

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

To the Editor:

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Sherwood Valley Casino, Willits Community Services and Food Bank will be hosting its 35th annual free Community Thanksgiving Dinner from 11 am to 3 pm on Thursday, November 28 at the Harrah Senior Center at 1501 Baechtel Road in Willits.

Desserts will be provided by the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the Brown Bag Program. All are welcome to attend. Donations are welcomed and very much appreciated. We hope to see you all there!

Volunteers are needed for the Thanksgiving Dinner for 2 hour shifts. Anyone interested in volunteering can call Kim at (707) 459-3333.

Kim Tippit, executive director, WCS and Food Bank

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT November 2024 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

Let's start with some good news! The Acting Auditor/Controller Treasurer Tax Collector has closed the books for fiscal year 2023/24 which ended on June 30. The carry forward which is the money left over is over \$11 million. This is due to increased revenue from property taxes, cannabis taxes, and Cost Plan charges. While sales taxes and the Transient Occupancy Taxes were down, the Assessor's Office was able to get several million dollars in the supplemental billings. Cost-cutting measures also reduced the expenditures.

One of the staff recommendations which I totally agree with is to pay back the \$7 million borrowed from Measure B to pay for the Mental Health wing of the jail. We need to invest in substance use disorder treatment programs. Mendocino County has many people with mental illnesses and substance abuse issues. With this money, we can invest in programs that create healthier, safer communities. These programs should be where people can access them, not just centered in Ukiah.

Last month, the Board of Supervisors unanimously directed staff to keep the original intent of the cannabis ordinance which limited a parcel to 10,000 square feet of mature cannabis plants. Staff came back with the appropriate language to close the loophole. Supervisor Gjerde and I voted to honor the original intent, and if expansion is on the table, let's have community discussions open to everyone so that we can agree on a path forward.

But the motion we made was not supported by the other three supervisors. The majority of the board could not agree on any motion, so the default is that the plain reading of the ordinance stands. This means that a person in non-resource lands can have two permits of 10,000 square feet each on a parcel over 5 acres.

While we made it through another fire season, there is an increased prevalence of natural disasters. A reliable and effective radio infrastructure backbone is crucial to ensure first response communications are clear and resilient. The county just completed Phase III of the Microwave Radio replacement project, replacing all the existing aging and out-of-warranty radio infrastructure. This new hardware will ensure robust and resilient emergency radio communications throughout the whole of Mendocino County.

Due to scheduling conflicts, no Talk with the Supervisor this month. I am available by email haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-972-4214.

Fee free on National Forests for Veterans Day

November 5 — For this Veterans Day, November 11, the USDA Forest Service is waiving standard amenity fees for all visitors to national forest and grassland day-use areas. This fee-free day shows our gratitude for the selfless service of those in the military who served our country along with the support of their families.

"The Forest Service is proud to honor our nation's veterans with a free day to enjoy our forests and the outdoors," said Jennifer Eberlein, regional forester for the Pacific Southwest Region. "We are thankful to the 5,553 veterans who continue their public service in our agency — with 600 veterans employed in our region alone."

The Forest Service offers fee-free access a few times each year to encourage exploring national forests and grasslands.

On these special days, standard amenity fees charged for day-use sites — like picnic areas, developed trailheads, and destination visitor centers — are waived. Please note, the waiver does not apply to special recreation permits, cabin rentals, campground reservations, expanded amenity fees on certain highly developed sites, and service fees from independent concessionaires operating on national forest land.

Approximately 98% of national forest land can be enjoyed fee-free, year-round. Where fees are assessed, more than 80% of these funds are reinvested at the site where they're collected. These fees provide necessary maintenance and services or pay for future improvements.

Fee-free public lands access is available year-round to U.S. military service members and their families, veterans and Gold Star family members. The Interagency Military Pass is available at no cost to all active-duty military personnel and their families. This pass is honored nationwide at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service sites charging standard amenity or entrance fees.

For more about interagency passes, visit the Forest Service's Passes and Permits page.

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Thursday, November 7: Italian Sub Sandwich, Mac Salad

Friday, November 8: Pork Tacos, Rice, Beans

Monday, November 11: Fish Stick, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Tuesday, November 12: Western Bacon Cheeseburger

Wednesday, November 13: Shrimp Scampi, Veggies, Roll

Thursday, November 14: Cranberry Glazed Pork Chops, Roasted Potatoes

Friday, November 15: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans and Corn Bread

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.

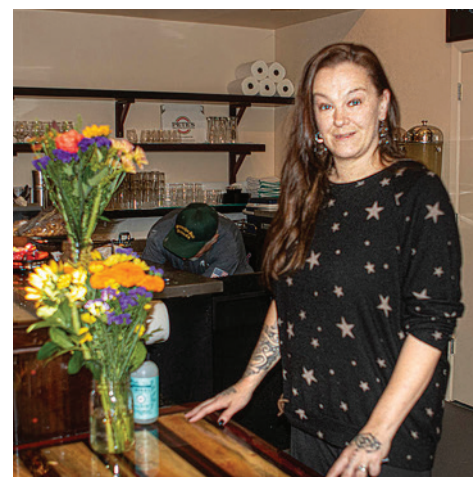
Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, on November 10 13 this month,

8 to 11 am. Menu choices are: 1. All-you-can-eat pancakes with 2 eggs, choice of sausage or bacon, and cup of coffee, milk or juice, or 2. Biscuits & gravy with side of eggs only. \$12; \$11 Senior Center members; \$8 children under 8. Extra sausage, bacon, eggs and juice for additional cost.

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

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

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



'Beer and Pizza'

Flying Dog Pizza unveils new bar on Halloween — beer, cider, wine and kombucha now available

Pete Swanton has done it again. He's made even more improvements and innovations to Flying Dog Pizza, a location that has gone through many changes in the last few years, to try and find a formula to enhance the range of customers who will enjoy the many pleasures that can be found there.

Having morphed from a DVD rental and record sales business (Main Street Video) to a family pizza restaurant and family fun center, it is now a place for adults to gather at the newly built bar that has five different popular beers, kombucha, wine, and soft drinks on tap. Swanton's place is constantly changing as he and his very able staff find ways to attract people across all spectrums of society, gender and ages.

"The bar is a long time in the making," said Swanton. "Four days ago was our four-year anniversary of the pizza shop. It's been transforming over time. We always think we're going to do this, this, and that, but stuff always takes time. It's evolving as we go and the bar should have been done three years ago, but I can think of a lot of things that should have been done three years ago. Things have to fall into the place. The county came and inspected. Then had to come back and inspect it. The county's no problem. The city's no problem."

The bar opening came on Halloween, which made for some very interestingly costumed clientele. Witches were in abundance, kids with their alien abductors, ghouls, Waldo, and some fairies thrown in for good measure, could be found enjoying the wood-fired crisp and tasty treats that had arrived bubbling hot from the super-heated oven.

Families tried their hand at the

shuffleboard and foosball tables while they waited for the fresh pies to emerge. Some adults made their way to the new beautifully built bar made of local wood from the fires in Covelo.

"Pizza and beer go together. Pizza and root beer go together. We have a delicious root beer on tap. We also have cider on tap, kombucha on tap. We'll be getting wine on tap here. It's become quite the thing. We've been doing a lot of research on that," explained Swanton.

Along with the physical innovations, Flying Dog Pizza, named after Swanton's dog, Link, who loves to go up with Swanton in his airplane, the shop is holding a free-to-enter raffle.

"I wanted to mention that we're doing a raffle through the year," said Caroline Rehberger, kitchen manager. "We'll pull the winners the first week of January. Every person that comes in can put a ticket in, one entry per person. Our first-place prize is two salads, garlic knots, a pizza, cinnamon knots, and two beverages, including beer or wine. The second-place prize is a \$25 gift card. We are doing gift cards now of any denominations. Everybody is going to be a winner."

Swanton has found that one of the biggest keys to success is to hire the right people and let them do their jobs. "I'm lucky with employees, finding people to work. People are always saying they can't find people to work. We have no problem finding people. That's a specialized position in there [referring to the kitchen]. I'm still learning a lot after four years. I can't multitask like these ladies [Caroline Rehberger and Stacey Lydon]. They can do three or four

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

At top, from left: Stacey Lydon helps run Flying Dog Pizza, mostly from behind the order desk. The kids get to display their coloring prowess on the refrigerator, like at home. A coven of witches chat at the new bar, enjoying tasty brews. Rose is a wood nymph with homemade natural wings.

Above, left: The night's kitchen crew includes Ben Goldstein, Olan Cox, Jim Defussi, and owner Pete Swanton. Above, right: Keegan and Davin Schadeck, along with their mom Keleigh Hansen, grab some dinner at Flying Dog Pizza before heading out to trick or treat.

Below: Cyndee Logan, left, and other patrons enjoy a beer.

Photos by Mathew Caine



At left: Heather and Austin Herreshoff challenge each other to a game of air hockey.

Below, left: Kirstin Johnson and her kids enjoy some fresh pizza.

