



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Thanksgiving Community Dinner

To the Editor:  
The Willits Food Bank will provide another drive-thru Thanksgiving community dinner on Thursday, November 25 from 11 am until 3 pm – or until the food is gone. Donations will be accepted but not required, to help cover event costs.

The meal is free and includes all the holiday trimmings: turkey, ham, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, yams, green beans, cranberries, a beverage, and pie.

Drive through the Senior Center at 1501 Baechtel Road to pick a lovely meal carefully packaged in a bag to go.

For our homeless community, the same meal will be available to enjoy, served behind the Grange west of the Post Office from 11 am until 3 pm – or out of food.

COVID precautions will be required at both sites. Mask required for driver, in the drive thru line.

Meals on Wheels will deliver the meal to seniors in Willits late morning on Thanksgiving Day.

Please call the food bank with questions. 459-3333 or 354-3960

Ruthanne Volz, director, Willits Community Services and Food Bank

## Seeking help with seniors' repair needs

To the Editor:  
I wanted to let the community know about a new campaign we have started at the Harrah Senior Center in Willits. Our goal is to get a network of people of all ages to volunteer to fix homes and apartments of seniors in need.

At the senior center's Outreach Department, I have been seeing a slew of low-income seniors lately that have all types of home issues and not enough income or mobility to fix things like leaky roofs and drafty windows.

Our hope is that people and organizations will come forward to volunteer, and when the senior center comes across people that need this kind of assistance, we will have a list of people to set them up with.

Also, the volunteers will be pre-screened by our Outreach Department so we are confident who we are safely sending into a senior's home. Thank you!

Please contact myself at 707-459-6826 or outreacheone@willits-seniors.org if you can help, or with any questions.

Serena Alexi Castro, Outreach Department, Willits Harrah Senior Center

## Thank you to Eric Glassey

To the Editor:  
Dear Willits Community: It's definitely the end of an era as Eric Glassey steps down as the Charter School Association of Willits' Board President. We doubt there is any other charter school Board President that works as hard as Eric

Glassey does.

Much of the blood, sweat and tears that it took to build two schools – the Willits Charter School and the Willits Elementary Charter School – was done by Eric Glassey himself! There are not enough plaques, trophies or flowers to give Eric that would accurately express how thankful we are for everything you have done for both schools.

Eric is always telling us how much he appreciates us and how thankful he is – this is our chance to tell you how thankful we are for what you have done for our community. We promise that we will continue to fulfill your dream of two successful, alternative charter schools in Willits!

Thank you for everything you have done for this community. The charter schools have raised so many happy children because of your efforts. We are ready to take the reins, although we will miss you terribly! Willits is a better place with you in it; thank you for being you.

Jennifer Lockwood, for the WCS and WECS community

## Thank you to Eric Glassey

To the Editor:  
A long time ago, some people in our community had a big dream that Willits could have a place just for kids, where they would be safe and supervised while they played after school.

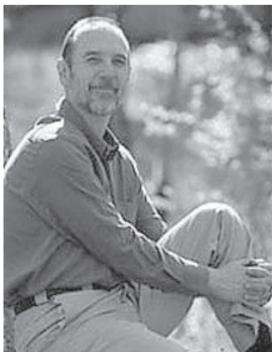
The Willits Kids Club started with a bake sale at the old Ray's Market that raised \$32 and grew to become a program, then a building, then a park.

Behind the scenes, getting it all done, was a man named Eric Glassey, who was always ready to come down and fix a toilet or solve a problem. Eric is stepping down from the board at the end of this year to pursue some other interests. He will be greatly missed.

It would be impossible to quantify all the good that Eric has done for the Willits community over the past few decades, not just leading the Kids Club but also Daily Bread and the Charter School. He has spearheaded so many building projects, fixed so many broken things, and led so many board meetings, never asking for a hero's parade, although he definitely deserves one!

Please join me in thanking Eric for his quiet leadership, which has helped the Willits Kids Club grow and thrive for the past 20+ years. I am making a donation to Willits Kids Club in Eric's honor, and encourage others to do the same. Thank you, Eric, for your many years of selfless service to the children of our community.

Karen Oslund, for Willits Kids Club



Thank you to Eric Glassey.

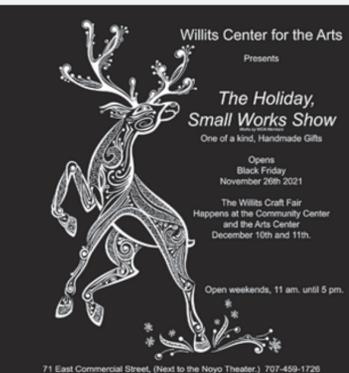
## WCA opens 'Members Small Works Show' on Black Friday

Willits Center for the Arts is holding their annual, "Members Small Works Show" for the holidays. This year's collection of works by 30 artists covers paintings, sculpture, fabric arts, handmade ornaments, and more.

Give the gift of art, and support your art center. Shop early: The show opens for holiday shopping on Black Friday, November 26, and the doors will open at 9 am on that day. Otherwise open weekends 11 am to 5 pm.

Handmade gifts are one of a kind and sure to create fond memories for your friends and loved ones.

The WCA is located at 71 East Commercial Street (next to the Noyo Theatre). Our regular hours are Friday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, check out the website at [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org) or call us at 707-459-1726.



## Roots of Motive Power seeks librarian

Posted by Roots of Motive Power

Roots of Motive Power is looking for a librarian for their world-class Train and Logging Library.

This would involve 4 hours of volunteer help a week, cataloging incoming books, taking requests for information, and opening the doors of the Library on Wednesdays from 12 to 4 pm. The Library is located inside the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street in Willits.

Apply at <https://www.facebook.com/jobs/job-opening/1066815877486378> or email [rootsinwillits@gmail.com](mailto:rootsinwillits@gmail.com)



## Senior Center drive-through, walk-up lunches

Willits Senior Center's indoor dining room is closed, but the center is still serving drive-through and walk-up lunches, Monday through Friday, starting at 12 pm and now closing at 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$5 through December.

**Thursday, November 18:** Chicken Parmesan, Veggie, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

**Friday, November 19:** Ground Beef Burrito, wet w/Red Sauce, Rice, Beans

**Monday, November 22:** Beef Barley Stew, Roll

**Tuesday, November 23:** Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll, Green Salad

**Wednesday, November 24:** Pasta Carbonara, Veggie, Garlic Bread

**Thursday, November 25 & Friday, November 26:** Center Closed – Happy Thanksgiving!

**Meals on Wheels:** The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Deb 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. Seniors age 60 and above may call the Senior Center to order Thanksgiving meal delivery by Meals On Wheels before Thanksgiving Day.

**Thanksgiving Bake Sale:** Get your tasty Thanksgiving goodies the day before the holiday, at the Senior Center Bake Sale, 8 am to 1 pm, on Wednesday, November 24, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 707-459-6827.

**Thanksgiving Dinner:** The Senior Center will host Willits Community Services & Food Bank's annual Thanksgiving Dinner as a drive-up affair this year. The free, to-go drive-thru dinner will be given out on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 25, from 11 am to 3 pm, at 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Transportation for seniors:** Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments.

Online & Print

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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At right: A variety of IPAs and ales are offered plus a choice of wines.

At far right: Northspur Brewery, at the corner of Main and Commercial streets, has been open continuously since October 2019.

Below: The Northspur Brewery is light and airy with exposed distilling tanks.

At right, below: Sarah Handy pours a beer from one of the many taps.

Photos by Mathew Caine



# Brewery Bites

## Northspur expands its bar menu to include sandwiches and salads made with local ingredients

Through a year and a half of the COVID pandemic, Northspur Brewing Co. has survived and thrived by adapting and changing with the current conditions. When they were not able to host customers inside their facility, they offered their microbrew beers, IPAs and ales in large cans to take home. Later, when restrictions were relaxed a bit, the brewery allowed people to sit on their spacious outdoor patio. Currently, customers are allowed to consume drinks from inside the well-lit, amiable interior.

Per Mendocino County, people are allowed to remove their masks if they are drinking or eating, so it is pretty much back to business as usual. Patrons can gather indoors or outdoors, depending on their level of pandemic comfort.

In order to better serve their patrons, Northspur Brewery, which opened its doors in October of 2019, is now offering some new items to eat and drink. Jakob Foley, brewer and owner of the bar (along with his wife, Sarah), is working with his sister, Allegra Foley, to produce an ever-changing menu of bar food in order to create a space in which customers can come for some libations and a light meal.

"Allegra is expanding our menu for us," said Foley "She's trying to come up with a few creative items that we're able to make in our kitchen, instead of just hotdogs and sausages. She has a pulled-pork sandwich on there, a BLT, a caprese sandwich, a couple salads. We'll be switching it up once the tomatoes go away. We'll replace the caprese and the BLT with something else." Most of the salad ingredients are local, including some from Foley's family's Green Uprising Farm, as well as other local farmers.

