforcement is basically we have to follow the law. California state says that we have to fund our emergency services, which is public safety, there's law enforcement, there's probation. It also includes roads and I believe there's another department but you can't quote me on it right now. So I think it's important that we look at that. We also need to look at how much money we pulled down on a grant to build a new jail. And that new jail is the behavioral health and recovery services. That was a \$25 million grant that because it took so long to build, we're at \$44 million with public dollars. So, it's something to think about. And why, why did that happen? As far as the budget and how much I have budgeted across the board, the biggest budgets I've ever done has to do with the tribe. And I'm not going to give the tribal finances here because they are confidential, but I did budget the tribe's budgets as far as the smoke shop, the casino, and federal grants. Thank you.

QUESTION: What is your stance on data centers in the county? Do you support a permanent ban on data centers in the county?

a great variety of choices, which included roast turkey, grilled vegetarian lasagna, creamy polenta, spanakopita, fruit, greens, broccoli and quinoa salads, trivia questions were passed out for the attendees to try their hand at answering.

The questions were about the history of Mendocino County. Just some of what was learned through the trivia questions was that Mendocino County is larger than all of Yellowstone, our county has the longest stretch (111 miles) of the Redwood Highway, the top three crops of the county are (in order) wine grapes, logging, and

Buffey Bourassa: So I was ready for this. Yeah. The temporary pause, which I totally support, gives the county time to establish responsible standards. It's a proposal that should be evaluated for water and electricity use, noise, backup, wildfire, all of those things, permanent jobs, tax revenue. I'm not neither automatically opposed, but I do want a clear benefit for Mendocino County, which I haven't seen one. And everyone that I've talked to says those things actually take up a lot of our environment and cause a lot of waste, and also take our water, which we really don't have enough water to spread around. I live on a reservation. We run out of water. We have to truck water in. I don't call that enough water for our people. So that's where I stand. Thank you.

Eric Hart: First we're going to differentiate data centers from AI. Those are two different discussions. Data centers in particular, I do 100% support the ban. I support the ban being in place until we decide whether this is something that our county wants. That was the intention of the ban. We need to look at these data centers and what they're doing to our environment, what they do to our community. Are they providing any benefit? If they are doing none of those things, if they are hurting the environment, if they cannot come in here and do it in a way that does not impact our water and our power and they cannot do it in a way that does not negatively impact our community, then we need to look at making that a permanent ban. if they are able to come in and say, I don't see this in the next few years, but if they get to the point where they say you know what, we can build a data storage facility that doesn't use the community's water or recycles its own water that does not use community's power and provides jobs, then we can consider it at that point

QUESTION: Have you accepted campaign contributions directly or indirectly from people or entities that have businesses before the county?

Eric Hart: I vet every donation that I get. When I get a donation, I pull that person up online. I do my research, and if I can't get my questions answered online, then I reach out to the person to talk to them. The only one that would even come close to a consideration of being business before the county would be a nonprofit board member who donated \$250 I think to my campaign. Which is underneath the state's pay-to-play \$500 limit. I probably should not name them, but they do do support for the county. They have a contract with the county. But I don't actually know that board member. it's not somebody that I've known or had a conversation with. It just came in over the web.

Buffey Bourassa: I have received donations from several people throughout the county and I'm sure several businesses and I don't have my financials in front of me, but they will be filed with my filing forms. So, you'll be able to see all of that. I haven't had personal conversations with any of the businesses that have donated money to me. Unless they have come up and introduced themselves to me, but they haven't come out right out and said, "Hey, I'm giving you money because of my business." But campaigns do cost quite a bit of money, and I am not a rich person, and I definitely have been trying to get my campaign out to the public, so that everyone knows who I am. My campaign is bringing voices together regardless of what side or community that you live in or your business for that matter. Thank you.

QUESTION: Recently, the board of supervisors voted to grant a building permit for gas stations along Highway 101 in Redwood Valley. Both the planning commission and RV citizens do not support this development. Would you support the locals or the money?

Buffey Bourassa: So, I think that's just a simplicity question. It really isn't about money or locals, fully. I think it's more about are we following our policies that are already set in place? What is that land use used for? And the other piece of that is that: Are we going to shut out businesses

pears, and colorful Mendocino County resident Wavy Gravy has a Ben and Jerry's ice cream named after him.

After the trivia game, won by Steve Proctor, vice chair of the Friends, and Susana Wilson, the three actors took the stage to entertain and enlighten the attendees with tales of the early days of the county. This year, the subject was the Redwood Highway. There was a particularly entertaining and humorous retelling of Big Diamond, a huge elephant from a passing circus who passed away from exhaustion, working to get the circus out of the mud



solely based on the way we feel about things? I understand that that community does not want that there. I've heard a few voices from that community, but I also know that there are other voices who think that it's a good idea, because there's a casino with a gas station just down the road. So, as a supervisor, I would have to weigh out all of those all of those ideas and bring them together and make an informed decision based on that. I wouldn't strictly go against it because of the community, that's just where it's at. Thank you.