Below, right: This beautiful natural wood counter top was crafted by Jim Defussi.



Willits Weekly
Online & In Print

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.

County extends amnesty for building permit violations through 2024

Submitted by Planning and Building Services

October 31 — On September 12, 2023, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors provided direction to Planning and Building Services to establish a one-year amnesty program that waives all Violation/Penalty fees related to building permits submitted after work has already commenced or been completed, which are not associated with a confirmed code enforcement case. Once a permit application has been submitted, no additional construction may be performed on the structure subject to the application until said permit application is approved and issued.

This program originally was planned to expire on November 1, 2024 but has been extended to December 31, 2024. All complete amnesty building

Read the rest of **Amnesty** Over on page 6

County sees major strides in housing homeless

Submitted by Mendocino County Department of Social Services

October 31 — New data from Mendocino County reveals a significant reduction in homelessness-related emergency service calls and success in housing nearly 1,000 people experiencing homelessness over the past three years. These trends highlight the growing effectiveness of local jurisdictions in addressing one of its most persistent social issues through a combination of collaborative programs, innovative projects, and new housing developments.

According to the California Homeless Data Integration System, 969 people in Mendocino County who were previously living on the streets or in shelters were moved into permanent housing between 2021 and 2023. Despite challenges, the county saw a steady increase in its ability to place people in stable

Read the rest of **Homeless** Over on page 6

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Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman on November 13 will hear arguments in the defense bid to dismiss a high-profile case laced with local politics.

DA Eyster, who instigated the criminal case against a fellow elected official whom he had quarreled with over his own office's expenses, initially refused to recuse himself from prosecution in October 2023, but a few months later he hired Carrillo, a former Sonoma County prosecutor, to pursue the criminal case at an hourly rate of \$400 per hour, and a \$10,000 retainer.

Carrillo's response filed Wednesday [October 30] to defense attorney Chris Andrian's bid in early October to have the case tossed was not unexpected, but it, like Andrian's early motion, provided a deeper look into a case which is proving far costlier to prosecute than the \$68,106 in extra pay that former county Payroll Manager Paula June Kennedy received over a three-year period during the COVID pandemic.

Carrillo's motion confirms intense disagreements over what happened among the county's three top Auditor Office's administrators: former Auditor Lloyd Weer, who was still in office when the extra payments began in 2019, Cubbison, his then assistant who was later elected to be his replacement by voters, and Kennedy, a longtime payroll manager.

Andrian in his motion earlier this month to dismiss labeled it a tangled case of "he said, she said, they said."

The prosecutor's motion filed in response Wednesday discloses that Cubbison and Kennedy were veteran county auditor employees whose relationship had ruptured. Kennedy, a salaried employee, threatened to quit in 2022 because the county Executive Office was refusing to compensate her for 390 hours of extra work during the 2.5 years she worked from home during the pandemic, when the Auditor's Office was largely closed to the public.

Carrillo's argument confirms that it was Cubbison who triggered the criminal investigation after she alerted the County Counsel's Office to Kennedy's threats of a possible a lawsuit over her alleged unpaid hours.

Carrillo's motion disclosed that a search of Kennedy's phone revealed text messages between her and an individual she was dating at the time that revealed the level of acrimony that had developed between Kennedy and Cubbison by then.

Referring to Cubbison, Kennedy wrote, "She's the one who told me to issue it [the extra pay code] and refused multiple times to put that in writing."

"Lying, back-stabbing bitch didn't confess that she approved it. So now, it's my word against hers," according to Carrillo's quote from the Kennedy text.

Carrillo continued the Kennedy quote: "so unnecessary. I would have never issued that pay without her approval. I would have quit three years ago."

Investigative reports, however, show Cubbison did intervene on Kennedy's behalf to top county officials to no avail. Cubbison and Weer both knew that authorization of any extra pay depended on approval not from either one of them but from the county Executive Office and the Board of Supervisors, investigators found.

At issue now in the criminal case is whether Kennedy had an alleged "side agreement" with either Weer or Cubbison to use the obscure pay code. Kennedy so far has not produced any document other than timecards with the notations "per Lloyd and Chamise," according to Carrillo's motion.

Kennedy, after being placed on administrative leave by Cubbison following disclosure of the extra pay, insisted to investigators that Cubbison told her Weer had approved the payments.

Carrillo said Kennedy claimed she never spoke directly with Weer when he was still Auditor about the extra pay.

However, Carrillo's motion does not address Andrian's earlier allegation that former District Attorney Chief Investigator Kevin Bailey learned there in fact had been a personal discussion between Kennedy and Weer about ways to get her compensated.

Carrillo said Thursday those related details will be "flushed out" during the scheduled court hearing November 13.

Andrian expected Carrillo to oppose his bid on behalf of Cubbison, and said the serious issues relating to the county's acknowledgement of potentially thousands of missing emails, and Weer's role in the extra pay, remain.

"In this case, three individuals pointed the finger at each other regarding how or whether Ms. Kennedy received authorization to use the additional pay code," Andrian's motion to dismiss contended. He said the missing emails might have shown who authorized Kennedy's use of an obscure county pay code.

No matter, prosecutor Carrillo argues in her opposition to dismissal.

"Defendant is unable to show that anyone from the county acted in bad faith," said Carrillo.

Carrillo acknowledged there are "some" missing emails among seven users including Weer, Cubbison and Kennedy between 2013 and 2020, but she claimed they were "well outside the relevancy of this case."

"Accordingly, even if the defendant could show that some of the missing emails contained potentially useful evidence that was destroyed, defendant has failed to demonstrate the bad faith element as required," according to Carrillo.

Bartolomie and her team will issue a rough count of ballots remaining to count in Mendocino County – "maybe Thursday," she said. As far as a final, certified count, Bartolomie said: "We're usually done by Thanksgiving; this year, we won't be."

The Voter Office will post updated results every week as they are processed and counted, she said, "but there's a new Assembly bill, and we cannot certify until December 3."

AB 3184 requires that voters be given until the 26th day after this year's presidential general election to resolve specified issues with their vote by mail ballots, and generally prohibits a county elections official from certifying the results of the election prior to the 28th calendar day following the election. AB 3184 is meant to give California voters more time to "cure" their mail-in ballots after being notified that their ballot was missing a signature or the local voter office couldn't match the ballot signature with what they had on file.

Bartolomie said, in 20 years at the Elections Office, "we have not received one cured signature after we've certified."

Completing the tally for candidates for Willits City Council in initial results is Mathew Alaniz (in fourth place with 289 votes), and write in candidates Saprina Rodriguez (with 138 votes) and Bradley Thomas (8 votes).

Generally in Mendocino County the final, certified results mirror initial results, but in races with only a few ballots difference between candidates, there's always the possibility the rankings can change.

As far as Willits Unified School District board, there were three candidates running for two seats on the board. As of initial results, April Lamprich has 1,099 votes; David Likker has 873 votes, and Dianne McNeal has 759 votes.

On the Mendocino County Office of Education board, there were two candidates for the Trustee Area 3 seat, representing Willits, Laytonville and Covelo, to replace the retiring Charlene Ford. As of initial results, Michelle Hutchins is in the lead with 1,377 votes, with David Strock receiving 949 votes.

In general, Bartolomie said she thought the Tuesday election had gone "really well" in Mendocino County. Her office had eight extra-help people, two more than usual, to help with processing and scanning ballots. "Sometimes we have elections when we are completely running ragged, but this was a steady busy," she said.

She reported there were "a lot of young voters that came into our office to vote; that was amazing. Just about everybody was nice and patient. It was a great team effort. I think we served our last person at 8:30 pm." Polls close at 8 pm, but if you're in line by 8 pm, you still have the opportunity to vote.

As per the same initial election results posted Tuesday night before midnight, Mendocino County voters chose Kamala Harris for president by 65.55% (10,110 votes) compared to 31.46% for Donald Trump (4,852 votes). For other presidential candidates, initial results show 225 Mendocino County voters chose Robert Kennedy Jr., (1.46%), 124 county voters chose Jill Stein (0.80%), 71 voters chose Chase Oliver (0.46%), and 40 voters chose Claudia De La Cruz (0.26%).

To keep up with election results updates, visit www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/current-election-results

You can check on the status of your mail-in ballot at the below link, but remember the Elections Office is still counting ballots.

www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections/vote-by-mail-absentee-status

permit applications must be submitted on or before December 31, 2024 in order to be eligible for this program. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

The amnesty program applies to all residential and commercial building permits, subject to the following limitations:

- The permits are not associated with a confirmed code enforcement case.
- The permits are not already under review with the Department.
- The program does not apply to zoning violations.

Amnesty building permits will be subject to meeting the building code standards for the year in which we can verify the construction occurred. If no construction date can be verified, they will be subject to current building code standards.

Amnesty building permits must meet all standards for the zoning district in which they are located.

All members of the public are invited to self-report any unpermitted structures and legalize improvements during this Amnesty Program.

If you have specific questions regarding the process, please contact the Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services at (707) 234-6650 or email pbs@mendocinocounty.gov.