In addition to the bar menu, there are occasional grilling days, usually once a month, with tri tip, pulled pork, brats, and John Ford hot dogs. Information on when this special food day occurs can be found on the brewery's Facebook page.

Being a long-time Willits resident has given Foley a sense of community involvement in his sourcing of food. "We're trying to source locally as much as possible," Foley explained. "We can't get everything, unfortunately, and there will be less and less as we move into winter. We use John Ford local beef. All of our tomatoes, a lot of our salad mixes, are local.

"Allegra is going to be in charge of that for the foreseeable future," he said. "Hopefully, this winter, we can finally

finish our kitchen. We need a grease hood and some real cooking equipment. Right now, we're just running on a couple small electrical devices because we don't have a grease hood. Without the hood, we have a very strict limit on the equipment we can have back there, then we'll have a little more flexibility in what we can have."

As for their mainstay, the beer, it is an ever-changing menu, as Foley likes to constantly improve and experiment with new methods and flavors. "We added some tanks a year ago," Foley said. "We may add another one. It's always a balance between keeping the standards in stock and being able to brew some new stuff. I usually manage to get a new beer out every couple of months.

"Right now, I've been working on a single-hop IPA series," he shared. "I call it 'Mono Maniac.' I have a mosaic version coming out. It's in the tank right now, just finishing up. Mosaic is a type of hop. All the beers here, and most beers brewed, are brewed with a combination of different hops. These new ones are just brewed with a single hop, neutral yeast, and a lot of really light malts, not a lot of malt flavor.

"We have a good variety," continued Foley. "We have a couple of light beers, which are two of our most popular, 'Blonde' and 'Mendo Summer.' We have an amber pale ale, medium bodied, a little bit higher in alcohol. Most of our lineup are IPAs. They're a little heavier, 6.5 to almost 9 percent [alcohol]. We just brought our stout back on.

"Probably Mendo Summer is our best-seller," he added. "It's a pretty light beer, so we go through a lot of it. It gets a little less popular as the weather starts to change. I think Probability Cloud and IPA3 are kind of chasing its tail right now."

For those who prefer wine, Northspur offers a small variety of mostly local wines by the glass. "We have wine now, four or five varieties, all by the glass. We're trying to keep the selection as Mendo as possible, but we do include some Sonoma wines. We like to switch it up a little and try not to keep the same wines on for too long. We've been carrying a lot from Cox vineyards in Ukiah. We have a Barra chardonnay coming back soon," explained Foley.

Northspur Brewery, located at the corner of Commercial and Main streets, is open Tuesday through Thursday, 3 to 9 pm; Friday and Saturday, 12 to 9 pm; and Sunday, 12 to 7 pm. Visit [www.northspurbrewing.com](http://www.northspurbrewing.com) for more information. Contact them at 707-518-4208 or sarah@northspurbrewing.com.



Above: K. K. Estes readies some sliders. Below: On good-weather days, the Northspur Brewery is a hybrid of indoors and outdoors, with their spacious outdoor patio.



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# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

				8				9
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6								
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	7	6	5					9



## HOW TO SUDOKU

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

## TRAVEL TIME WORD SEARCH

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

- |                |               |             |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| ACCOMMODATIONS | ESSENTIALS    | SCHEDULE    |
| AIRPORT        | GRATUITY      | SEASON      |
| ALL-INCLUSIVE  | HOTEL         | SHIP        |
| ARRIVAL        | INTERNATIONAL | SIGHTSEEING |
| BOARDING       | ITINERARY     | SUITCASE    |
| CALENDAR       | PACKING       | SUITE       |
| CLOTHING       | PASSENGER     | TRAIN       |
| COCKTAIL       | RELAX         | TRANSFER    |
| DEPARTURE      | RESERVATION   | TRAVEL      |
| DIRECTION      | ROAD TRIP     | TROPICAL    |
|                | ROOM          | VACATION    |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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49	50		51					52			53	
54		55			56					57	58	59
60					61					62		
63					64					65		
66					67					68		

- ### CLUES ACROSS
- German philosopher
  - A type of stock trading (abbr.)
  - Cincinnati ballplayers
  - Deerlike water buffaloes
  - Island
  - Jewish calendar month
  - Round Dutch cheese
  - Unstressed syllable of a metrical foot
  - A restaurant needs one
  - Decent behaviors
  - Groans
  - Works hard
  - Upset
  - A sound made in speech
  - One point east of due south
  - Boxing's GOAT
  - Whittles
  - Tailless amphibian
  - Surrounded
  - Doesn't stay still
  - Copycat
  - Four-door car
  - Morally correct behavior
  - Something that is owed
  - Pasta needs it
  - Ant-Man's last name
  - Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- ### CLUES DOWN
- Bodily substance
  - Internal
  - Provoke or annoy
  - Type of lounge chair
  - Losses
  - Makes less severe
  - Identifies a thing close at hand
  - Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
  - Rebuilt
  - Ancient Greek City
  - American investigative journalist
  - Partially melted snow
  - Take shape
  - Mexican beverage
  - Patti Hearst's captors
  - Jacobs and Summers are two
  - Disfigure
  - Scientists' tool (abbr.)
  - Ill-mannered person
  - Overhang
  - Famed rat catcher
  - Passover feast and ceremony
  - Equal to 10 meters
  - Central processing unit
  - Chinese native religion
  - Unfermented juices
  - 'To the \_\_\_ degree'
  - Frozen water
  - Medieval circuit courts
  - 1,000 cubic feet (abbr.)
  - Gossipy
  - Shopping is one type
  - Palmlike plant
  - Partner to 'oohead'
  - Welsh name meaning 'snow'
  - Popular Mexican dish
  - It helps power devices
  - Reddish-brown wildcat
  - Impertinence
  - Legal financial term (abbr.)
  - Atomic #52

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

November 7 to November 13

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **101 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

## Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

### November 7

4:52 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and Maple Street.

### November 8

6:44 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

### November 9

7:28 am: ALLEN, Cassidy Wyatt (41) of Willits was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

8:12 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation near the intersection of South Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue.

9:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Humboldt Street.

### November 10

7:56 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

8:26 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.

9:47 KENNY IV, Owen Arthur (33) of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of Magnolia Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 273.5 PC (Domestic Corporal Injury), 166.4 PC (Violation of a Court Order), and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

10:21 pm: Officers initiated a missing person report in the 400 block of East Hill Road.

### November 11

8:09 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

1:50 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of Holly Street.

4:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of North Main Street.

10:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Central Street and Monroe Street.

### November 12

2:02 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

4:07 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Alameda Avenue.

4:34 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of East Commercial Street and South Main Street.

5:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

6:34 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

6:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of North Main Street.

### November 13

9:28 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

4:09 pm: Officers responded to an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

4:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Pine Street and School Street.

9:06 pm: DEDRICK, Aleshia Marie (38) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue. She was arrested pursuant to 11364 H&S (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), and on misdemeanor charges of disobeying a court order and failure to appear.

10:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 100 block of North Marin Street.

## 3 Willits men arrested after traffic stop

By Sgt. Mike Dygert for MCSO



On November 11, 2021 at approximately 9:55 pm, A Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle being driven by Rafael Govea-Lopez, 23, from Willits, near the intersection of North Highway 101 and Black Bart Drive in Willits.



The deputy conducted a warrants records check which revealed Govea-Lopez had an outstanding felony warrant for his arrest (11370.1 H&S - Possession of a Controlled Substance and a Loaded Firearm). The deputy found firearm ammunition components in the vehicle which belonged to Govea-Lopez.



Govea-Lopez was arrested for the listed outstanding arrest warrant and booked into the Mendocino County Jail.



The deputy was aware that Govea-Lopez resided at a residence at the 1700 block of Main Street in Willits and was privy that law enforcement had received several calls for service at the residence for the reports of gunfire.

A search warrant was obtained for the residence where Govea-Lopez resided. Deputies served the search warrant on November 12, 2021 at about 1:45 am and located Harold Knight, 59, of Willits, and Alberto Morfin, 47, of Willits.

A search of the residence revealed over 100 pounds of processed marijuana, a .45 caliber pistol, and several hundred rounds of firearm ammunition cartridges.

Knight was found to be a registered sex offender and is prohibited (felony) from cultivating or possession of marijuana for sale.

Knight and Morfin were arrested for possession of marijuana for sale, and conspiracy to commit crime.

At left, from top: Rafael Govea-Lopez, 23, of Willits. Harold Knight, 59, of Willits. Alberto Morfin, 47, of Willits.