Eric Hart: The first criteria is always stay within the law. When our county doesn't stay in the law, we get sued, and that has happened way too many times. So with that caveat being said, the rest is: What are the benefits for our community? Is this person going to bring a benefit into the area? Is this business something that the community as a whole needs? Those are all things that the county planning and the county supervisors can consider. We cannot however pick and choose which business owners we want to have open up a business in our county. We can decide however just like we did with the data centers that we maybe have enough gas stations or maybe we should only have so many gas stations per area in a county. And so there are other ways for us to look at whether a particular business is beneficial to our county or not and have control over where they open, when they open, and and who opens them.

QUESTION: from the audience: What are the needs for better technology in each department?

Eric Hart: I have not spoken to every single department head, but I have spoken to several of them. The biggest one that I hear across the board is the Munis upgrade that needs to happen. I talked about this back in the April forum. The board of supervisors is making progress on moving that forward. It's a four- to five-year project. It's \$4 million. It is a countywide system that everyone uses, and it's what is the backbone of our county that will impact all of the departments. It helps keep the departments organized. It helps them understand their financials and their budget. It helps them process their work. That is the biggest one across the board. Property taxes is another one, that department definitely needs some support with an Aumentum upgrade or potentially a replacement. I would really look at a replacement for that one. And that is my time....

Buffy Bourassa: Being a county employee, I know that we need our Munis upgrade desperately. I started out in human resources and we were about four or five upgrades behind, and so we used a bunch of other systems to run programs and that is continuing to happen for reporting out. In the sheriff's office, I can speak to, we definitely need some upgrades as well. I mean, if we had a perfect world and we could afford it, we would have a system that would run reports on recidivism rates for people who are coming into programs, because that's what I do. Also, like Eric said, the Aumentum needs to be upgraded as well. So, those are just the basics, so that we can do our job better, is to get those systems up and running at a higher speed. But, we put it together the best we can. We have a lot of smart people that are using Excel spreadsheets ... and Microsoft Office and all those things. Thank you.

during the construction of the highway. No one knew what to do with the deceased beast until someone came up with the idea of skinning it and preserving the pelt to sell. Needless to say, none of that worked out, and the elephant was buried; the bones later found during excavation and looked upon as an archeological find.

Once the readings were over, Willits Mayor Tom Allman called the live auction. The valuable items consisted of a stay at the Seabiscuit B&B, an original stained-glass panel, an heirloom quilt by Nancy Walker, and a chance to name the



Closing Statements
Buffey Bourassa: Thank you to the organizers, the moderators, and everyone who took the time to attend here today. I'm running because I love District 3, and I believe every community from Willits to Laytonville, Covelo, and the rural areas in between deserve to be heard, respected, and represented. Through more than 12 years working in county government and three elected terms on the Sherwood Valley Tribal Council, I have learned that leadership is not about having every answer. It's about showing up, listening, asking hard questions, making informed decisions, using public dollars responsibly, and following through. As your supervisor, I will focus on stabilizing the county budget, improving our roads and infrastructure, and strengthening our local economy while continuing to advocate for public safety, water security, and reliable county services. I have the experience to begin this work on day one and the humility to keep listening and learning. I would be honored to earn your vote. I will listen. I will show up, and I will work every day to get results for District 3. Thank you.

Eric Hart: Thank you all very much for coming today. This is what democracy looks like, when people come together and talk about the issues that are facing them and understand who it is that they're standing behind at the voting booth. Thank you to the moderators and the people who put all the questions together. You've heard a lot about the challenges that are facing Mendocino County. For me, the important question is what happens next? How do we take the things that we already know need attention and turn them into results that everyone can see? That's been the focus of my work for 25 years. Understanding the organizations and why they aren't working the way they should, fixing the underlying systems, and then helping people deliver better results. And that's the approach that I would bring to the county government.

First, fix the foundation. We need understandable finances. We need clear priorities and accountability, better systems and technology, and employees who have the support and the tools that they need to be able to do their job well. Second, we need to find a way to Yes. When someone comes to the county government trying to build a home or open a business, create jobs, or solve a problem, the starting point should be: How can we help? That doesn't mean ignoring the rules. It means helping people understand how to navigate them and find a workable path forward. And then, third, is stronger together. Once county government is working better, we can put it to use with our communities on the challenges that none of us can solve alone. Housing, healthcare, public safety, roads, economic opportunities, and protecting the place that we live. People should also be able to see how the decisions are made, where their money is going, and whether county government is delivering on what was promised. That's the approach that I've tried to describe throughout this campaign. Fix what isn't working, improve how the government serves people, and then build the capacity to tackle all the challenges that we share. Thank you all for coming tonight, and I'd be honored to own your vote. Reach out, please, if you have any questions.

traditional oxen plop that would be installed along with the Mark Walker sculptures. There was additionally a tent with a variety of silent auction items.