Caltrans, CDFW work to reconnect animal habitats along state highways

Sacramento – Wildlife making their habitat in the Golden State's biodiverse environment are getting a helping hand from Caltrans and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California is implementing a strategy to address wildlife connectivity barriers across the state's vast transportation network. The effort aligns with Governor Gavin Newsom's vision to lead the world in protecting and restoring biodiversity.

"Caltrans is seeking opportunities to better integrate our highway system with the state's diverse natural environment," said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. "It is our responsibility to improve passageways for wildlife that live and migrate along our shared ecosystem, and remediation efforts highlighted in this report will help honor our goal to provide a world-class transportation system that serves all people and respects the environment."

Caltrans developed the Wildlife Connectivity Report, released July 2024, which identified more than 140 locations across the state with opportunities to improve wildlife connectivity. Species such as the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the desert big horn sheep and the San Joaquin kit fox are often barred or restricted from their natural migration patterns because roads and fences interrupt their surroundings. Search for "Wildlife Connectivity Report" at <https://dot.ca.gov> to learn more.

"Habitat connectivity is one of the most critical issues we're confronting in the 21st century to maintain California's biodiversity and healthy fish and wildlife populations," said CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham. "We have to find ways for fish and wildlife to move safely across the landscape – to prevent inbreeding and increase genetic diversity, to escape poor habitat burned by wildfire or parched by a warming climate, to prevent vehicle collisions on busy roadways. That's why we are excited to partner with Caltrans to help provide solutions and create the opportunity for wildlife to move safely."

Numerous proposed projects are designed to remediate fish and wildlife barriers and help approximately 180 native, endangered or threatened animal species to move more freely and have better access to their natural habitats. Caltrans is looking to construct dozens of migration corridors adjacent to state highways and interstates. They include a new bridge overcrossing along State Route 97 in Siskiyou County, a new bridge on Interstate 15 in San Bernardino County, and an enlarged culvert underneath Interstate 10 in Los Angeles County. The highly touted Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing over U.S. 101 in Southern California is expected to be completed in 2026.

For more information on the state's efforts to improve wildlife connectivity, view the Fish and Wildlife Connectivity page <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/biology/fish-wildlife-connectivity> or visit the Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity page at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/Analysis/Connectivity#589603665-wildlife-barriers>

housing, with 314 homeless individuals housed in 2023 alone.

"This data tells a powerful story about what we've been able to achieve through strategic partnerships and a commitment to collaboration across sectors," said Megan Van Sant, senior program manager with Mendocino County's Social Services Department. "Collectively, we're not only housing more individuals, but also reducing their need for emergency interventions."

One of the most notable examples is the Heads Up Project, a collaboration between local law enforcement, behavioral health, and social services. Launched in 2022, the program has diverted people from the criminal justice system by connecting them with appropriate behavioral health and social services. Current law enforcement partners include the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Mendocino County Probation, and the Ukiah Police Department. Willits Police Department hopes to be on board within the coming months.

New data shows that Heads Up referrals for homeless individuals have decreased by 54% since 2022. This shift reflects a countywide trend of meeting needs sooner, before situations escalate. Since the program launch in May 2022, Heads Up has served over 470 individuals – both housed and unhoused – countywide.

In an analysis of 100 randomly selected Heads Up clients, 72% engaged in follow-up services, such as housing assistance, mental health care, or primary care. More than 80% of engaged clients have had no further arrests or bookings into jail as of September 2024.

"This program, significantly bolstered by the launch of our Mobile Dual Response Team, has been a game-changer," said Dr. Jenine Miller, Behavioral and Public Health director. "By connecting people to the right services, we're helping them stabilize their lives and reducing their involvement with the justice system."

Local emergency services have also experienced the positive impact of placing individuals in housing. The Ukiah Valley Fire Department reports a 28% reduction in calls for service involving homeless individuals, down from 15.9% of total calls in 2021.



Above, left: Along with her impressive original paintings, Sue Ellen Parkinson applies giclée prints to a shaped wood backing for these pieces, which evoke early iconography. Above, right: Sue Ellen Parkinson is surrounded by her work at a recent open studio held at her Willits home.



At left: Painter Sue Ellen Parkinson presents her unique iconographic work from her rustic studio on Ridgewood Road.

Below, left: As with many of Sue Ellen Parkinson's paintings, "Saint Abigail of the Beekkeepers" reflects her rural lifestyle.

Below, right: "Eve-Reclamation" offers a visionary perspective on the classic Adam and Eve story.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde



Art and Iconography

Sue Ellen Parkinson paints spiritual icons and rural themes from her Ridgewood Road studio

Artist Sue Ellen Parkinson said that although she has worked with symbolism her entire life, her deep dive into painting what she calls the "Sacred Feminine" began in 2015. "When I began, I didn't realize that iconography is such a fascinating and mysterious form of art," said Parkinson. "My perception of life is continuously enlarged by painting the mystics. I'll never stop."

Parkinson's voyage into spiritual iconography began with a painting of Mary Magdalene. "I chose Mary Magdalene because she seemed like the perfect icon to represent all the women in the world whose stories have either been erased from history, marginalized or maligned. I began with a simple desire to honor all women through honoring her. This painting changed my life."

The models that appear in Parkinson's paintings are all local people that she knows well and cares about. "I start with a vision of the image, then I wait until the right person shows up," she said. "In the best case scenario, the model becomes a vehicle for the spirit I'm depicting. I take pictures for reference and develop the image at home."

Parkinson believes that her own spiritual growth lines up with her artistic journey. "Iconography is a force for integration in my life. It takes all the different threads of my experience and weaves them together. Joy, pain, suffering, any longing for repair, is answered in the act of painting. I also dialogue with the images as I paint them."

Also on display at Parkinson's open studio is a series of her paintings first envisioned for a unique tarot deck by her longtime friend Donna Kerr, called "Earth Witness." Parkinson explained

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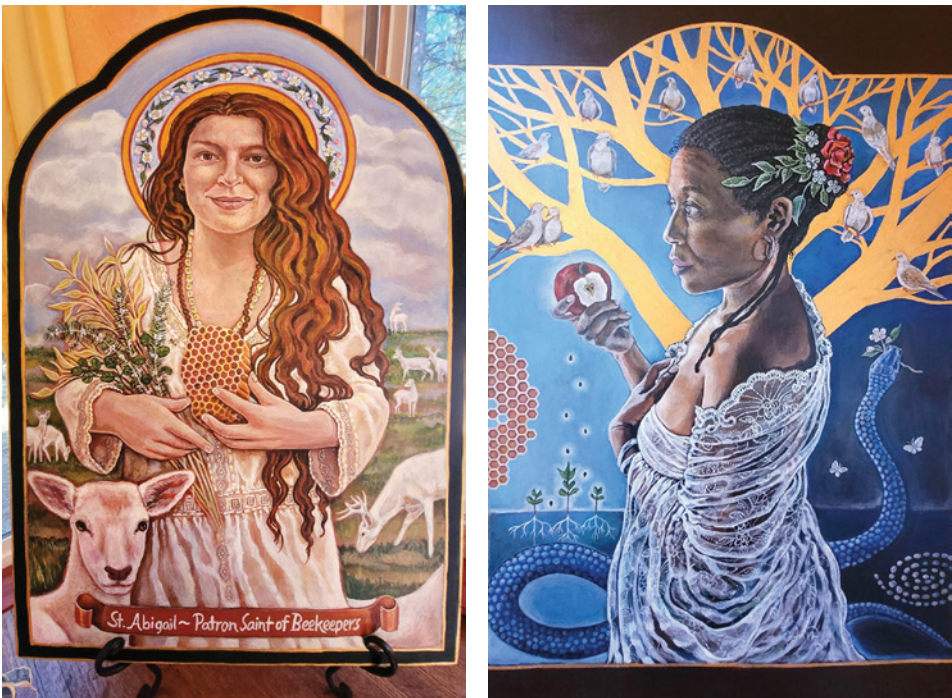
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Thursday,
November 7

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the season, at Little Lake Grange, 391 School Street. Thursday, November 7, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats and hot drinks, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Friday,
November 8

"Fungi: Web of Life": Little Lake Grange's Now and Then Film Series presents a screening of "Fungi: Web of Life," a "visual feast and ode to a hidden kingdom of life that sustains life on our planet. All life on Earth is connected by a great mystery we are only just beginning to unravel. Hidden between the world of plants and animals, another world exists: Fungi. See trailer here: www.fungimovie.com/Friday_November_8 at 7 pm at the Grange, 291 School Street. Suggested donation \$10 to help replace the roof over the Grange - no one turned away. Refreshments will be available.