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## Mailbox Mementos

### Mendocino County Museum's new exhibit displays antique mail-order toys, Howard Family Christmas cards, and other 'correspondence'-themed memorabilia

It's the 15th year the Mendocino County Museum has displayed vintage toys from its vast collection. This year they decided to add correspondence to the mix. "We thought it would be neat this year to put out the idea of correspondence," said Museum Curator and Director Karen Mattson.

"The more we looked into the idea, the more we realized we had all these beautiful pieces from Dusty [Whitney] and this would be a great time to bring them out. So, the idea grew out of our toys and we realized we have so many toys that were available through mail-order catalogs. So that's how we pulled it all together."

The toy exhibit also includes stories about the toys and information about whose donated collection they're from. Most of the playthings were made during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Museum visitors had fun looking at toys and seeing a blown-up, vintage Sears Roebuck catalog page showing the same or similar toys for sale. It was reminiscent



Above, from left: Museum Curator Karen Mattson, collection donor Dusty Whitney, and Museum Technician Briana Brooks pause to pose in front of interesting and varied displays. This pen is easily used for penmanship exercises and writing letters in the room off of the lobby. A quill pen, also available to write with, sits in the background. Postcards, paper, envelopes and pens are available to visitors for trying their hand at the art of penmanship.



Above: Old letters, photographs, a typed description, and a commemorative silver spoon from the Point Arena Lighthouse are part of one of the many historical displays from Mendocino County's past on display at the museum. At left: This is "Ollie," an antique handmade doll who's also been made into a paper doll and is available online at the museum's website. Photos by Ree Slocum

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Long 20 well.”

Arsenic is naturally occurring in groundwater all over the planet including parts of the Willits valley, with amounts varying from insignificant to unsafe to drink. According to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, in a study submitted as part of the public input about the well, arsenic in concentrations as low as 3 parts per billion causes bladder and lung cancer in humans and impairs cognitive development of children. Presently the Willits drinking water does not contain any detectable arsenic.

A number of local residents expressed their opposition to adding the arsenic-contaminated well, including a letter signed by 10 local doctors and nurses. The legality of the mitigated negative declaration, which claimed that a full environmental impact report was not required for the project, was challenged by three separate attorneys. The Willits Environmental Center cited California Environmental Quality Act requirements regarding risks to health that were not addressed in the mitigated negative declaration.

Arsenic was not the only issue that generated public concern about the well. There was opposition from Little Lake Valley residents, worried that the new well and its powerful pumps will draw down their own wells, their only source of water. The Mendocino County Farm Bureau objected to the mitigated negative declaration, that it did not address the impact on the Caltrans Willits bypass wetlands or on agricultural land in the valley.

The California State Water Control Board submitted two pages of questions and concerns that they felt were not adequately answered in the declaration. No one submitted any comments in favor of the project.

Brenda Moss, owner of Kemmy's Pies next to the Skunk Depot, whose fresh pies depend on clean water, was one of many local residents relieved by the city's decision not to use the Long 20 well, but was also grateful that the city took people's comments and concerns seriously. She agreed with other appreciative city residents: "It feels good to know that the city listens and responds to the people who live here. People can still make a difference."

**The sky is not falling.** Willits has a balanced budget, and it appears to be a healthy one. Recent concerns brought up by Councilmember Larry Stranske, about a wave of unanticipated expenses that were not previously budgeted, have been alleviated, the surprise expenses successfully integrated into the 2021-22 city budget presented to the city council by city manager Bender and finance consultant Andy Heath.

Every year, the city prepares a budget (an estimate) of annual income and expenditures for the fiscal year, a 12-month period that runs from July 1 to June 30. The city is already more than four months into the current 2021-22 fiscal year, so the budget, though late, is probably more accurate because actual income and many expenses are already known rather than projected. And so far, the expenses are running as anticipated, the income is doing better than anticipated, and the finance people at city hall are dancing a jig and singing "Oh Happy Day."

Total city expenses for fiscal 2021-22 are estimated to be \$20.7 million. That includes all city departments including the police department, and includes pay and benefits for 60 employees. There are some employee vacancies that are included in the budget, so if vacancies are not filled, that savings will make the financial picture even brighter.

Total city income for the fiscal year is estimated to be \$17.9 million. Though the income is less than the estimated expenses, some expenses are paid from special restricted funds the city previously collected, such as funds set aside for street repair, water and sewer.

The net effect, current year's income and special-use reserves already on hand, is an estimated surplus for the current year of \$293,000. The only warning clouds on the horizon are the growing and not fully budgeted future pension obligations for city and police retirees. But for now, the concerns about a possible city bankruptcy have been swept into the dustbin of history. The recently passed emergency sales tax measure approved by the voters

did in fact rescue our city.

And if the numbers prove correct, and there is a little extra money, Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez reminded everyone not to forget the trees.

**"Fifty Ways to Elect a Mayor"** is not the title of a best-selling book (or a clever song), but anyone interested in the subject can get a running start by having a look at how the Willits city council has been doing it in recent years, and how the council, discussing other options at the November 10 meeting, thinks maybe it should be done differently, maybe.

In Willits, city residents elect five city council members who serve a four-year term, and can run for reelection as many times as they want. The city council members elect one of their own to be mayor. The mayor's job, other than conducting council meetings and signing documents, is mostly honorary: attending civic events, reading proclamations, getting a bit of prestige and admiration. Being addressed as "Madam Mayor."

The mayor is elected for a one-year term. The next year, the city council might elect a different council member to be mayor, or elect the same person to serve a second term and even a third or fourth term, as there are no term limits on being mayor. The mayor is usually someone who has served on the council for at least a couple years, although at one recent election a new council member just sworn in was elected mayor 15 minutes later (former mayor and still councilmember Gerry Gonzalez, also formerly, Willits police chief).

The annual election for mayor, at the December city council meeting, is usually so fast it's over almost before it starts, or sure seems that way. The mayor asks for nominations, and with little or no hesitation, a council member nominates someone on the council (sometimes the current mayor) to be the next mayor. Another council member quickly seconds the nomination, usually: there have been elections when a nomination sat with no one seconding it, like a deflated whoopie cushion, until the nomination was rescinded and someone else was nominated and got the second.

The vote is often unanimous – though not always, and not always appreciated by everyone. There have been elections in the past that caused hurt feelings and even anger when a council member was passed over and, no matter how many terms the member served on the council, never elected mayor.

This seemingly arbitrary method of electing the mayor inspired current Mayor Madge Strong to propose a more structured process, automatically rotating the mayor every year based on seniority. Under the new proposal, every city council member would become mayor for one year (except for council members who do not want to be mayor) when that councilmember's place in the seniority line came up. No one would be mayor two years in a row. And no one would be left looking for the missing musical chair.

The council members all said they liked the proposal, but none of them wanted it locked into law. "Having it be a guideline, not an ordinance, is what we're looking for," explained Mayor Strong, "Taking some of the personalities out of the equation, and everybody gets a turn at it. There have been a number of years when we've had the same mayor year after year, and a couple times it's been awkward, [when someone] jumped in first to make a nomination." Councilmember Greta Kanne agreed: "The original conversation was just to try to take out some of the really hurt feelings when someone gets nominated before someone else gets a chance to be nominated."

City Attorney Jim Lance pointed out that the city council's Manual of Procedures and Protocols, a 21-page set of rules governing the election and administration of the council, already specifies how the mayor is to be elected – basically the way it is currently being done – and that if the new procedure is to be adopted even as a non-binding guideline, the manual should be revised, maybe next year.

The council members seemed to like the suggestion, particularly the "next year" part, and decided not to vote on anything. Mañana.

**The answer my friend is blowin' in the wind.** And beaming down from the sun, spilling over hydroelectric dams,

and steaming up from geothermal geysers. And it's all good, according to a presentation from Geof Syphers, CEO of Sonoma Clean Power, a Santa Rosa-based energy broker that purchases electricity produced by companies operating solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power plants. SCP in turn sells that electricity to PG&E on behalf of SCP's customers: residents and businesses that are signed up to have SCP provide their electricity.

About four years ago, the Willits City Council voted to designate Sonoma Clean Power as the default provider for all electric hookups in the city. Residents and businesses wanting to stay with PG&E or another provider needed to call or write and request to remain with their current arrangement. Since then all new electric hookups within city limits automatically become SCP customers unless the customer requests otherwise.

SCP CEO Syphers explained that customers who have Sonoma Clean Power deliver their electricity do not actually get the electricity SCP provides. The electricity SCP purchases from clean energy producers is added to the vast PG&E network: PG&E's own power plants and other sources PG&E purchases from, including SCP. Everybody in the network, SCP customers or not, gets the same electricity – but that electricity is cleaner for everyone thanks to SCP.

Actually, as pointed out on the SCP website, all electricity is clean. It's the generation of the electricity that can be clean such as wind and solar, or badly polluting such as oil and coal, or somewhere in between such as biomass and natural gas. (Or nuclear, which is a world all to its nightmare self).