It was an entertaining and enlightening afternoon, hot but shaded, in the beauty of the Ridgewood Ranch, and best: A substantial amount of funds was raised to help continue the work of the Mendocino County Museum.

To learn more about Friends of the Mendocino County Museum, visit https://mendocinocountymuseumfriends.org/

we can possibly get, and I do believe strongly that once they're in Willits for a while, they'll generally stay or get close enough. We lose teachers often to higher salaries that are still in Mendocino County. I just believe our priority list needs to be a little different, a little more different than it already is. And that's probably all I can think of until I leave here when I think of 100 other things to say.

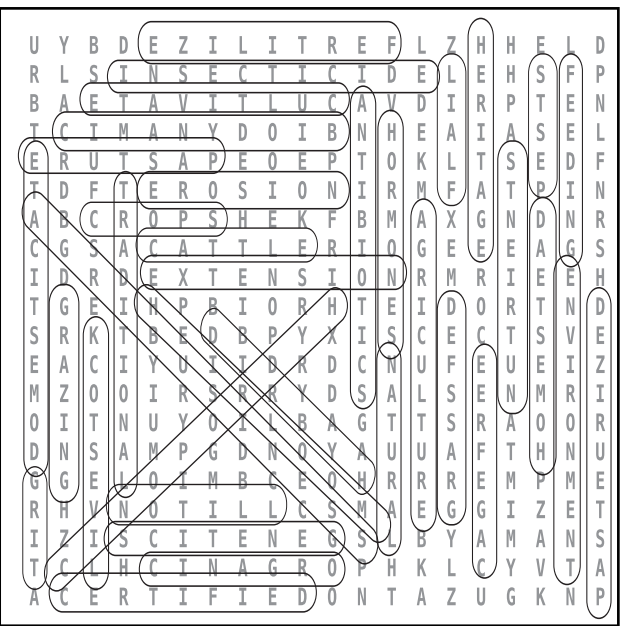
Nicole Karkar: I just wanted to say thank you guys all for coming here today and being informed citizens about all of this. This is my first foot in the doorway in the school board system or any governing system. So, I appreciate you for listening to me and having an open heart to someone a little bit younger trying to learn their way through this. I just would like to say please vote for Nicole Karkar and please vote yes on Prop. 3.

Mason Rescina: I wanted to thank you all for coming out tonight and thank you to Denise for moderating tonight's forum and thank you for everyone who helped move chairs, make these little posters, everything that goes on to put on something like this. Throughout the campaign, I've tried to keep my focus on something pretty simple. What kind of district do we want to leave for the students in the future? For me, that means a district where we're constantly looking at whether our students are learning and succeeding. It means a district that takes its financial responsibilities seriously, making sure that limited resources are being used effectively. And it means a school board that communicates openly, asks difficult questions when necessary, and listens to students, families, teachers, staff, and members of the community. I grew up in these schools. I graduated from Willits High School. I've worked in our classrooms, and my family has spent decades serving our students in this community. Because of that, the decisions made by this district are very personal to me. Our students are the future, so they deserve nothing but the best education possible.

There may be difficult decisions ahead. No board member is going to have every answer. But I believe that a board member should come prepared, listen carefully, ask questions, examine the facts, and always remember who is being affected by the decisions that the board makes. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share with you a little bit more about who I am and the approach I would bring to serving on the school board should I be elected. I'm proud to be supported by school board members April Lamprich and Jennifer Sookne, city council members Matthew Alanaz and Gerry Gonzalez, county supervisor John Haschak, and community leader Sabrina Rodriguez. Thank you, and I'd be honored to have your vote.

Jeanne King: I appreciate all of you coming today and being civic-minded – this is what Willits is all about. I also want to appreciate those organizations that have put on this forum, the League of Women Voters of Mendocino County, the Little Lake Grange, Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, and the Willits Economic [Localization] for sponsoring today's candidates forum. It's very much appreciated.

I have been the highest vote recipient in the two times that I've been elected to the school board. I have also served two years in succession as board president elected by a board majority. I have worked hard to build strong respectful relations with the four superintendents. I have served alongside my fellow board members, district staff, parents, and community members. I am an independent thinker who will always search for the truth regarding any issue that comes before the board. I owe no allegiance to any activist or political group. I deeply love children – that's what I want my obituary to say, that I deeply loved children – and I want the very best for them as well as those who work with children. I have a table set up out in front with flyers that have my phone number on it. If any of you have further questions, if you'd like to text me or call me, I would be glad to respond. So, I ask for your support and your vote in the upcoming election. Thank you.