Last weekend for "The Whisperer" at WCT: Local playwrights Elizabeth Dellett, Garrett Moore, and Jeff Shipp premiere a new staged horror story, "The Whisperer" at Willits Community Theatre, running through November 10. Friday, November 8 at 7:30 pm. Co-directed by Mathew Caine and Jeff Shipp, new play focuses on teenager Lena Patrick, arriving home after a stint at a mental hospital where electroconvulsive therapy prevents her from remembering why she was first checked in. Taking her pills sends her into nightmares. When she stops her medication, the terror leaves her nightmares and pursues her family. Tickets are \$20 and available at the door, 37 West Van Lane, or online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org

Dezi 5 at Shanachie: Eccentric, barrier-breaking musician Dezi 5, out of Dallas and New York, does a record-release tour for "Dirty Laundry," a new project that features him going from a dancefloor staple to a soulful, R&B crooner. Opening: The Steven Bates Band, Friday, November 8 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday,
November 9

Methodist Church Bake Sale and Gift Bazaar: The annual Methodist Church Bake Sale and Gift Bazaar is set for Saturday, November 9, from 10 am to 2 pm, at Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street (across from the Grange). Baked Goodies, Crafts, Art Works, and White Elephants. All proceeds are used to help families and our homeless population have a wonderful Christmas.

What's Happening Around Town



Sit-N-Sew: Second Saturdays at the Willits Library, November 9 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in - bring your sewing project and have fun. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament: Willits Charter School presents a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament to support WCS and the Willits Charter Travel Club on Saturday, November 9 at the Sparetime Distribution Center Warehouse. \$100 buy-in includes dinner, \$10,000 in chips, and a chance to win prizes! Dinner Only: \$25 for non-players. Doors open 4 pm. Plus, enjoy a Silent Auction and a Comedy Show! For tickets and more info, find us on our Facebook page: Willits Charter Travel Club Poker Tournament

Last weekend for "The Whisperer" at WCT: premiere of a new staged horror story by local playwrights at Willits Community Theatre continues Saturday, November 9 at 7:30 pm. See Friday, November 8 listing for details.

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, Kyle Madrigal and/or Gustavo Amaral will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. "You're invited to bring any instrument, meet new musicians, discover new genres, and explore your creativity!"

Clay Hawkins Duo at Shanachie: "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart" by slide guitarist and songwriter Clay Hawkins and longtime co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass. Saturday, November 9 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



Sunday, November 10

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am, Sunday, November 10 this month, at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Menu choices: 1. All-you-can-eat pancakes with 2 eggs, choice of sausage or bacon, and cup of coffee, milk or juice, or 2. Biscuits & gravy with side of eggs only. \$12; \$11 Senior Center members; \$8 children under 8. Extra sausage, bacon, eggs and juice for additional cost.

"The Whisperer" closes at WCT: premiere of a new staged horror story by local playwrights at Willits Community Theatre closes Sunday, November 10 with a 2 pm matinee. See Friday, November 8 listing for details.



and enjoy time perusing stamps. All are welcome. Refreshments served. Info: talsofam@pacific.net

Thursday, November 14

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the season, at Little Lake Grange, 391 School Street. Thursday, November 14, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats and hot drinks, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Friday, November 15

Blue Luke at Shanachie: "Blue Luke" Andrews is a prodigy guitarist, born and raised in Dos Rios, Mendocino County: "Imagine a band that takes the soul of the blues, the groove of the funk, the grit of rock & roll and the rich harmonies of jazz to create exactly what you've always wanted to hear." Friday, November 15 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, November 16

Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: A local Mendocino County jam band, "sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community. We're the Cosmic Family Band and so are you." Saturday, November 16 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Toast & Roast for WCA's Gary Martin: Join us in celebrating Gary Martin's retirement as Willits Center for the Arts Gallery Curator with a candlelight dinner in the Galleries, with an elegant full-course menu created by Chef Adam Celaya, from 6 to 8 pm on Saturday, November 16. Price including champagne and this special meal (meal is veggie friendly) is \$125 per plate, with all proceeds going to the Willits Center for the Arts. Limited Seating Bring your favorite Gary photos and stories to tell! Tickets are available online or at the WCA Gallery desk. Must purchase by November 10, 2024. Buy early, tickets are selling... <https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/event-details/toast-roast-for-gary-martins-curator-retirement>

Monday,
November 11
Honor Veterans on Veterans Day

Veterans Day Breakfast: Willits American Legion Post 174 presents its annual Veterans Breakfast, on Monday, November 11, from 8 to 11 am, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street in Willits. Breakfast is FREE to all veterans, military, emergency response personnel, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.



Veterans Day Flag Raising Ceremony: Please join Willits American Legion Post 174 on Veterans Day 2024, Monday, November 11, for a "Flag Raising" ceremony in honor of veterans at 12 noon at the Mendocino County Veterans Memorial, at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street.

Wednesday,
November 13

Willits Stamp Club: The monthly meeting of the Willits Stamp Club is on second Wednesday this month, Wednesday, November 13, 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Bring your collection



COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Saturday Night'

The Story: Fictionalized hysterically funny recreation of the bedlam and frantic chaos of the very first night of Lorne Michaels' visionary, but quite risky TV show: Saturday Night Live. All present for the noisy birthing of an American legend. The NBC executives are there, crowded together in a smoke-filled conference room. They await the airing of the new show. They are skeptical, perhaps even negative. Confusion reigns.

The cocaine-fueled dress rehearsal is having trouble. The whole production is scheduled to air in a little more than 90 minutes, and the whole rehearsal is running more than 90 minutes. Some of the comedy sketches need to be cut. The performers are frantic. Please! Please! Don't cut me! (And John Belushi doesn't want to sign his contract. Doesn't want to shave his beard. Doesn't want to wear the honey bee costume.)

Meanwhile, out on the street, an eager NBC passer-by for an audience, "Great new show tonight!" (Good luck with that.) Lorne Michaels (Gabriel LaBelle) is running from room to room putting out fires. He's arguing with his producer about advertising Polaroid cameras. He's arguing with Milton Berle (J.K. Simmons)! He's arguing with a chillingly ruthless NBC exec (Willem Dafoe) who wants to cut everything and play re-runs of Johnny Carson. And then (spoiler!) there's the problem with the bricks (I'm not explaining that one).

My Thoughts: I loved the movie. I loved the nostalgia. And "Roaring Huzzahs!" for all the actors recreating the original stars of Saturday Night Live.

Parents: Some adult stuff, not unlike actual Saturday Night Live shows.

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



VFW Breakfast

Nov 9, 2024; 08:00 am to Noon

Eggs, Sausage, Hash Browns, Biscuits and Gravy, Orange Juice and Coffee

\$10.00 per person

Veteran's Memorial Building
293 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA

COOKING BY REDWOOD EMPIRE LIONS

WILLITS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

MON. 11/18 7-8:30PM At the Willits Grange

Rockluck (Polluck) Thanksgiving Style

Free cool rock! Door Prizes!

"Bring a dish & a rock for show n tell"
"Bring your own plate & cutlery if able"
*No alcohol on premises
*No access to garage kitchen

Palace Hotel Book Party,
November 16

The Historical Society of Mendocino County hosts a book release party for "The History of Ukiah's Palace Hotel," by Karen Rifkin, on Saturday, November 16 at 100 South Dora Street, Ukiah, from 1 to 3 pm. The book includes stories and photos, "in the first definitive, chronological accounting of the Palace Hotel and the people and events that shaped its wild and colorful history." Info: email Karen at: palacehotelfever@gmail.com.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner coming up; volunteers needed

Willits Community Services and Food Bank needs volunteers for the 35th annual free Community Thanksgiving Dinner, set for Thursday, November 28 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Sponsored by Sherwood Valley Casino.

"Come give thanks and celebrate with your community. There is no charge. Anyone may eat for free. Donations are gladly accepted and will benefit WCS and Food Bank in their continuing effort to provide essential human services in the greater Willits and north county community."

Volunteers are needed to make desserts, to set up on November 27, to serve food at the dinner, and to deliver meals to seniors on Thanksgiving Day, November 28. Anyone interested in volunteering can call Kim at (707) 459-3333.

FIRE INSURANCE COMMUNITY FORUM

Have questions about how to get or keep fire insurance? Come listen and learn about fire insurance in California



TUESDAY November 19 5:30 PM AT HARWOOD HALL 44400 WILLIS AVE LAYTONVILLE

*Refreshments provided

HOSTED BY: LAYTONVILLE FIRE, MC FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, LAYTONVILLE REALTY START COMMUNITY & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DURRIYA SYED, CA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
A UNITED POLICYHOLDERS REPRESENTATIVE

And a Question and Answer period to follow. Questions can also be submitted by Nov. 10th to dmgsmith_nes502@cafire.com to have answered at the meeting.



ONGOING EVENTS

Willits Community Services & Food Bank: WCS offers food grocery distributions to families in need twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. 344 Railroad Avenue. Please bring an I.D. We are looking for volunteers for our warehouse, window, food delivery drivers, and fundraising volunteers. For information call: (707) 459-3333

Free Food Pop-Ups: Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program's Food Pop-Up in Willits offers two events per month, first and third Thursdays, at 1250 Blosser Lane. Info: outreach@fbfoodbank.org; 707-964-9404

Willits Tennis Club: Meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School courts. New members welcome. Free. Show up or call 707-484-3385.