Syphers added that SCP is starting to back away from hydroelectric power because recent droughts affect how much water is spilling over the top of the dams and make that source of electricity not as reliable as it once was. Syphers said that SCP is also reevaluating its commitment to geothermal because of the large amount of water used in the process, although geothermal plants are starting to retrofit their generators to capture the escaping steam and return it to the earth. Syphers concluded, "The connection between water and power is deeply important."

Unfortunately, the connection between fossil fuels and power is also still deeply important. The electricity provided by Sonoma Clean Power, according to SCP, is 93% carbon-free. The 7% of SCP's electricity that is not carbon-free comes from major electric suppliers using natural gas to generate electricity. Syphers said, "We buy a tiny bit of natural gas power for our own default sources."

For now, Syphers does not foresee completely abandoning the natural gas power plants. They are, for better or worse, reliable day and night regardless of the weather, which is not always the case with other sources of electricity, at least not yet. But to paraphrase council comments, 93% carbon-free ain't bad.

**The Willits Chamber of Commerce** is just down the street from city hall, but apparently there is a communication disconnect, at least that's the message from two city council members who would like to know why they haven't heard from the chamber recently, especially with the holidays just around the corner.

Councilmember Rodriguez, who is a local business owner, brought up the issue: "We are about to kick off the holiday season, and we all want local people to shop local, and I was wondering, we haven't heard anything from the chamber of commerce." Rodriguez wanted to know if there are any chamber-sponsored plans to celebrate the season and to celebrate Willits businesses. City Manager Bender said there are plans for closing Main Street some time in December to add to the shopping festivities, but he did not know if the chamber of commerce was involved.

Councilmember Kanne also wondered what the chamber was up to: "We haven't heard from the chamber of commerce in quite some time, and we just approved a budget that gives money to the chamber. It would be nice to invite them to come talk to the council and share what they do." Deputy City Manager Cathy Moorhead offered to look into it. And with Christmas in the air, Moorhead's generous gesture wrapped up a long and most productive meeting.

been sold for timber harvesting to Willits Redwood earlier in the year.

Since then, there has been what the activist group "Redwood Nation Earth First! Mama Tree Network" in a group email called a "de facto People's Moratorium" on timber harvest there.

Co-owner of Willits Redwood Bruce Burton called in to the meeting Monday to oppose the resolution, and confirmed that the company had not gone forward with plans to harvest at Jackson State Forest, and instead has been getting timber from areas outside the county recently.

Climate change concerns were a big part of the resolution and the discussion on Monday, with frequent references to the "30 X 30" plan for California put forth by Governor Gavin Newsom and signed into law in October of 2020, which aims to place into conservation at least 30% of the land and coastal waters of the state by 2030.

"The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors urges Governor Newsom and the state's Natural Resources Agency to include any climate impacts of commercial logging on state lands in drawing up the plan to protect 30% of California's land use and coastal waters by 2030," the resolution reads, "and to publish a science-based report that evaluates carbon sequestration capacity and wildfire resiliency of current management practices, as well as alternate management scenarios, of Jackson Demonstration State Forest ... in a way that enhances the wide-ranging scientific, recreational and economic opportunities offered by [JDSF]."

While many activists have called for a moratorium on logging in the forest, this resolution did not specifically mention that idea, and instead asked the state to study whether the current environmental protections for the forest were aligned with the state's goals.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak made the motion to pass the resolution, but first added language that the board would engage in public workshops with JAG and CalFire to get more of their input about how best to move forward with the forest management plans.

He said that the supervisors weren't seeking to simply make JDSF into a "park" or a "museum," and felt that responsible timber harvest could be done there.

"Jackson State Forest has a place, and it has had a role in our economic development in our county," said Haschak. "It has a place for those experiments and best practices hopefully that carry over into the private industry. And what goes on in Jackson State Forest is helping to create those timber harvest plans and the forest practice rules that the industry is based on."

"I certainly am empathetic to the people who see the clear-cuts or experience a cutting right near their house in their backyards," he continued, "and there should certainly be that consideration taking place."

More than 800 people had submitted letters and emails to the board about the resolution according to Board Chair Dan Gjerde, and more than two dozen also called in during the meeting with a large majority supporting the resolution.

One petition submitted which supported the resolution was signed by 720 people. Another which was seeking a moratorium on logging in JDSF was signed by 49.

Many of the activists who called and wrote in to support called the resolution a good "first step," but hoped more would eventually be done to protect the forest.

Ellen Drell of the Willits Environmental Center said in a letter, "We hope that adopting this resolution will help turn the corner on how the state views and manages this forest, and thus be one step this county can take to contribute to the state surviving the impacts of climate change."

Those opposed to the resolution, such as Burton and representatives for CalFire, argued that timber could be harvested responsibly there, that there were already appropriate tree restoration and fire reduction plans in place, and that there was significant economic benefits for many county residents with the logging industry.

"By practicing sustainable forest management, JDSF maintains high rates of sequestration and increases the resiliency of the stored carbon," wrote Kevin Conway, a CalFire State Forest program manager currently managing the Jackson State project. "JDSF is a working forest that is managed for a multitude of goals and objectives, including timber production, research, recreation, carbon sequestration, wildlife, watershed, fire hazard reduction, and social and cultural well-being."

"To achieve these diverse goals the forest has been zoned into Landscape Allocations," he continued. "This does not point to the forest being maximized for timber production, but rather a broad range of forest structures for multiple objectives."

However, several locals from the coastal area called in to say that they had seen firsthand what looked like clear-cutting of areas in JDSF near their properties, and also large piles of "slash" vegetation which would increase fire danger.

One of these people was William Lemus, co-chair of the Mendocino Trail Stewards, who said he was "a neighbor of Jackson State Forest."

"In 2018, just across Road 409 for us, a number of clear-cuts took place all the way up to Observatory Hill," said Lemus. "And if you want to take a walk and look at those clear-cuts, you'll see that slash piles are still remaining from that 2018 cut."

Later in the meeting First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty sounded alarmed that clear-cutting might still be taking place in the county.

"It seems kind of strange at this late date that CalFire would be OKing clear cuts," he said. "I mean clear cuts are so out of date for a redwood forest type as a way of management that it just seems really strange that anybody would even contemplate that. If we're going to grow forests to produce quality timber and also sequester carbon, what we want to move towards is late seral stage forestry or something that mimics it, which is older trees."

Another who spoke in support of the resolution was Marie Jones, chair of the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee, which was created by the board to address climate issues in 2019, and helped craft the



Above, from left: Dream Hippie Creations, a new vendor from the Willits Farmers Market, has an eclectic variety of crafts. Sarah Adams of Everyday Alchemy can be seen at many of the local craft fairs. Jacki Pealatero of Picaro Gordo Woodcuts hand cuts all her wood creations. Below: The day is perfect for an outdoor craft fair.



# Laytonville Craft Fair

## Fifty vendors from all over Mendocino County peddle their unique items at outdoor market

The most intriguing aspect of the many craft fairs that are produced in Mendocino County are the people. They come together from all parts of the county to show their wares, spend time with their fellow residents, exchange ideas and recipes, educate people as to their methods, and generally share their stories and a laugh or two. At the annual Laytonville Craft Fair on Sunday, November 14, there was no shortage of booths, crafts and colors, with 50 vendors traveling to the Harwood baseball fields from all over the county.

As one wandered through the avenues of booths, it was evident that Christmas was soon to be upon the lands. Ornaments, wreaths, and Christmas-themed jewelry, coffee cups, and trees were to be found throughout the event. It was the perfect place to pick up some gifts to place under the tree for recipients who appreciate unique items.

The event was sponsored by Harwood Memorial Park. "This takes the place of our annual Christmas Bazaar which used to be inside at Harwood Hall, but because of COVID, we've moved everything outdoors," explained Jayma Spence, executive director of Laytonville Healthy Start.

"Because we're outdoors, we've been able to expand and give everyone more room. Last year we had 30 vendors. This year we have 50. This is under Harwood Memorial Park. We're the park and recreation center of Laytonville. It's the umbrella non-profit for things like Healthy Start Family Resource Center, the Friends of the Laytonville Library, the skate park, the Long Valley Library."