LEGAL NOTICES

WW628

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

**GLENN P. PANELLA,
AKA GLENN PANELLA,
DECEDENT**

Case No. 26PR00594

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: GLENN P. PANELLA, aka GLENN PANELLA

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Patrick Panella and Danielle Kowalke in the Superior Court of California County of: Mendocino

The Petition for Probate requests that: Patrick Panella and Danielle Kowalke be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: November 13, 2026, Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept: E. Address of Court: 100 No. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

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

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

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

Attorney for petitioner: Jennifer M. O'Brien (#278821), Neary and O'Brien, 110 So. Main St., Ste C, Willits CA 95490. Telephone: 707-459-5551

Publication Dates: October 1, 8 and 15, 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

Brown Bag Lunch Program

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

For Rent

Small 2 bed 1 bath home in downtown Willits with large back yard and small storage \$1650 + Dep. Lincoln Realty: 707-459-4599.

For Rent

Fairly large commercial bay ready for your business. Available now. Rent range \$1000 to \$1150. Lincoln Realty: 707-459-4599.

Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, October 24** from 8 am to 4 pm

For Rent

ADU Studio Apt Rental. 1 person, woody, quiet, with private deck. Newly remodeled, all electric. Full kitchen, bathroom/laundry area, smart storage. No pets, please. \$1,200 plus deposit. 707-892-3396

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.oakrvine.net/tp

Classified ads

are just \$15 for

30 words for two

weeks. Email us your ad today to

include your ad here next week!

willitsweekly@gmail.com

LEGAL NOTICES

WW626

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0319

The following person or persons are doing business as Hydration Dealer, 25595 Poppy Drive, Willits, CA 95490; 704-354-4744.

Registered owner: Shalee Hansen, 25595 Poppy Drive, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on September 3, 2026.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on September 3, 2026.

/s/ Shalee Hansen

Publication Dates: September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026

WW627

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0313

The following person or persons are doing business as Soul Flowering Holistic, 3001 Blackhawk Drive, Willits, CA 95490; 831-713-3238.

Registered owner: Thallia Bird, 3001 Blackhawk Drive, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on August 25, 2026.

/s/ Thallia Bird

Publication Dates: September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026

WW615

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2026-F0345

The following person or persons are doing business as Lunas Health, 291 School St., #2, Willits, CA 95490; mailing address: 422 Larkfield Center #492, Santa Rosa CA 95403; 707-370-8774

Registered owner: PedzPsych NP Nursing Corporation, 422 Larkfield Center #492, Santa Rosa CA 95403.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk Recorder on September 23, 2026.

/s/ Medie Jesena Parrott, owner

Publication Dates: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

Willits Weekly

can run

legal notices

including

fictitious

business name

statements,

foreclosure

notices,

storage unit

auctions, and

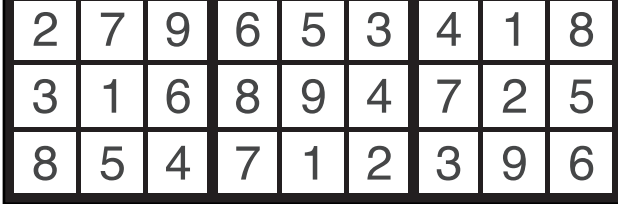
more. Contact

us for more

information at

willitsweekly@

gmail.com



Sherwood Elementary School Fall Festival, October 23

Join Sherwood Elementary School for another fabulous Fall Festival, Friday, October 23 starting at 5 pm at 32600 Sherwood Road. Tell your neighbors, tell your friends! Come in costume and enjoy a lasagna dinner, win prizes in our game room, take a stroll through our spooky path, and celebrate with our student performers!

Reach out to your closest Sherwood family to get your raffle tickets today for your chance to win many great prizes, including a one-night stay for two at the Benbow Inn, golf for two with use of a golf cart at the Little River Inn, a gift certificate to DS detailing, a lash lift & tint from Estheticians by Eden, gift certificates to numerous local restaurants, toy stores, hardware stores, 3-hour passes to Kids Corner, a painting by Sandy Strong, ceramics by Nancy New, a carved wooden bear by LMR Crafts & Carvings, many other gorgeous gifts from local artists and craftspeople, and more! You don't need to be present to win! For more info, please call 707-984-6769.

Fish and Wildlife seeks public comment on draft Bobcat Conservation Plan

Posted by CDFW

October 1 – The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is now accepting public comments on the just-released draft California Bobcat Conservation and Management Plan <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=247441> The 133-page draft management plan was developed over five years alongside the California Bobcat Population Monitoring Project's Report of Findings released in

Read the rest of Bobcat Over on page 13



Supporting local veteran students with scholarships

Submitted by Mendocino College Foundation

When Nicolas "Nick" Steward graduated from Lower Lake High School in 2011 he was looking for two things: something positive to do, and a pathway that provided certainty for his future. Seeking guidance, he talked with his cousin who had served in the military. Inspired, Nick decided to enlist in the United States Army.

Fast forward to 2025 and Nick started taking classes at Mendocino College. He is planning to apply to the Nursing program in Spring 2027, so is currently focused on finishing his prerequisites. Right now he is able to work full-time, while being a parent to two children and going to school part-time. But his circumstances will change when he begins studying full-time to become a nurse and will no longer be able to work.

This scenario is why scholarships were

invented: to help students struggle less and study more.