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

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth

Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial 7pm. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Sack lunches served at the City Park (or across the street in case of rain) every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm. Come early to be assured a lunch! Provided by various churches and community organizations.

Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays and Fridays at 2 pm: The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: tgregory@saber.net or visit Willits Boules Club on Facebook.

Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym: Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers free classes for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. More info on current classes: call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0565.

Literacy Volunteers of Willits: We teach adults to read! Free personal tutoring at the library. Call or email to make an appointment: LiteracyWillits@gmail.com or 707-456-7729

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

Saturday Scramble: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B. Bring any instrument you can play and sign up to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. "Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!"

Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm - welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!"

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Shanachie Pub presents its popular Open Mic Night every Wednesday, featuring an eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can be entered for the lottery. Lottery determines order from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20 pm.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

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

Dance Hall: Willits Library now welcomes all adults to the weekly Dance Hall, Fridays, now 3 to 4 pm. Bring your dancing shoes to enjoy jazz, pop, swing, and ballroom selections. Don't feel like dancing? Please come and enjoy the music, catch up with friends new and old, and share some light refreshments.

Story Time: Friday mornings each week, 10:30 to 11 am. Join us in the children's area of the library.

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe". Topics will range and will be announced ahead of time.

LEGO Club: Tuesdays, now 4 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

Tech Help: Now every Saturday from 11 am to 12 pm: Is your computer on the fritz? Want to install a new app? Bring your tech questions and get help from the library's tech savvy volunteer

Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome!

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyothatre.com

Cine Noyo! Movies in Spanish will be moving to a new day.
There is no Spanish Language movie this week.

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER

(PG)
1 hr 39 mins
Fri.-Thurs.: 4:45 & 7:15
Sat. & Sun.: 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15

VENOM: THE LAST DANCE

(PG)
1 hr 50 mins
Fri.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 6:45
Sat. & Sun.: 1:45, 4:15 & 6:45

SATURDAY NIGHT

(R) 1 hr 49 mins
Fri.-Thurs.: 4:30 & 7:00
Sat. & Sun.: 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00

OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners, laser projection, beer and wine sales



Virtual Author Talks at the Library

The Willits Library presents a virtual author talk on Thursday, November 7, at 4 pm. "A Navajo Investigator's Search for the Unexplained: In Conversation with Stanley Milford, Jr."

On Thursday, November 14 at 1 pm, the talk is: "On Childhood Migration from Central America-In Conversation with Javier Zamora."

On Wednesday, November 20 at 4 pm, the virtual author talk is: "Native Rights and Culture in Fiction-A Conversation with Mona Susan Power."

Read more and register for the talks at <https://library.org/mendolibrary/upcoming>

Willits Gem & Mineral Society Meeting

Join the Willits Gem & Mineral Society for a free monthly meeting, on Monday, November 18 this month, featuring a "rockluck" (polluck) - Thanksgiving style. Bring a dish (bring your own cutlery; no alcohol) and a rock for show & tell. 7 to 8:30 pm, at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street. All future meetings (including December and January) held every third Monday.

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 9:00 a.m. Info? 707-459-1905 www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
W.P. Service - 5:00 pm.
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 Bandanadam
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 pm.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at 707-459-2252
<https://stanthonywillits.org/>
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church

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

St. John Lutheran Church

Church Service:
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
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 willits umc

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

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



NC Financial Group
675 S Main Street, Willits, CA 95490
www.ncfinancialgroup.com

(855) 240-6606
(415) 480-3669

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Nicholas Casagrande, EA
CEO & Financial Advisor
nicholas.casagrande@ncfinancial.com

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The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Bicoastal Media is a vote-based contest for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are finalized and make up the Official Best of Lake and Mendocino voting ballot. The audience can then vote on one choice in each category. Voters are allowed to nominate without limits and once the voting period has begun, one vote per category per 24-hour period is allowed. Listing in this publication should not be construed as an endorsement of the advertiser by our client. No compensation was provided directly or indirectly by the advertiser for participation or in connection with obtaining or using the third-party rating or award.

T and T TOWING

707-459-9116
277 N. Lenore Ave. WILLITS, CA
24-HOUR RADIO DISPATCHED TOWING

SPARETIME GARDEN CENTER

Thank You **VETERANS**
— WE HONOR ALL WHO SERVED —

We Are Open Monday, Nov. 11th

(707) 459-6791
208 E. San Francisco Ave.
sparetimegardencenter.com

STORE HOURS
Mon - Sat 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday CLOSED

LEGAL NOTICES

WW519

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2024-F0480

The following person or persons are doing business as Fashion BellaChris, 76401 Covello Road, Unit 9, Covello CA 95478; mailing address: 2738 Comanche Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

Registered owner: Celestina Blanco Martinez, 2738 Comanche Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on October 16, 2024.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on October 16, 2024.

/s/ Celestina Blanco Martinez
Publication Dates: October 31, November 7, 14, and 21, 2024

WW520

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2024-F0458

The following person or persons are doing business as MJ Farm, 5926 Ridgewood Road, Willits CA 95490.

Registered owners: Jeff and Melissa Apodaca, 5926 Ridgewood Road, Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a married couple.

The registrants 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 24, 2024.

/s/ Jeff Apodaca
Publication Dates: October 31, November 7, 14, and 21, 2024

Christina McCluskey's Paralegal Service

Certified Paralegal, Legal Document Assistant, Notary Public

Divorces • Deeds • Small Claims • Evictions
Chapter 7 Bankruptcy • Power of Attorney • Criminal History Expungement • Guardianships
Conservatorships • Name Changes • Wills and Trusts • Licensed • Bonded

32 E San Francisco Ave, Ste B
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 467-7642

I'm not an attorney. I cannot represent you in court.

Marc Komer
Legal Document Assistant

An Affordable
Non-Attorney Service
(707) 459-2775

245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.

Mendocino County invites applications for:

Corrections Deputy
\$58,136 - \$67,308

County Health Officer
\$185,224 - \$225,139

Deputy Probation Officer I & II
\$55,577 - \$74,505

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner
\$84,323 - \$102,460

Library Assistant
\$37,398 - \$39,270

Mental Health Clinician I/II
\$62,337 - \$87,630

Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist
\$58,843 - \$71,510

Office Services Supervisor
\$49,379 - \$60,008

Staff Services Manager II
\$95,846 - \$116,500

Supervising Health Program Coordinator
\$75,920 - \$92,268

Supervising Public Health Nurse
\$113,609 - \$138,091

Youth Corrections Officer
\$55,348 - \$67,267

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
EOE



WILLITS WEEKLY

Q R E N F M R R B K G L A C K W T D W
H V E Y T I O U U E R G N A E P W H
A I K E Z E L L E C R E N H M P U T
E A M I K Z E G A M B R T J K M G O P E T
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D A R E D E V T L O K H P Z G A C
R O B I N O L X I N E O H P A C

LEGAL NOTICES

WW521

CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
PROJECT NO. 2021-03
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed bids for:
The work shown on the project plans entitled:
CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT PROJECT PLANS
For:
CITY OF WILLITS RAIL WITH TRAIL PROJECT - Project No. 2021-03

General Work Description: This project generally includes construction of a 1.6-mile Class I bicycle and pedestrian multi-use trail within the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) right-of-way. The new multi-use trail will include, but not limited to, demolition of existing improvements, adjustment of utilities, clearing and grubbing, tree removal, earthwork grading, construction of multi-use trail with aggregate base, hot mix asphalt and concrete materials, construction of three (3) pre-engineered and pre-fabricated clear span steel truss bridges, concrete bridge abutments and work at each bridge approach, new striping, signing and markings, improvements at existing public and private trail crossings, including improvements of existing railroad at-grade crossings, concrete sidewalk, curb and gutter, driveways and pedestrian curb ramps, landscape and irrigation, tree planting, electrical and lighting, environmental mitigations, compliance with regulatory requirements, traffic control and development, implementation of a storm water pollution prevention (SWPPP) for the work, and other miscellaneous requirements. The work will include coordination with City of Willits, GRTA, California Western Railroad (CWR), operator of the Skunk Trail. Off-site improvements include the creation of wetland, know as "Rail with Trail Project: Wetland and Riparian Establishment" located on the north side of E. Commercial Street adjacent to the Willits Skate Park. Work includes grading, topsoil preparation, erosion control, plantings and plant establishment.

IN
City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California &
The work described in specifications books entitled:
CITY OF WILLITS - BID BOOK & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
CITY OF WILLITS - PROPOSAL PACKET
CITY OF WILLITS - AWARD PACKET
For:
CITY OF WILLITS RAIL WITH TRAIL PROJECT - Project No. 2021-03
IN
City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California will be received by a designated representative, of the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, until the hour of 2 p.m., **January 7th, 2025**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers of the City of Willits, located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California.

THE ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS IS: \$8,233,390
The contractor shall possess a Class A license at the time this contract is awarded.