 <b>NOYO</b> THEATRE Willits, CA 57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-NOVO (6696) www.noyotheatre.com	<b>GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE</b> (PG13) 2 hrs 36 mins Fri.: 5:15 & 8:00pm Sat.-Thurs.: 2:30, 5:15 & 8:00pm	<b>ETERNALS</b> (PG13) 2 hrs 36 mins Fri.: 4:20 & 7:40pm Sat.-Tues.: 1:00, 4:20 & 7:40pm	<b>CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG</b> (PG) 1 hr 37 mins Fri.: 4:30 & 7:00pm Sat.-Tues.: 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00pm	<b>ENCANTO</b> (PG) 1 hr 39 mins Wed./Thurs.: 1:20, 3:45, 6:10 & 8:30pm	<b>HOUSE OF GUCCI</b> (R) 2 hrs 37 mins Wed./Thurs.: 1:00, 4:15 & 7:30pm
	Read the rest of <b>Laytonville</b>   Over on Page 13				

# Community Dinner

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### Additional questions (707)354-3960

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At right: Allegra Foley has been representing Green Uprising Farm for several years.  
Photos by Mathew Caine



# Winter Shopping

With cold weather creeping up, the Willits Farmers Market will soon move indoors to the Little Lake Grange

Today, November 18, is the last day for several months to find the Willits Farmers Market outdoors in the old Rexall parking lot. After a one-week hiatus for Thanksgiving, the market will be moving back indoors at the Little Lake Grange, located at 291 School Street, and will continue to run from 3 to 5:30 pm on Thursdays.

Mathew Caine  
Features Writer  
mathew@willitsweekly.com

"The first Thursday in December, the second [of December], we move into the Grange, in the Great Hall, as usual," explained Michael Foley, market manager. "I expect to have most of these current vendors. As you can see, we have a full house. I'm pitching it as our holiday market and encouraging people to bring value-added things that could be good holiday presents. We have new craft people and I've spoken with a few people who are interested in bringing crafts to market so there will be more crafts. I expect Forget-Me-Not Flowers will do weeds as they have done in the past, beautiful creations of all kinds."

In addition to the regular favorite vendors, such as Green Uprising Farm, the Agrarian Collective, Mi Distinctive Tastes, Reza's Breadery, Mulligan Farms, Irene's Gardens, Inland Ranch, Mendocino Ferments, Scott's Sharpening, Moonflower Tea, and Fairall's Farms, there will be some new and recent additions.

New vendors include Wolf Lodge, Dream Hippie Creations, Noyo Hill Beeswax Wraps, Out of This Earth Scents and More, and Karen Sequeira's painted feathers and apothecary. Shoppers might also see the Blue Zones Project and pick up information on how to create a healthy lifestyle.

"We'll try and space the booths as much as possible," said Foley, "but so far, we haven't imposed any rules on how many people in line and how far apart. They should be wearing masks."

"I'm going to miss being outside in this beautiful weather," he added, "which probably will not last too much longer. We'll be on vacation from Christmas to January 1, 2022. We'll come back outside as soon as the weather seems like it will permit us. We have the Grange reserved through April but I think we may be able to come back outside sooner."

Of course, the market will still be offering the EBT Market Match which doubles the buying power of the wooden chips purchased through the EBT cards. The additional chips will be used only for purchasing fruits and vegetables, to encourage healthy eating. Each family is limited to \$30 before the matching \$30 bonus.

Foley has recently begun publishing a market newsletter with all the latest information on the vendors and which musicians will be performing. To be included on the mailing list, email foley.mw@protonmail.com.

## Senior Center's Christmas Store opens December 6

The Harrah Senior Center's annual Christmas Store, featuring decorations, toys, clothes, Christmas music and more, is set to open Monday, December 6 and run through Saturday, December 11. 9 am to 4 pm. New items put out every day. See's Famous Old Time Candies available. 1501 Baechtel Road.

If you're interested in volunteering in the Christmas Store or have any questions please contact Deb Williams Holcomb at 707-459-6827.



The festive lighted-up train was a great success at last year's Holiday Express. Roots will be giving free train rides December 4 from 12 to 4:30 pm, and then will run a lighted train display until 7 pm. At right: William England helped to decorate the trains last year with colorful lights.



## Roots Holiday Express offers free train rides and more seasonal cheer

Submitted by Roots of Motive Power

Roots of Motive Power proudly presents the Holiday Express, in conjunction with the Mendocino County Museum, which will have extended hours on Saturday, December 4 from 12 to 7 pm.

As always this is a FREE event and FREE admission to the museum that day as well. We are still under a masking indoors order per the Mendocino County Public Health Officer, so come prepared to follow those guidelines.

This FREE family event includes free train rides, a chance to talk to Santa and receive a free small treat, a raffle for a wagon full of toys, refreshments of cookies and hot chocolate, festive decorations, and more!

Last year's event that lighted up the train and museum for night

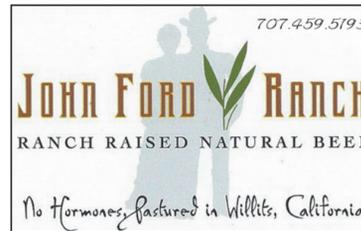
viewing was so well-received we decided to do a hybrid event this year. We will be giving train rides and taking passengers from 12 to 4:30 pm.

At 5 pm we will light up the train and run a lighted train display until 7 pm. Unfortunately, there will be no passengers from 5 to 7 pm for safety reasons. The best place to view this will be in the parking lot by the soccer fields. You can even stay in your car if you like and view the train as it rolls by. The Engine House and the Museum will both be open until 7 pm.

In conjunction with the festivities hosted by Roots of Motive Power, the public is invited to stop by the Museum and enjoy FREE admission and participate in a Read the rest of Roots Over on Page 13 FREE Make and



Michelle Shaddock of Noyo Hill Beeswax Wraps sells ecologically sound and biodegradable food wraps.



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# 'Clifford the Big Red Dog'

**The Story:** A comedy-fantasy about a lonely Girl in the Big City and her magical Puppy. Emily Elizabeth (Darby Camp) lives with her mother and occasionally with her Uncle Casey (Jack Whitehall). She goes to an exclusive private school on scholarship. The mean girls at the school torment her because they're rich and snotty and hateful, while Emily is not any of those things. She has cleanliness of spirit.

Emily gets an unusual red puppy named Clifford. It's a normal size puppy, but magic is involved, and overnight the red puppy becomes a giant red puppy. HUGE! Emily's puppy is too big and too puppyish not to cause all sorts of chaos. Thrilling adventures and funny disasters are inevitable.

**My Thoughts:** I made a promise to myself to avoid dog movies because, well, consider: "Old Yeller," or "Marley & Me," or "Hachi: A Dog's Tale," or even "Courage of Lassie." I can't take it. The dog dies, or the dog gets lost and tries to find her way home. And there's always a mean man who mistreats the dog. Too much heartbreak for me. But now we have this flick, and the dog survives and gets to be with the girl he loves. What a joyful reversal! "Clifford the Big Red Dog" redeems dog movies. I'm going to reconsider my promise, so bring on the doggies!

**Parents:** Yes, of course. Bring the kids. There are two swear words, and I suppose that's why the movie is rated PG. Loyalty, courage and friendship are celebrated. The good guys win. Emily gets her dog. Your kids will laugh. And cheer.

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



Above: Tom Allman enjoys meeting all the people who come out in the rain last year to donate. At right: Tom "Turkey" Allman doesn't mind getting wet and dressing like a turkey for a good cause.

## 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  
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
www.agapebiblechurch.com

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-5456  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Burton Jernigan  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
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Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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www.eckankar.org

**Grace Community Church**  
Celebrating Life In Christ  
25 Hazel Street, Willits  
Modified Worship Service  
10 a.m.  
Other ministries suspended for now.  
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:  
Confessions by appointment:  
459-2252  
Sunday Mass inside:  
9:00 a.m. English  
10:30 a.m. Spanish  
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Covid guidelines apply.  
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**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
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**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Karl Bliese, Pastor  
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following the service.  
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24 Mill Creek Drive  
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**Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
707-459-5714  
Saturdays: Meeting place at church located at 399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
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Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.  
https://willitsca.adventistchurch.org  
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If you want to be included in this column please call:  
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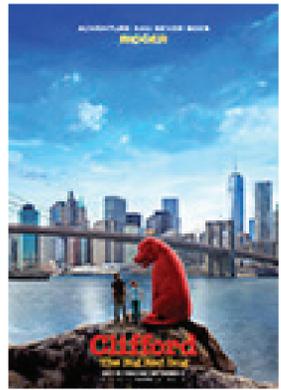
## Retired Sheriff Tom Allman to collect donations to buy Thanksgiving meals for those in need at Bud Snider City Park on Friday

Retired sheriff Tom Allman is once again donning his turkey suit this year in order to raise money for the Willits Community Services Food Bank, who provides as many as 500 Thanksgiving meals to families in need of assistance. Allman will be at Bud Snider City Park on Friday, November 19, from 5 to 6 pm, gobbling about and taking photos with people that donate to this worthy cause.

Last year Allman helped to raise over \$7,500 to buy turkeys, potatoes, salad fixings, side dishes, and pie. Help him make sure this year will be as successful.