Nick says that the extra funding from a scholarship to help him pay his bills would be game changing, but "more than the money, that feeling of support is what means the most. It feels good to know that your community appreciates you."

The Mendocino College Foundation has been fundraising this year to establish a perpetual scholarship for students who are veterans. There are 39 veteran students currently enrolled for Fall 2026, and the Foundation's goal is to provide them with extra support, both financial and emotional, to encourage them to keep going, to

Read the rest of Veterans Over on page 13

Friendly Frizzle

Frizzle is a happy, playful 4-year-old little guy who weighs 18 pounds and loves making friends wherever he goes. He especially enjoys the company of other dogs and is always excited to meet new people on his walks. Frizzle is friendly, affectionate, and loves being part of the action. After a fun day of adventures, there's nothing he enjoys more than curling up next to you on the couch. With his cheerful personality and loving nature, Frizzle is sure to bring plenty of joy and companionship to his forever family!

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.mendocinanimalshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for more information.

Pebbles and Sox

Sox is a beautiful sweet-natured kitten, about 3 months old, who has been spending her time relaxing and growing up in a dedicated foster home. With her lovely coat and heartwarming personality, she is sure to make a wonderful addition to a lucky family. Sox is perfectly prepped for her next big adventure and is ready to settle into a forever home to share all the sweet moments and cozy afternoons you could ask for. Sox can't wait to be your new best friend! Pebbles is an absolutely sweet and darling girl who has also been enjoying life in a wonderful foster home! She has a gentle, loving nature that makes her a true joy to be around. Having grown up in a cozy home environment, Pebbles is looking for a forever family where she can continue to thrive, relax, and share her sweet personality. If you are looking for a beautiful companion to add warmth and love to your home, Pebbles and Sox are both ready to meet you!

For more info on our adoptable animals, applications to foster or adopt can be found on our website: www.mendocinohumanesociety.com. As well as visit us anytime during open hours! Wednesday and Friday, 1 to 5 pm; and Saturday and Sunday: 11 am to 3 pm. Thursdays by appointment only, 1 to 5 pm. 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley. (707) 485-0123



The rest of Veterans From page 12

complete their certificate, degree or degree for transfer.

A perpetual scholarship – one that is given every year in perpetuity – requires a minimum investment of \$25,000, which would generate one \$1,000 scholarship annually. The bigger the investment, the more scholarships the Foundation can give to our veteran students each year. Thanks to the generosity of donors, including two members of the Foundation Board of Directors, we have already raised \$16,500 of that initial \$25,000 goal. Thus far the donors have all been from veterans or family members of veteran: Don Coursey (Foundation Board Vice President and Vietnam Veteran) and his wife Lynda; Mac and Pat Ford (Pat is a Foundation Board member whose husband Mac served in Vietnam); Colleen and Rick Henderson (Vietnam); Donna and Bob Frassinello (Vietnam); Emily and Phil Williams (Iraq); and Peggy McGovern and Bill Slack (Peggy is the sister of Vietnam Veteran Thomas McGovern, who is also the father of Foundation Executive Director Julie McGovern). These vets and their loved ones remember the challenges that came with returning to civilian life, and are motivated

to support the younger generations of veterans who might need encouragement to find the college or career path that is right for them.

You do not have to be a veteran to get involved; you just have to want to help students like Nick Steward. After enlisting in the Army in 2011 and going through training, Nick was deployed to US Army bases in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar on gate-guarding duty – identifying potential explosives. He completed his first four-year deployment, then re-upped for a second. He served eight years and then in 2019 decided to pursue something else: education.

But, like many veterans, Nick struggled to adapt to civilian life after eight years of military service. "I thought I could just snap back. But it wasn't that easy. I found even talking to people about how to use my GI benefits to continue my education, it was so hard. I was getting frustrated and didn't want to snap, so I just gave up," he recalls.

He found a job as a security guard at a hospital, where he enjoyed connecting with patients and doctors and staff; he found himself opening up to new possibilities.