Key Dates:
• Bid Advertisement: November 7, 2024
• Bid Advertisement in Paper: Twice
• Bid Period: 61 days
• Last Day for Technical Questions: Monday, December 16, 2024
• Addendum Issued: December 20, 2024
• Bid Opening: Tuesday, January 7, 2025; 2:00 pm
• Location of Bid Opening: City Council Chambers
• Staff Report for Council: January 13, 2025
• Award: January 22, 2025 (Council Meeting)

Interested bidders should contact the following in order to obtain electronic copies of plans and other bid documents:
Brandy Sanderson
bsanderson@cityofwillits.org
(707) 459-7143

CITY OF WILLITS: s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
DATED: 11/7/2024
Publication Dates: November 7 and 14, 2024

The rest of Parkinson

that the images on display are a preview for a work in progress, which features animals on the endangered species list.

"Donna has been working on the writing and conception of this tarot deck for over 30 years," Parkinson said. "It's been a pleasure but also a sadness to paint all these threatened creatures. I was honored when Donna asked me to illustrate it."

With 78 cards in the deck, Parkinson said the process of creating them has been slow going as she has had to work on them between other projects. "I'm only a third of the way through," she said, continuing, "We would love to get some funding for the project!"

Prints of Parkinson's work are available for sale at the Willits Center for the Arts, and a local exhibit of her original work is in the planning stages. Learn more about her evocative and expansive work by going to her website: www.sueellenparkinson.com. Parkinson also has a podcast titled "The Little Gifts Podcast."

CLASSIFIEDS

Do you need food?
Willits Food Bank,
344 Railroad Avenue,
Willits, CA 95490. Open
Wednesdays & Fridays,
1-4:30 - Bring an I.D.
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For Sale
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Above: A large painting depicting Saint Isidore surrounded by familiar animal spirits is one of many beautiful examples of Sue Ellen Parkinson's expansive and hopeful vision.

Below: This iconic raven is a detail from one of Parkinson's works in progress.



MCHC welcomes Family Nurse Practitioner Dominica Roberts

Submitted by MCHC

MCHC Health Centers is proud to welcome Family Nurse Practitioner Dominica Roberts. She will split her time between Little Lake Health Center in Willits and Hillside Health Center in Ukiah. Roberts will see patients of all ages on Mondays and Tuesdays at Little Lake. At Hillside, she will see adult patients on Wednesdays and Thursdays and pediatric patients on Fridays.

Roberts believes community health centers are essential, especially in rural areas where quality care can be harder to access. "Having previously worked at a community health center in a rural community much like Ukiah, the community immediately felt like home. The decision to apply for a position here was an easy one."

Roberts focuses on building rapport with patients and collaborating with them on their healthcare. "Patients who see me can expect a holistic approach that considers their life as a whole when addressing any particular concerns. We may discuss aspects of their life, such as stress, sleep, nutrition, and more, and how that relates to their physical well-being. I like to understand people's own goals so that we can collaborate on a healthcare plan that feels good to them."

Roberts sees patient-provider partnerships as essential. "We'll work together. I'll offer suggestions and discuss different options with patients. Together we'll come up with something where they feel like, 'Yes, I can do that and I want to do that.'"

"My goal is to have long-term continuity with patients and to focus on optimizing their wellness," she says, "ultimately promoting health on a deeper level, rather than just treating disease."

A native of Northern California, Roberts moved to the East Coast shortly after high school, earning her undergraduate degree in nursing from Hartwick College in New York. She later moved back to the West Coast, settling in Oregon, where she worked as a registered nurse at a community health center.

"The community health center where I worked during those years motivated me to become a nurse practitioner. Serving a rural community there enabled me to put my values around health equity into practice each day."

In addition to her recent years serving at a community health center, some of her 15 years as a registered nurse were spent working in end-of-life, hospice, and palliative care. "I felt called to companion people through that significant life transition," she says.

"In hospice, I worked with people from all walks of life, including many different



Family Nurse Practitioner Dominica Roberts.

cultures and backgrounds. I enjoyed working with such a wide range of people and feeling the commonality between us all."

While it is no longer her specialty, her background in hospice influences her approach to patient-centered, collaborative care that emphasizes communication with patients to understand their goals, as well as interdisciplinary teamwork.

Roberts completed her Master of Science in nursing with a family nurse practitioner concentration from Sonoma State University. She completed some of her clinical training with MCHC.

Roberts is passionate about providing care to everyone who needs it. "I feel a strong commitment to working with people who may not have access to care elsewhere," she says. She is especially drawn to working with immigrant communities and Spanish-speaking patients. Roberts speaks some Spanish and is actively working to improve her fluency.

MCHC Chief Medical Officer Justin Ebert said, "We are thrilled to welcome Dominica Roberts, whose kindness and compassion will make a lasting impact on the health and lives of our community and undoubtedly enrich our care teams."

Although she is new to Ukiah, settling in has felt easy. "Ukiah very much feels like home to me," Roberts says. "I have found the people here to be incredibly welcoming and friendly. The pace of life here is really what I was seeking."

When she is not busy caring for patients, Roberts enjoys spending time outdoors, being with family, and watercolor painting.

MCHC Health Centers includes Hillside Health Center and Dora Street Health Center in Ukiah, Little Lake Health Center in Willits, and Lakeview Health Center in Lakeport. It is a community-based and patient-directed organization that provides comprehensive primary healthcare services as well as supportive services such as education and translation that promote access to healthcare.

ATW November talk presents benefits of meditation

Submitted by ATW

Avenues to Wellness presents: "The Benefits of Meditation for Chronic Disease," by Claudia Wenning. Tuesday November 19, from 6 to 7 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. FREE to the public. Wheelchair accessible.

Meditation is that one free resource that is available to us, and yet many people struggle with it. This talk will demonstrate how easy meditation can be by offering several effective techniques. It is an opportunity for you to learn in an interactive format. Please join us to attain better health and peace of mind.

Claudia Wenning, PhD. has been immersed in daily meditation practice since 1980. She has many stories to tell about how embracing a regular meditation practice can be the key element to managing not only chronic illness but all diseases.

Claudia is an experienced alternative healthcare provider, offering Naturopathy, Functional Medicine, Counseling, and Energy Balancing treatments. Her individualized care and protocols are effective and stand-alone, but are often a much-needed complementary approach to standard medical care.

Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation.

Visit avenuestowellness.org for an online archive of past events. Call 707-456-9676 or email: spicetti@howardfoundation.org for more information.



Alternative healthcare provider Claudia Wenning is featured at Avenues to Wellness' November 19 talk.

Claudia Wenning, PhD.

The Benefits of Meditation For Chronic Disease

Tuesday Nov. 19, 6-7pm

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Below, from left: An estimated 200 motorcycle enthusiasts gather in the parking lot of the Evergreen Village Shopping Center prior to the 2023 ride. The ride begins, led by the fire departments, down Main Street before touring Little Lake Valley. The Little Lake Grange dining room is filled to capacity with motorcyclists from all over Northern California. At far right, below: Kim "Sugar B" and Rich "Pops" Venturi organized the Toy Run along with several others.



WILLITS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Adopt a Family for Christmas gifts

It's that time of the year for the Willits Christmas program. This year Willits Rotary has passed the torch to Willits Frontier Days. We are very excited to take this program on.

We will not be changing the program in anyway; referrals will still be done through the Willits school district. Willits Wild Bunch has taken over the Toy Run part this year and will continue business as normal. (Any questions about the Toy Run please contact Rich Venturi at willitswildbunch@gmail.com)

Each year for more than a quarter of a century, our community has come together to help less fortunate Willits children by giving essential items (rain wear, winter coats, shoes, sleepwear, blankets etc.) and other appropriate holiday gifts.

Persons who wish to assist a single child can select a card from display trees located at various locations around town. On each card there is the child's clothes and shoe size as well as their wish list. If you are unable to fill the card, please just donate a toy or clothing in one of the drop-off bins, that way we can assure the child gets what is needed as well as what is wished for.

Selection of a single child works for most program supporters, but others have voiced an interest in adopting an entire family. If you or your group wish to adopt a family, you are asked to follow a different path.

My name is Marcy Barry, and I am one of the coordinators for the Willits Frontier Days Christmas Program. I ask that you contact me so that I may assist you in choosing a suitable family. My email is barysbunch@yahoo.com and my phone contact is 707-272-5395, or contact Hailey Riley at 707-272-1088. Please leave a message if we are unable to answer – we will return your call promptly.

To be efficient, we need to satisfy requests to adopt a family before our usual referral process begins in late November. Please call at your earliest convenience so that we can discuss adopting a family.

We want to thank Willits Rotary for selecting us to continue this program.

– Submitted by Marcy Barry and the Willits Frontier Days Christmas Program, aka Santa's helpers



HERE COME THE HOLIDAYS

Tag trees and the Willits Toy Run

Annual Willits Wild Bunch Toy Run
coming up on December 1

Willits Frontier Days takes over Willits Christmas Program, looks for family and child sponsors

Come join the fun for the 32nd annual Willits Toy Run, presented by the Willits Wild Bunch, planned for Sunday, December 1 at the little Lake Grange.