As always, the turkey dinners will be distributed at the Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, from 11 am to 3 pm, Thursday, November 25. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will be strictly drive-through only. The dinners are free to anyone, no questions asked,

Read the rest of **Turkey**  
Over on Page 13



Date/Time	Location	Vaccine Availability	Other Information
Mondays & Wednesdays 12:30pm - 4:15pm	<b>Public Health</b> 474 East Valley St, Willits	All adult vaccines available	Sign up at Myturn.ca.gov Or Walk-ups welcome <b>472-2759</b>
M-F 9am -11:30am 1:30pm-4:30 pm Sat 9am-3pm	<b>Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic</b> 1245 S. Main Street, Willits	Adult & Child Pfizer and Moderna	Best to make an appointment. Do not need to be a patient. <b>459-6861</b>
M-F 9am -11:45am 12:45pm-3 pm	<b>Little Lake Health Center</b> 45 Hazel Street, Willits	Adult & Child Pfizer and Moderna	Best to make an appointment. Do not need to be a patient. <b>459-9600</b>
M & F 2 pm - 4:30 pm	<b>Adventist Health Redwood Medical Clinic</b> 3 Marcela Drive Suite C, Willits	All Adult vaccines and Child Pfizer available	Appointments required. 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> doses do not need to be patients. Boosters are for patients only. <b>459-6115</b>
M-F 10am -12:45 pm 2 pm - 7 pm Sat 9 am -1 pm 2- 5pm Sun 10 am - 1pm 2-5 pm	<b>Safeway Pharmacy</b> 845 S. Main Street Willits	Adult Pfizer & Moderna	Walk ups welcome on weekdays for 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> doses. Appointments required for boosters and on weekends. <b>456-1790</b>
M-F 9am -8 pm Weekend 10 am - 6pm	<b>Rite Aid Pharmacy</b> 1730 S. Main Street, Willits	Adult Pfizer & Moderna	Appointments Preferred. <b>459-0554</b>

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Prepared by Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic  
Translated by Nuestra Alianza 11/12/2021



Above: Organizers Roland and Jayma Spence are affiliated with Harwood Park. Below: Laytonville local Mary Marsh learned to make clay pottery, which she sells at craft fairs, at the Acoma Pueblo in New Mexico.

The rest of **Laytonville** | From Page 7

enough of their own people to carry on the tradition, "so they were allowed to teach anyone who wanted to learn. The minute I started doing it, it became my passion." Although she uses an electric kiln rather than a fire pit, her method is mostly traditional.

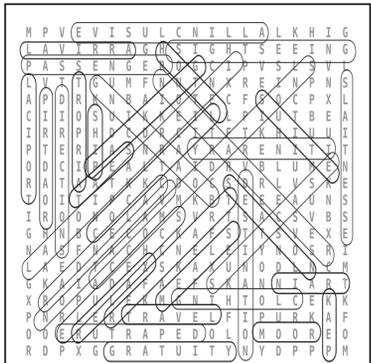
Selena Rowan of Nine Sisters Botanicals and Sarah Adams of Everyday Alchemy Tonic Co. are mainstays of many of the craft and herbal fairs. They create herbal tinctures, salves, and other natural products, and some natural textiles. Both are extremely knowledgeable in the herbal arts and are more than willing to share the fruits of their experiences.

Robert Moen loves guitars. He stated that he has had 174 "real" guitars, an important distinction, as his craft is creating stunning and funky mosaic guitars with Grateful Dead and other recognizable music-themed designs. "I used to live in Big Sur and used to make these out of jade," Moen recalled. "Now I live up here and make them out of different local materials." After his house in Big Sur burned down, he moved to Laytonville and had to evacuate a couple times due to fires.

Mattia is here from Italy with his significant other, Koana from Brazil. They make and sell "everything made from natural materials from South America," said Mattia. They also have Palo Santo wood which is a natural incense stick.

Amber Slater is from Willits. She prints directly on coffee cups with a dye-sublimation process. Her work is as whimsical as it is attractive. She even has printed holiday-themed toilet paper, "he sees you when your pooping," stated one of the rolls.

There was no shortage of people to meet, to speak with, to learn from at this event, too many to list in this article. Some can be seen at upcoming crafts fairs in various places around the county. In Willits, there is an upcoming Herb Guild Maker's Fair at the Rexall parking lot on December 11, and the annual Willits Crafts Fair on December 10 and 11 at the Willits Center for the Arts and the Willits Community Center.



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Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II  
Eligibility Specialist II  
Engineer I/II  
Engineering Technician I/II/Sr.  
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Road Maintenance Worker III - Willits & Laytonville  
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Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C  
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For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca)  
EOE

## Thrive Yoga Grand Opening

The public is invited to the Grand Opening of Thrive Yoga, Saturday, November 20, from 1 to 3 pm. Come have a tour of the studio! 1726 South Main Street, Suite B/C, in Willits; 707-489-1969.



## CLASSIFIEDS

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**Movie Sale**  
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**RV/Trailer Space for Rent**  
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**Freezer Empty? We can help!**  
Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual package orders) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.

**Santa and non-Santa Photos**  
Sign up for a time to have your photo taken with Santa Claus at J.D. Redhouse on Monday, 12/6 or Tuesday, 12/7! Holiday portraits without Santa are also being offered on Friday, November 19 at the Little Lake Fire Station. Sign up for a time by calling or texting: 707-972-7047

**Help Wanted**  
Full-time Maintenance Supervisor at Cemetery District of the Redwoods. Job entails the supervision and maintenance of three cemeteries: Willits, Little Lake, and Laytonville. Should have knowledge of cemetery burials, "lay-out", and boundaries. Understanding of blueprints and maps - REQUIRED. Knowledge of basic vehicle, turf and general equipment maintenance. Will give cemetery condition reports at all Board Meetings. Place headstones, attend all burials, and supervise all outside contractors for cemetery. Supervise seasonal part-time help. Some sales of plots, etc. also required. JOB AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY. Remit resume - Mail: P.O. Box 153, Willits, CA 95490; In Person 1200 Highway 20, Willits; email: cdothetheredwoods@yahoo.com; or call 707-459-5252.

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## Coast Hardware's Family Fun Faire set for November 20

Submitted by Coast Hardware

Come join us at Coast Hardware for our first-ever Family Fun Faire! This will be an outdoor event in our side parking lot at 101 East Barbara Lane on Saturday, November 20 from 11 am to 3 pm.

We have lots of fun stuff happening, like Santa pictures for the kids and pets too! A bounce house courtesy of Party Pros, Face Painting, Adoption Day for Fort Bragg Humane Society, Turtle Island Tacos, Wicked Slush, Dynamite Kettle Corn, Shamrock Ranch and lots of local vendors.

We will also be selling raffle tickets, and collecting toys to benefit the Willits Toy Run. For any questions please contact Pamalee or Gloria at 707-459-2201.

Coast Hardware Presents: Family Fun Faire

Featuring:

- Pictures With Santa Claus (Pets too!)
- Fort Bragg Humane Society Adoption Day
- Party Pros Bounce House
- Face Painting
- Turtle Island Tacos
- Wicked Slush
- Dynamite Kettle Corn
- Shamrock Ranch

Local Vendors



Above: The Willits Rotary Club presents the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center with a check: from left, Rotarian Ann Alumbaugh; STRC Co-president Lydia Senter Colvig; Rotarian Mike Smith; STRC Treasurer Jill Scott; STRC Co-president Aimee Swearingin; and Rotarian John Cross.

Photo by Mathew Caine

## Willits Rotary Club presents the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center with proceeds from fundraising dinner

The Willits Rotary Club recently presented a check to the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center. Although the amount on the large check seen in the photo is for \$71,865 (the net amount raised through this year's Claws for a Cause event), the actual check presented to the STRC was \$90,315, which includes money being held to pay for the second phase of covering the arena.

The funds will go to the purchase of a prefabricated metal building to be used for intake of new students, for hippotherapy, and weather-related uses. The new building will require insulation and electric as well. In addition, some of the funds will be utilized to build a new ramp for the arena to help students be able to mount the horses more easily (some of this will be paid by a grant). Money will also be going to pay vet bills, to purchase new tack, and to feed the growing cadre of service animals.



Above: Dusty Whitney motions toward the collection of Howard Family Christmas cards that he donated to the Mendocino County Museum.

At right: Museum donor Dusty Whitney and Museum Curator Karen Mattson talk and reminisce about how Whitney's collection has influenced this year's exhibit.

At bottom: Museum visitors Filippo Licita, left, and Savanna Pearson talk with artifact collector and donor Dusty Whitney about the people in the photo.

Photos by Ree Sloum



The rest of Mailbox From Page 5

years ago. Ten years ago, he donated his immeasurable acquisitions to the museum.