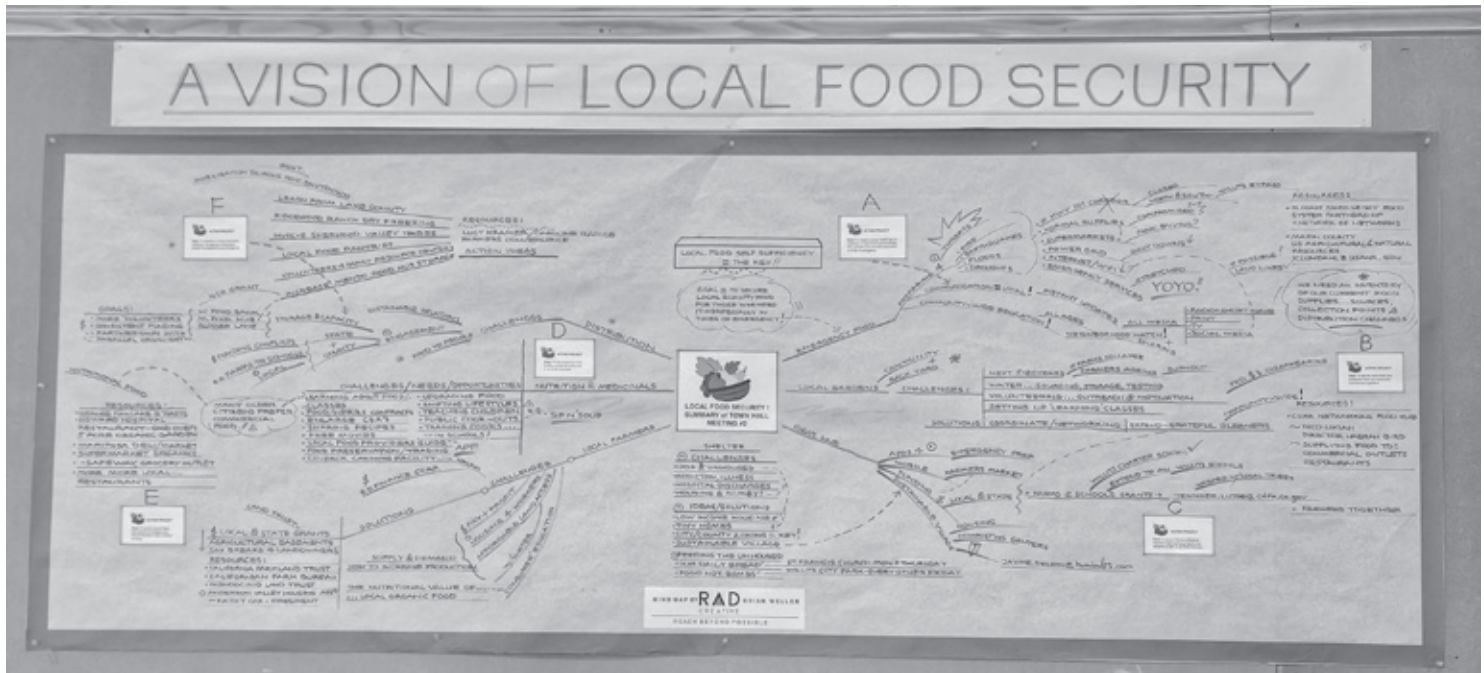
One possibility presented itself thanks to his frequent interactions at the hospital with law enforcement. Nick took a job with the Lakeport Police Department as an officer in 2021. He enjoyed the work but wasn't certain if that would be the right path for the rest of his career. So in 2023 he started his own window cleaning business, working nights while continuing to serve with the LPD. In 2024 he thought, "Maybe I'll try the education thing again."

Nick had a friend who was taking classes at Mendocino College and had positive things to say about his experience. Then Nick contacted a friend from the hospital where he had worked who encouraged him to consider Nursing. "He showed me a pathway to success, as a 31-year-old guy, he was doing really well, had a fulfilling career," Nick remembers. So he enrolled at Mendocino College and is on his way to applying to the RN program in Spring 2027.

We are only \$8,500 away from our goal of funding the Perpetual Veterans Scholarship to help students like Nick get the support they need to achieve their dreams.

If you would like to join us in this mission, please visit the Foundation's Veterans Scholarship page <https://mendocinocollege.awardspring.com/AS/external/donate/1b8b230579> to donate, or mail a check to the Mendocino College Foundation at 1000 Hensley Creek Rd. Ukiah, CA 95482. Questions can be directed to Executive Director Julie McGovern at 707-468-3164 or jmcgovern@mendocino.edu.

We hope to be able to announce that this scholarship is fully funded in time for the Veterans Day event to be held at Mendocino College's Ukiah campus on Tuesday, November 10, 2026. This would mean that Nick could apply for a scholarship to help him during the 2027-28 academic year. Thank you to our community for helping us show veterans how much we appreciate their service.



Above: Brian Weller's Food Security Mind Map, on display at the Little Lake Grange.

The rest of Grange From page 5

A long line of boxes of free seeds was also set up in the hall outside the main room, offering categorized packets of free seeds including flowers, tomatoes, peas, beans, peppers and more, which attendees were welcome to take home and plant.

Nuestra Alianza served up food from the Grange kitchen, and several baskets of Gleaners-gleaned fruits and veggies were there for attendees to take home as well.

The Gleaners and other local farmers also donated the 50-plus crates of local apples which Mike Adams spearheaded to turning into fresh-pressed apple cider, tossing the apples into a chipper and then transferring the pulp to the juicer where it pumped out fresh cider for the drinking.

Attendees were also welcome to take a tour of the Grange Garden where they could also collect seeds from plants there to take home and plant as well.

For more information on how you can get involved with local food sustainability and safety: Visit WELL's website: www.well95490.org or contact the Little Lake Grange at (707) 459-9716.