As is tradition, persons interested in joining the procession from the Evergreen Shopping Center to the Grange on motorcycles are welcome to gather together starting at 11 am for a meet and greet, and be ready to ride out at 12 noon. Those wishing to just attend the event at the Grange are welcome to gather there and await the arrival of the pack.

Whether arriving by engine or foot, admission is one unwrapped toy, and/or \$10 to enter the event.

"If you are having trouble with deciding what toys/gifts to bring to the Willits Toy Run," said Willits Wild Bunch's Richard Venturi. "The following list was provided

by Willits Frontier Days as suggestions based off of the children's wish lists: Action Figures, Girls and Boys Legos, Barbies and Accessories, Baby Toys ages 3 and under, Art Supplies. Books for 0 to 12 years old. Hope to See you all there December 1!"

Event attendees can enjoy a delicious meal, bid on goodies at the live auction, win raffle prizes, participate in the 50/50 raffle, listen to the musical styling of DJ Mikey T, and more.

All toys collected at the Willits Toy Run will be taken to the Willits Christmas Program for distribution to the girls and boys of the community who have requests for needs and wants for this holiday season.

Keep up with the Willits Wild Bunch and the Willits Christmas Program via their same-named Facebook pages online.

– Maureen Jennison



Photos by Mathew Caine



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At top, from left: Now is poppy-planting time. This is a local strain, "Watermelon Pink," available only from Quail Seeds. Wheat is surprisingly easy to grow, and winter wheat is best planted now, for harvest in late spring. California poppies are a good choice for rocky and gravelly areas like driveway edges and banks. Given good drainage they will bloom for several years. A series of crossed arches like these are stronger and more stable than single arches straight across the bed. They make row covers and hoop-houses that resist wind, rain, and snow loads.

Above, from left: Elderberries make delicious juice, jelly or wine. They are widely used as a winter tonic against colds and flu. Tansy is both cold-hardy and fast-growing. It's a mild Asian green often found in salad mixes. Tree collards are one of the most vivid colors of the winter season, and will get brighter as the other colors of autumn fade. Hawthorns make small trees just right for a small yard or garden. They bear masses of flowers in May and berries in October.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

November: Fall planting for food and pleasure

While we've been harvesting summer crops for the last time, the fall rains have been bringing the hills to life. For many cool-season annuals, and for many trees and shrubs, now is planting time.

Cool-season annuals include not only the peas, lettuce, and spinach that food gardeners think of first, but also wheat, oats, and barley, which are grasses with the same life cycle as the wild oats that are now carpeting our hills.

Wildflowers must be planted now for a good show next spring. Baby Blue Eyes, California poppy, Godetia, and Birdseye Gilia are some that we carry at Quail Seeds that are easy from seed. Poppies of all kinds bloom best when planted in fall. They come in many colors, heights, and bloom times. You can sow several different kinds now and have poppies from April to July, a 4-month burst of glory.

It's bulb-planting time too. Garlic goes in this month. There are many native bulbs like brodiaea that are spectacularly beautiful and edible as well. Many bulb catalogs carry brodiaea and triteleia under names like "Ithuriel's Spear" and "Queen Fabiola." They once carpeted our hills, and people harvesting the bulbs served to divide and spread them. With modern management, invasive plants, and fewer harvests, they have dwindled. Consider brightening your yard with their summer bloom.

Daffodils are of course easily available, and are one of the few plants that gophers and mice don't like, so try planting them in a tight ring around fruit trees or perennials you want to protect.

Speaking of trees, I'm an advocate for the small, semi-wild deciduous trees that have been part of gardens and homesteads for millennia. Conifers are apt to create problems close to buildings or other plants. Tall broadleaf trees are great to sit under, but their bare trunks don't provide privacy, or screen out dust, noise, or wind. Smaller trees are easy to pick, don't shade out other plants, and provide flowers, fruit, shelter, and privacy at eye level. Semi-wild fruit trees that don't bear ready-to-eat fruit like what's in the store, but they don't have the pest problems, finicky pruning, and disease that apples, peaches, cherries, and pears are prone to.

One big harvest at my place this time of year is from our quince trees. They are by far the most reliable fruit tree I know of, with no pests or diseases whatever. The flowers are like apple blossoms, but about twice the size.

The yield is huge – our 8 foot tree gave over 100 pounds

of fruit last year, and about 50 this year. And the fruit is delicious—when cooked.

The only downside to quinces is that they are fuzzy on the outside and hard when raw. Once scrubbed and cooked, they taste like apples, with a hint of pear, pineapple, and vanilla. They are incredible as companions to meat or cheese, or as a substitute for applesauce. A few ripe quinces in a bowl will perfume the room with their delicious scent.

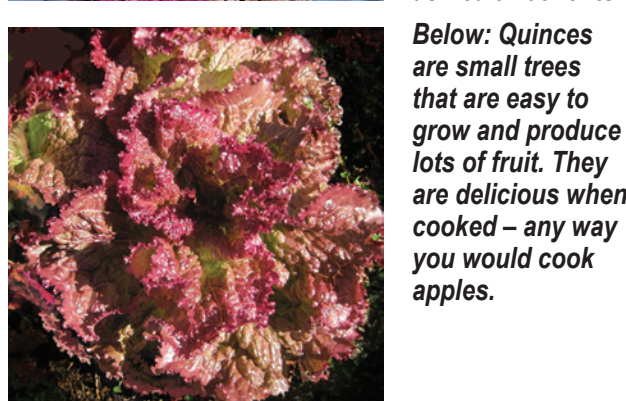
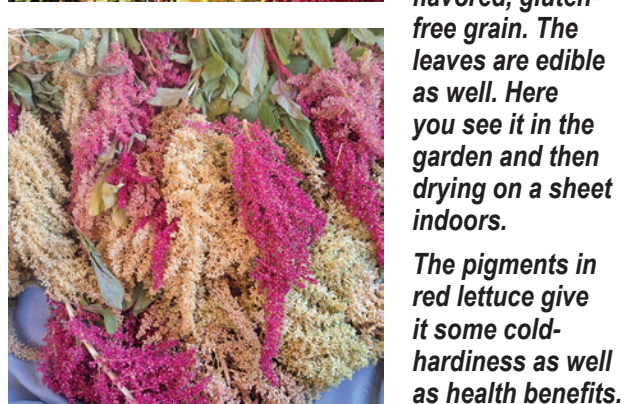
Hawthorns make small trees just right for a small yard or garden. They are used worldwide as windbreaks or hedges and cover themselves with scented flowers in May. The berries are used dried in teas or turned into a medicinal jam. They are traditionally used to support the circulatory system.

Elderberries are another easy-to-grow small tree that has a long history in cooking, herbalism, and folklore. Elderberry wine, juice, jelly, and syrup all are delicious, and recent research touts their anti-viral effects. The creamy edible flowers are followed by immense clusters of small blue berries. You can get cultivated strains of the European elder at many nurseries, and the native elder grows easily from cuttings.

I use elderberry trees to give my currant bushes the light shade they need, so I get double fruit production from a single space. Currants are productive, super-easy fruit-bearing bushes. Many yards have odd hard-to-use corners, like the strip between the garage and the fence, that a row of currant bushes could turn into an asset.

Several of the above are anchor plants in the hedgerow I've planted between shade trees and the vegetable plot. A variety of hardy herbs, bushes, flowers, and groundcovers turn a semi-shaded area full of tree roots into a handsome, ever-changing garden feature that produces harvests and habitat as well. Right now the hedgerow's fall colors are spectacular. Small trees, shrubs, and bushes don't need to be either labor-intensive or boring; they can be a haven for birds, butterflies, beneficials, and for you.

Jamie Chevalier of Quail Seeds lives and gardens near Willits. Visit www.quailseeds.com for over 400 varieties of seed adapted to the Northern California climate, as well as extensive how-to information.



At left, from top: Amaranth is an easy plant to grow and harvest. It makes big flower plumes that produce a mild-flavored, gluten-free grain. The leaves are edible as well. Here you see it in the garden and then drying on a sheet indoors. The pigments in red lettuce give it some cold-hardiness as well as health benefits.

Below: Quinces are small trees that are easy to grow and produce lots of fruit. They are delicious when cooked – any way you would cook apples.

At right: Valarie McCourtney, who came up with the idea for the project, begins to work on her fairy house. At far right: Claudia Gibson and Nika begin work on Nika's fairy house, which they plan to design as they built.

Below, left: This crafter's fairy house is almost completed and would be welcome in any garden or wooded area. Below, right: This fairy house includes a path so that the neighboring fairies can find their way.

At bottom: Nika spends some time at the materials table, deciding what to utilize next in the construction of her fairy house.

Photos by Mathew Caine



The rest of Houses | From page 10

whole fairy festival. I have a five-year plan to get fairy houses into the woods and host my first fairy festival with the support of the people of Willits."

Mattson plans to have the fairy houses be a part of the museum's annual scavenger hunt, by placing the approximately 32 abodes in various locations around the facility, hand out printed sheets with photos of the houses, and let the kids search the museum and see if they can find them all.