"I felt, in my heart, it should go to the county museum since I'm a fourth or fifth generation from Willits. That's why my collection finally ended up here," Whitney stated.

Whitney collected Mendocino County artifacts from local residents, antique shops all over the country, from leads, and online. He often found things that would go well together when they were from the same town or area of the county. He'd put them together, sometimes framing them, to make a little story.

When people enter the museum and look to the right, there are two of Whitney's framed collections. One memorializes the Point Arena Lighthouse. Whitney acquired each of the five artifacts: two photos, a silver commemorative spoon, and two letters. He designed each collection of memorabilia to be attached and mounted in antique frames he'd collected. He then worked with Wendy Wilmes from Firefly Framing Studio who put them together. He's been doing that process with Wilmes for years.

Mattson did research around the Point Arena Lighthouse letters and said, "I looked up the author of this letter and then we found him in a list of light keepers. I was so excited! That was pretty special. Can you imagine having that job at that time in history? And then there's the letter about him getting money to rebuild the lighthouse."

Next to that piece is another framed collection. It includes a handwritten letter and rare hand-cancelled envelope from Salmon Creek, Whitesboro, Mendocino County. Whitney included a copy of a newly typed letter so it can be easily read. The letter writer was Johnny Boyle and is dated January 20, 1882. Whitney hasn't found where Salmon Creek or Whitesboro are on the Mendocino Coast. Yet.

Museum Technician Briana Brooks talked about some of the fun, interesting and creative activities for everyone in the family. If you've ever wondered what it's like to use a quill pen, now's your chance. For the exhibit's duration, the museum has set up a self-guided, penmanship activity. There are a few types of pens, including

quills and materials to write on in the room off of the lobby. There's even an 1875 penmanship booklet that'll help grease your writing wheels.

The museum is asking the public to write a letter to the museum. They're asking people to write about one of their favorite memories of getting something in the mail and share what kind of mail you like to receive. You can leave it at the museum or take the postcard or paper with fancy, old-fashioned scrolling with you and write it later. Then mail the letter to the museum at 400 East Commercial Street. They'll collect them and have them out to share. You can also use that time and unusual materials to write to someone special for the holidays.

Learn more about the Mendocino County Museum and view the full program calendar at [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum). For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Museum at 459-2736 or [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org).

The museum, located at 400 East Commercial Street, is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 pm. Admission for adults is \$4; students is \$1; children 6 and under are free. Admission is free to Mendocino County Library Card Holders and free to everyone on the first Saturday of every month.

### PROGRAM CALENDAR

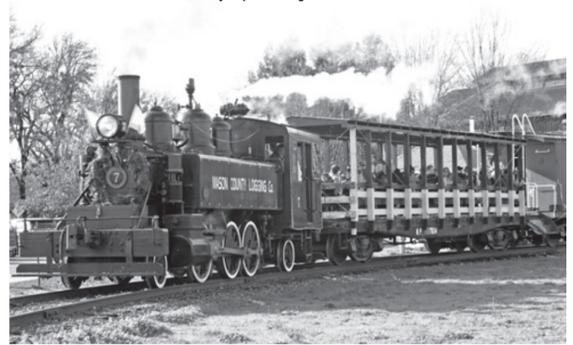
**Saturday, November 27, 1 pm:** Mendocino County Museum Recipe Exchange – Watch a live cooking demonstration, view recipes from our archives, and bring your favorite recipe to take part in our recipe swap.

**Saturday, December 4, noon to 7 pm:** Mendocino County Museum will be open for the Roots of Motive Power Holiday Express FREE family event. Enjoy train rides, an old-fashioned letter-writing station, a take-and-make ornament craft, and more.

**Saturday, December 11, noon to 4 pm:** Greeting Card Take and Make – Learn how to create DIY envelopes and pick up your own greeting-card kit. Available while supplies last.

**Saturday, December 18, noon to 4 pm:** Oly the Paper Doll and Scandinavian Painted Ornament Take and Make. Available while supplies last.

The Roots of Motive Power Holiday Express chugs down the track.



The rest of Roots From Page 9

Take Ornament kit, while supplies last. Visitors can also view the newly opened exhibit, "Correspondence: A Gift for all Seasons." A letter writing station will be available, and guests will have the opportunity to mail their letters in an early 1900s Willits Post Office Box. They will also have a holiday tree with handmade ornaments inspired from traditions around the world.

### Volunteers sought for December 4

Roots is looking for volunteers to help pull this off. We will be decorating the Engine House at 420 East Commercial Street in Willits on Sunday, November 28 starting at 10 am. We need donations of baked goods for the day of the event. You can drop them off at the engine house starting at 11 am on Saturday, December 4 at 11 am or call Alexis at 707-354-0076 to make other arrangements.

We need help at the goodie table to bag up and hand out goodies from 12 to 7 pm, and at the train platforms to help control the kids from 12 to 4:40 pm. Even if you could only help for a couple hours that would be greatly appreciated. You can email us at [rootsinwillits@gmail.com](mailto:rootsinwillits@gmail.com) or call/text Alexis at 707-354-0076 to find out more about volunteer opportunities for this event. Come help us keep the spirit of Christmas alive in Willits.



The rest of Turkey From Page 10

Above: Jane and Dickey Weinkle pose with Tom Turkey after donating to Willits Community Services last year.

all are invited – donations are welcome. Call 707-354-3960 for more information.

"Laughter is free, smiles are priceless, but turkeys cost money," said Allman. "Please swing by so I can give you a Facebook shout out for helping a very worthy cause."

So, stop by this Friday if you'd like to help local families have a happy Thanksgiving. If you'd like to donate online, PayPal is accepted. Visit [www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1951234](http://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1951234). Or checks can be sent by mail to: Willits Community Services, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.

At right: Tom Allman poses with volunteer Shalynn Brewer and her son, Tanner.

Photos by Mathew Caine



## BLACK FRIDAY

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## Time for Tag Trees

### Familiar trees with wishes from local kids out at stores now

It's already time to be thinking about Christmas, and gift giving is a big event during the holiday season. To make sure all local kids have a happy holiday, requests from families in need of gifting assistance now hang on the tags of decorated Christmas trees around town. Pick up a tag from a tree at J.D. Redhouse, Les Schwab, Willits Power, or Sparetime Supply, fill some or all of the requests, and drop off the unwrapped items, and the tag! – to J.D. Redhouse, Coast Hardware or Les Schwab.

– Submitted by the Willits Kids Christmas Program

## A Season of Light

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8 am to 1 pm

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## Welcoming James Avalos, FNP, Family Medicine



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As a nurse and a social worker, James has worked in a variety of public health and medical/surgical nursing roles, as well as behavioral health counseling opportunities. His experience in providing healthcare to adults and children with an emphasis on prevention and holistic wellness is foundational to his efforts for empowering patients on their own path to health, wholeness and hope.



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### The rest of Mandates From Page 1

addressed to WUSD Superintendent Joe Aldridge and requested that outdoor masking be removed from the memorandum of understanding with the Willits Teachers Association and from the COVID safety plan.

Folsom told the board the documents she provided contained information from the World Health Organization, the federal Centers for Disease Control, the California Department of Public Health, CAL OSHA, and the Mendocino County Department of Public Health.

"According to the Mendocino County Public Health face covering order ... there is no mask mandate that requires anyone to wear a mask outside," she said.

"CDC ... guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K through 12 schools confirms that, in general, people do not need to wear masks outside," she continued.

"We contacted almost every school in the Ukiah district, and none of the schools are requiring students to wear masks outdoors," she said. "Sonoma County school districts' websites also do not require masks outdoors."

Others who spoke at the meeting were mostly supportive of Folsom's request.

"I have five kids at school ... two at your schools," Cheryl McFadden told the board. "And these last two years have been very challenging.... For two years I've sat quiet and participated in testing and listened."

"But today I've had enough. I've had enough with COVID. I've had enough of our community fighting. I've had enough of it. Our kids have had enough," she said.

"These masks that our kids wear all day.... My daughter's face is covered in acne. It's not just acne, it's staph infection," she continued. "These things are filthy unless you're changing them throughout the day and not touching them. My son comes home with snot on his mask. The teachers have no idea what's behind these masks," she said.

"We're not asking you to unmask them when they're in the classroom. We've compromised. We're saying, when they are outside ... let the kids have fresh air. Work with us," she implored.

Billie Grider, with a "son in kindergarten at Brookside, echo[ed] all the concerns" he was hearing.

"When I ask him how his day is, most of what I hear about is the frustration and concern about his mask not fitting properly," he said. "I have picked up my child, and he has a rash all over the bottom of his face.... It's disgusting. It's filthy."

Colby Friend, with three children in Willits' schools, agreed and told the board he thought the mask wearing was "discouraging kids from participation in extracurricular activities like sports and theater," offering descriptions of his children's experiences showing just that.