The rest of Moon From page 5

informational, such as the Willits Food Bank. "This is the Food Bank, and we're trying to get people to know what we do and donate or join our raffle," said board member John Glyer. Executive Director Wendy Copperfield explained: "Natalie Sadler, our board member, has painstakingly put together these beautiful raffle baskets. It is her mission to provide incredibleness. These baskets are chock-full of so much stuff. This is clearly, at least a \$200 value. Some of these things are handmade. She donates her time on everything in the baskets. Raffle tickets are \$5 for one chance, or five tickets for \$20."

Sherwood Valley Casino had people play pinball for a chance to get free play on their machines. Willits Scout Troop 42 offered games and different varieties of popcorn. Davina Gomez and Tiffany Dunlap both painted faces, delighting the kids who love colors. Tiffany's husband, Ken Burton, in clown get-up, twisted balloons into recognizable shapes. Members of the Willits High School senior class had baked goods to sell, trying to raise money for their yet-to-be-determined senior trip. Hailey Blair and Kya Williams told people about doulas who assist mothers through the birth process and after.

Adonis, Liz, and Alex told people about the PG&E Vegetation Management program. Jaime Wilkes brought a vast variety of gardening goods from Sparetime Supply. "We're featuring a bunch of our gift items from Sparetime and the Gardener's Pantry," said Wilkes. "We also brought down an assortment of pumpkins. We're having pumpkins at our store this year. It's new. It's our first time. If people are at the store, and they need their pumpkins, we have them there for them."

The Willits Rotary Club booth raised money for the eradication of polio, as the club's District 5130 World Polio Torch Relay came through Willits, part of a district-wide journey starting from Crescent City October 2 and ending in Petaluma October 24, to support Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio worldwide.

Driving music was provided by Robin Suzanne and Soul Circus who got people dancing, especially as the night crept over the event. Madam King's Velvet Rebellion Collective encouraged people to become Rocky Horror photos in anticipation of their Rocky night at the Thirsty Axe in Ukiah.

There was so much to see and do, a Disneyland of sights and sounds and food and music, it would take the entire Willits Weekly to report on it all. Willits is alive with spirit and good people who love to get together.

The rest of Bobcat From page 12

August <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=247243>

Both efforts are the result of California Assembly Bill 1254. Enacted in 2020, the legislation made it illegal to hunt, trap or otherwise take a bobcat except under limited circumstances such as a depredation permit. The legislation directed CDFW to develop a Bobcat Conservation and Management Plan before bobcat hunting could again be considered.

Although CDFW has regulated bobcat take and managed bobcat populations since 1971, the draft Bobcat Conservation and Management Plan is the first in state history.

Intensive study of California's bobcat populations over the last five years shows the wild spotted felines distributed throughout the state with a stable population estimated at more than 62,000 animals. That number is similar to previous CDFW population estimates from 1977 and 1981, though the prior estimates lacked the scientific and statistical rigor of CDFW's latest efforts. Various factors, however, can affect local population growth and decline. The draft plan cites vehicle strikes and disease – specifically mange – as leading causes of death for bobcats, although these figures reflect the most easily detected deaths.

Only the California Fish and Game Commission can reinstate a hunting season on bobcats; the management plan is intended to provide relevant and current scientific information and potential management scenarios to inform that process.

CDFW is accepting written comments on the draft plan through November 1, 2026. Comments can be e-mailed to wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov. Please include "California Bobcat Conservation and Management Plan" in the subject line. Alternatively, comments and information may be mailed to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Branch, Attn: Rachel Roberts, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090.

The rest of Return From page 1

Willits Drop Off Box is located outside the City of Willits offices, 111 East Commercial Street.

Important: Only Election Officials touch your ballot (not postal carriers) when you return it though an official ballot drop box. Each City Clerk in our county is an election official, and our ballot runners (who pick up ballots in the outlying areas), are sworn clerks in our elections office. Elections Office staff retrieve ballots from the drop boxes every few days, between pick-up dates the City Clerk and another city employee (always 2 people) gather and count the number of ballots received throughout each day. City Election Officials keep tallies each time they retrieve the ballots from the drop box, and the ballots are stored in a secure ballot transfer box in a secure location within their facility. County Elections Office staff ("runners") retrieve the ballots from each facility and together a City Clerk and the runner verify the number of ballots that are being transported to the Elections Office in Ukiah.

The City Clerk and runner complete and sign the chain of custody paperwork, and the runner transports and delivers the ballots to our office in Ukiah. Elections staff pick up ballots at the Boonville Fairgrounds and the Mendo-Lake Community College every few days, and complete the chain of command paperwork. Ballots that are dropped of at the Elections Office in Ukiah are retrieved throughout the day and on weekends by Elections Office staff (completing the chain of command paperwork).

The Elections Office in Ukiah will be open the Saturday before Election Day – October 31, 2026 from 9 am to 3 pm to assist voters.

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

OFFICIAL BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS - AVAILABLE OCT 2, 2026 through 8pm NOV 3, 2026.