"We always do a scavenger hunt each year, but this year, we decided to do it a little different," said Mattson. "Instead of little decals, we decided to do it with the fairy houses. The scavenger hunt will begin November 6 and last through December 22. We're hoping to have a photo shoot so you can have a picture of yourself and your family in the fairy environment. You can have a friend take the shot."

The participants are given a cardboard base, built by the museum staff, over which they can hot glue several natural materials provided by the museum, materials such as bark and moss, leaves, pine cones, flowers, and much more.

The next exhibit at the museum should be open

before Thanksgiving. "That will be telling the story of the lumber industry in Mendocino County," said Mattson.

"Basically, we're going to have part of the Frolic shipwreck out and then talk about the mill that popped up after the discovery at Big River. We'll be using our MacNamee store collection and our Walker collection to talk about early logging and how it was dependent on the ocean. And we'll show all the different products that came out of that time. We have some amazing photos to contribute to the exhibit."

Whether or not the fairies will actually show up to take up residence in their houses remains to be seen. However, occupied or not, the houses are a project that have demonstrated the creativity and ingenuity of the children and families of Little Lake Valley and beyond.

The museum, located at 400 East Commercial Street, is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm, and on Sundays 12 to 4 pm. For more info, call 707-234-6365, or visit <https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/museum> or the "Mendocino County Museum" Facebook page.

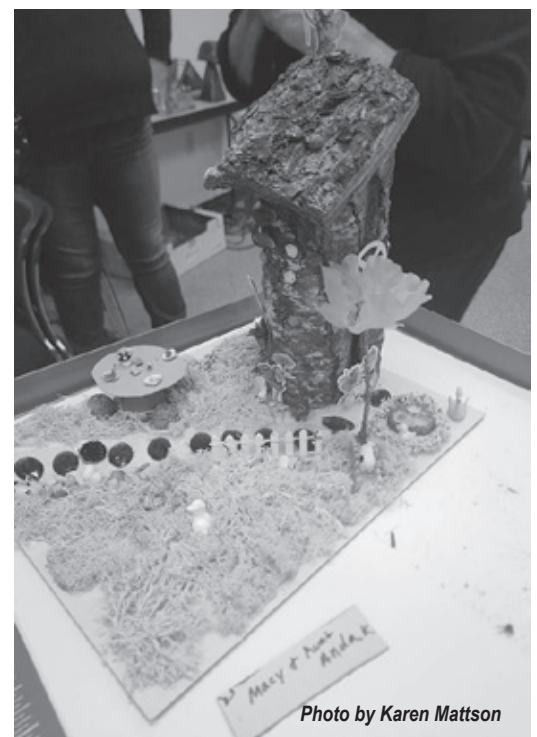


Photo by Karen Mattson



The rest of Pizza | From page 3

things at once. I rely heavily on my people. I see them zipping around with orders and I think 'I'm glad that's not me.'"

Swanton was asked, "Why do I need a bar here when I have a bar across the street [Shanachie]?"

"Over there it's 21 and over," he answered. "It's a curated lineup of beers over there. There are more taps. We're going on 25 years at the pub. We're going to have our 25-year anniversary on tax day, April 15, 2025. I realized when I opened the pub, when I did all the demographics, that I was pulling from a very small percentage, single digits, of the population. I didn't want to limit myself in my next venture. I wanted to be open to any possibility. Now, with Flying Dog Pizza, I'm open to the entire population. This is an all-in-one stop for families."

Swanton has plans, both short-term and long-term for the family fun and dining center. He would like to attract more of Willits' demographics and will be creating attractions for all. He would like to install a TV over the bar to play soccer games

and other popular pastimes that are enjoyed by the Latino community.

"We're experimenting with different things," said Rehberger. "There are some fun appetizers. We have the hot honey wings now that have become really popular. We do that with our house made hot honey. Then, we started doing meatballs. There's a good chance down the line that we'll add some pasta. We have salads. We would like to expand that. We're working with Rose and Dave, at Lettuce Make You Happy, and we work with Green Uprising. We have a few different farm partners, like Mulligan Gardens and the New Agrarian Collective. We talk to farmers every week and see what's going on. We like to source locally and organically. As we continue, we will expand that."

Flying Dog Pizza, located at 65 South Main Street, is open Wednesday and Thursday 4 to 8:30 pm, Friday and Saturday noon to 8:30 pm, and Sunday noon to 7:30 pm. For more information, call 459-4747 or visit their Facebook page.



Above: Boys soccer seniors show off their roses: from left, Torin Fraser, Giovanni Leon, Aaron Perez, Zahyr Lopez and Noe Alfaro.

Photo by Ava Dockins-Kline

The rest of Sports | From page 5

Girls soccer

Girls soccer stomped out yet another win against the Fort Bragg Timberwolves this last Tuesday on Senior Night. Fans, families, teammates, and several alumni gathered to watch these ladies trail blaze another exciting soccer game, and honor their seniors.

Madison Boutilier, Nora Martin, Maia Collins, Kyler Hall-Jimenez, Ava Dockins-Kline and Jewel Bashara stepped between the two goal boxes, under the lights of Maize Field for their very last home league game. Fond memories and years of emotions etched the smile lines around the parents' eyes as they walked their beloved young ladies through the green and gold archway to be honored.

Juan, Maia and Jackie established great bonds with each player while teaching great skills, and made this a very beautiful tribute. This was such a monumental season to be a part of WHS Girls Soccer. These outstanding senior athletes will never forget clinching league champions in their final year.

"It was great for our defense to get a shutout. Upper Lake is a good team!" said Coach Brandon Norbury. "That game will be a great memory for our seniors, one they can tell their grandkids about when I'm long gone from this earth! What a muddy mess it was. It was difficult for both teams to gain their footing. Looked like the players were on ice skates at times! Looking forward to getting our guys healthy during this bye week, and we're looking forward to the playoffs. We need St. Helena to pull off the win against Kelseyville on Friday, to earn a 3-way tie for the league championship."

Football

Willits Wolverines came ready to face off with Upper Lake Cougars with another win up their sleeves here on home ground this last Friday night. It was hands down the muddiest, most slippery game on the WHS field in years, with a final score of 23-0. Their last game against the Cougars in October 2023 set the same shutout tone with a score of 47-0.

Senior cheerleaders also had their final send off and were honored: Sofia Perez, Esperanza Sanchez, Hunter Britton, Lucy Vargas, Kyla Framke, Makiah Carter and Danielle Estrada.

Below: Torin Fraser attempts a pass to one of his teammates.

Photo courtesy of Wolverine Den



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Laidback Elliot

Elliott is a sweet and easygoing dog. He loves to play with toys and knows "sit," "down" and "shake." This delightful guy is also easy to walk on a leash. Elliott can be shy at first, but once he gets comfortable and trusts you, he will be your best buddy!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from noon to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 3 pm (closed for lunch from 1 to 1:30 pm) on Saturdays. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-467-6453 for more information.

Regal Patches

If you haven't met this special lady, you definitely should. This senior lady will win your heart with purrs, head butts and biscuit making. Patches lives in the penthouse in the Cattery, overlooking all the plebeians from her cushy, heated bed. But she will happily receive visitors if they promise to give her head scratches. Patches' adoption fee has been generously sponsored by Victor Hoosac.

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



Affectionate Pepper

This sweet, speckled gal looking for her forever home! Pepper is seeking a house where she can fully lean into the couch potato that she is! This girl loves her people and showing them affection. She loves to cuddle, adores car rides, and her superpower is finding the perfect sunbathing spot!

Pepper could live in a home with a small canine companion, with a slow introduction.

Pepper is a smart cookie who knows commands like "sit" and "shake." A true people-lover, Pepper is thrilled to meet new friends and is always eager for pets and belly scratches. Her love language is definitely physical touch; she'll gently rest her head against you when she craves some affection. If you're looking for a loving, affectionate, and loyal companion, Pepper is your girl.

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



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OBITUARY |

Ralph Santos

Ralph Robert Santos was born June 3, 1945, in San Diego, California. After high school, he joined the United States Air Force and honorably served from August 1965 to January 1969. In 1976, he met Lourita (Rita); they were married in 1977 and stayed together for 47 years.

From 1982 until 2008, Ralph worked for the City of Willits and then retired from keeping the water flowing, improving public places, and maintaining facilities for the whole

community to enjoy.

He cared especially for the City baseball fields because he coached hundreds of kids on Willits Little League baseball teams, also umpiring, announcing, and refereeing from around 1989-1996.

Ralph and Rita bought their home and moved to Brooktrails in 1978, where he lived for the rest of his life. He was elected by the community to the Brooktrails Board of Directors from 2011-2024 and cared very much about

keeping the community clean and safe.

He had beat it before, but ultimately ended up passing from his ongoing battle with cancer on September 29, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Rita, sons Sean (Rosanna) and Ryan, daughter Gina (Craig), their six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Family and friends will gather in his memory at the Brooktrails Community Center on November 16 from 1 to 4 pm.



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