**CITY OF WILLITS

111 E COMMERCIAL ST – WILLITS

Drive up - AVAILABLE 24/7

MENDOCINO CO ADMIN BLDG

501 LOW GAP RD – UKIAH

Drive up - AVAILABLE 24/7

MENDO-LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1000 HENSLEY CREEK RD – UKIAH

Welcome Center Lobby – Walk-up

AVAILABLE - M-F 9AM – 5PM

**CITY OF FORT BRAGG by front door

416 N FRANKLIN ST – FORT BRAGG

WALK-UP AVAILABLE 24/7

**CITY OF UKIAH

300 SEMINARY AVE – UKIAH

Drive up - AVAILABLE 24/7

**CITY OF POINT ARENA

451 SCHOOL ST – POINT ARENA

Drive up - AVAILABLE 24/7

MENDOCINO CO FAIRGROUNDS OFC

14400 HWY 128 – BOONVILLE

AVAILABLE - M-F 9AM – 4PM

ROUND VALLEY JUSTICE COURT

76270 GRANGE ST – COVELO

AVAILABLE - ELECTION DAY ONLY –

BALLOT DROP OFF ONLY

The rest of Mailed From page 1

statements for our county can also be found on our website at: www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections/election-candidate-information

Katrina Bartolomeo would like to remind voters who wish to vote in the November 3, 2026 election that the last day to register to vote is October 19, 2026, to receive a regular ballot in the mail. Please call our office for a Voter Registration card or go to: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/> to register to vote online.

The Elections Office in Ukiah will be open the Saturday before Election Day, October 31, 2026 from 9 am to 3 pm to assist voters.

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



WILLITS WEEKLY
Online and In Print



At left: Just one of the many trash buckets, holding just a small amount of the trash picked up on Coastal Cleanup Day. Above: The clean-up crew on Coastal Cleanup Day in Willits poses for a group photo in front of one of the C&S Waste Solutions dumpsters. At right: Amanda found plenty of discarded material near the bridge at Railroad Avenue. At far right: This Cleanup Day volunteer filled up her bag and was waiting for someone to bring more bags. Below: Jerry Albright and Connor Stack haul off a large piece of illegally trashed material. Below, right: Several high school students worked above the creek bed west of Main Street near John's Bar.



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LEFT HAND MONKEY WRENCH GANG

The Gang:
Scott Guberman (Phil Lesh)
Jerry Saracini (Phil Lesh)
Justin Purtill (JGB)
Zach Jones (Stu Allen)

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OC67822



Willits volunteers remove trash from local creek beds as part of California's Coastal Cleanup Day

The Little Lake Valley is a lovely place with beautiful views, trees, and streams that eventually connect with rivers which ultimately make it to the sea. Trash that is thrown into the immediate area of these streams gets washed into the water during the rains. The trash can foul up and pollute the waterways, all the way to the ocean. Inconsiderate people use the streams to dispose of their unwanted items and refuse. Unhoused encampments additionally add to the problem when they are camped under the bridges.

In order to mitigate the problem, City Planner Connor Stack, Willits Community Development, organized a party of volunteers and concerned citizens last Saturday morning in order to scour some of the locations where much of the trash accumulates. They concentrated on four basic areas; the north and south ends of Railroad Avenue, under the bridges, Broaddus Creek when it crosses under Main Street next to John's Bar, and also where Broaddus Creek crosses East Commercial Street out by the Elementary Charter School and the Willits Library.

This local effort was part of the 42nd annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, organized by the California Coastal Commission, on the third Saturday of September.

"We're doing our clean-up in the creeks of Willits, where we send the volunteers down in all the creeks around town and clean them up before the rains come," explained Stack. "It seems to be a little wetter this year. It hasn't been as hot as previous summers. We want to get at the trash

before it gets swept away downstream or to the ocean."

"I'm here to clean up the creeks. It's a yearly thing. It's disgusting what I see done to our creeks and our rivers and our roadways," said Jerry Albright, one of the participants in Saturday's cleanup session. Members of the Willits High School and Willits Charter Interact Clubs, a junior Rotary affiliate, volunteered. Frida Friend is the president of the WHS Interact. She expressed her feelings about the valley: "I'm participating because I think it's really beautiful. We're in the redwoods and it deserves to be clean." Eric Hart, supervisory candidate, worked on the Broaddus Creek location. "I do this because rains are coming and there's a bunch of trash near the creeks. We have to get it out of the creek before the rains come and wash it into the water. The county does what it can, but there's a lot of water in this county and it can't take care of it all so we have to step up," he said.

The City of Willits and C&S Waste Solutions provided three dumpsters for the project. The participants were provided with gloves, water and trash bags.

Although Stack went ahead and scouted the locations, and had spoken with residents living under the bridges, the cleanup crews encountered some minor encampments and were careful not to disturb the items that could be considered property. Some of the residents, at the south end of Railroad Avenue, even temporarily removed their belongings and waited until the crews had finished before restoring their camps.



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