He continued, telling the board that when he was "walking down the street putting posters on telephone poles ... I would say, 'hey, are you opposed to masks? We have a school board meeting tonight. You can voice yourself.'"

"Every car I passed was giving me thumbs up, smiles from all the parents," he said. "Everybody is on board with setting our kids free from this nonsense."

Not quite everybody. There was support for the district's masking policies.

For example, Blosser parent and high school teacher Kenneth Mansfield was "very pleased as a teacher and as a parent that the school board has chosen to follow the science to institute masking to keep students safe, healthy, and in school."

"Masking is the simplest and most effective way we can protect our students and our staff and allow everyone to stay in school and do their activities," he said. "There's just no alternative at this point to protecting everybody without masking, particularly indoors."

Whether someone spoke in support of or in opposition to the policy, the board was clearly appreciative of getting public input.

And the district's current position on the matter was clear.

As a matter of contractual agreement between the district and teachers, "outside masking ... [will] end on February 1," Aldridge said.

"The thought process on that was, it gets us through the holiday season and through any incubation periods around that," he said. "If we have any other indications that give us reason to change that, we will certainly revisit that again."

Trustee Jeanne King "really appreciated the parents ... who attended, letting the school board know of their concerns."

"Personally, I am not into mandates," she said. "I have problems with mandates

because I think they have been politicized. And I'm not saying it's politicized on one side and not the other. I think it's politicized on both sides, and there's no clear answer."

She cited an "article by a teacher in Ukiah" that she had read indicating that "public health officers ... [in] Trinity County, Humboldt County, and Mendocino County have all gone in different directions as far as indoor masking goes."

"So it's not something that's cut and dried, and it's something that the board really needs to discuss and talk about," she said.

Board president Alex Bowlds, attending via Zoom while "under quarantine thanks to the lovely coronavirus," fully supported following the science but saw "room for compromise with respect to outdoor masking ... after listening to the public comments."

"We still need to be diligent about making sure that we follow the science ... to keep, more than anybody else, your children safe," he said.

At the same time he noted that "we are obligated by law to provide a safe working environment for all of the employees of the Willits Unified School District."

Trustee Paula Nunez expressed support for "people coming to speak for themselves."

"Every member of the community has the right to come in and voice their opinions and truthfully stand up for what they believe is in the best interests of themselves and their families," she said. "Those of you who know me, know I have done that for years, and it's a good thing to do."

As the meeting drew to a close, Jaynene Johnson, mother of three students in district schools, wondered: "What is the next step? What happens now? Is there a vote? Is there a discussion? What is the action? Do I need to propose this be on the next board meeting? How does this work?"

None of the above.

King reminded her that the "superintendent already said we'd reached an agreement with the teachers union regarding unmasking outdoors February 1 ... to get through the holiday season since families travel during that time and get together," she said, which would "give the school district some time ... to work out any exposure to COVID."

Nunez agreed, noting the mandate was not policy, but a contractual agreement with the Willits Teachers Association.

"We call it a part of their working conditions. It is a contracted issue," she said.

Aldridge added that "it will be on our [next meeting] agenda as the Memorandum of Understanding I discussed previously.... "So it will be a topic to be commented upon as well."

Bowlds wondered if the contractual sections "specific to COVID" were on the website, as "Ms. Johnson might get some value out of being able to have access to that."

Aldridge thought not, and agreed to "have [them put] in on the website as well."

Public participation at meetings is all well and good and appreciated. However, participation in just about every other aspect of the district's educational endeavors is very obviously sorely needed.

"We are doing our best for our kids. We have a lot of restrictions on top of us, and we could really, really use a lot of community help," said Brookside special education teacher Morgan Shook. "If the community is really getting fired up, come and be a part of the team."

"We are so incredibly understaffed that we can't have enough aides to be with the kids outdoors," he said. "The cafeteria, we only have one custodian in the morning trying to help keep the surfaces clean and make sure it's properly ventilated and make sure that we are following the guidelines that are in place by the state."

"The district is short-staffed in so many areas, and much of it relates right back to COVID and the trickle down," agreed Bowlds. "If you have an interest in volunteering or becoming an employee of the district in so many ways, please contact Trina in our district office and look into what you might be able to provide."

"I know that we are desperately short of bus drivers for example," he continued. "It doesn't pay a lot, but it does have the benefit of putting you in a place of helping your community."

"We're drastically understaffed, I would say, in all departments," agreed high school teacher Brian Bowles. "We don't have enough substitute teachers. So if you are sick the coverage is very tough to get. There's no substitutes for paras [paraprofessionals/aides]. There's no substitutes for busses."

"It is really true that the district is shy at least one person in just about every single department," agreed Nunez.

### The rest of JDSF From Page 6

resolution.

Prior to the meeting, Jones and the Climate Action Committee had submitted a lengthy and rather fierce point-by-point rebuttal to four "private sector forest managers" who had written a letter challenging some of the suggestions from the committee involving climate change and fire protection measures in forests.

"I understand why you want the management of Jackson to stay the way it is," the letter read, "as you benefit directly, indirectly, and financially from continued industrial logging on the publicly owned 50,000-acre Jackson Demonstration State Forest."

"Our coalition is composed of numerous organizations and countless individuals who are galvanized by the need to respond to climate change and change the mission of Jackson from commercial logging to forest restoration, carbon sequestration, and recreation," the letter continued. "Our document 'Time to Change the Mission: Jackson Demonstration State Forest' includes a thorough analysis of the role that Jackson could play in climate resiliency, recreation opportunities, our economy, the preservation of biological diversity and to reduce fire risk. The document also includes 30 references to scientific articles and reports."

Priscilla Hunter, former chair of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, and currently a Tribal Historic Preservation officer, also called in to support the resolution. She talked about the risk that logging in JDSF has in damaging sites that are sacred to the cultural history of natives.

"If they keep continuing to cut those trees down by those sites, they are continuing to destroy our cultural sites," she said. "We can't even get in there to be able to go up and pray there and see where our ancestors held their ceremonies."

There were also a few young local students in support of the resolution who called in to plead with supervisors to consider the risk to future generations who will inherit the burden of climate change.

"The climate crisis has been a huge part of my childhood," said Sara Rose, a sophomore at Mendocino Community High School. "I knew from a very young age that it would be the biggest threat to my future. The climate crisis will affect every aspect of life for all of us. This is becoming clearer each year. Our wells are running dry, there have been record high temperatures, and fire season is starting earlier and ending later. If we do nothing, the climate crisis will be the end of humanity. The world knows this," Rose concluded.

One who argued against certain aspects of the resolution was Michael Jones, a forestry advisor in the county working through the University of California Cooperative Extension. He said that the Jackson forest management was already aligned with California regulations, and that the local research being done would provide valuable information for the state moving forward.

"In June/July of this year, the governor,

### The rest of Garbage From Page 1

and part of the agreement that the city had with the FAA to attain the grant for the rehabilitation work that's being funded by the federal agency."

The board then voted unanimously to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$141,557.89.

### Proposed Solid Wastes of Willits rate increase

Next up was the agenda item, "Introduction of Resolution 2021-13 Establishing Rates for Solid Wastes of Willits." General Manager Alaniz provided information in the staff report based on information from SWOW Jerry Ward of SWOW was present to provide additional information.

"Brooktrails staff has looked through the accompanying documents and agrees that what is being proposed for the rates is what is needed to be charged to cover the services," Alaniz stated. "As proposed the 2022 rates will be approximately 42 cents per month higher for the average residential customer or \$5/year; a reasonable increase based on the information received."

Director Tony Orth addressed Ward and said, "I believe that this shows that this is the smallest increase you've proposed in quite a bit of time." He also asked if SWOW was having trouble finding and keeping employees. Ward responded: "Yes, we've had to raise our hourly rates quite a bit. Most of our guys were making \$25/hour and now they're making \$29/hour. Plus, we've had COVID issues as well as employee health issues to deal with."

Orth said, "Thank you, Mr. Ward, you provide a great service even though

and the board of forestry, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, released the reports on forest management research," said Jones. "And the report basically outlines the highest priorities of forest management research right now including things like climate change and carbon management, wildfire risk and management, and traditional ecological knowledge. What I want to mention is within that document, Jackson's management plan, specifically Appendix 10, the research plan, is cited as a document in which they use to identify critical research needs."

"And so this research plan is being used to emphasize and dictate management under the purview of the board of forestry and CalFire moving forward," he continued. "So to suggest or imply in this resolution that the current management practices and the management plan and the research plan at Jackson is not congruent or consistent with the plan of the governor in the state is just inaccurate and does not reflect the actual types of practices happening at the forest."

Burton, former Willits mayor, emphasized some of the local economic benefits Willits Redwood and others in the timber industry provide.

"We presently have about 30 employees," he said, "and our logging contractors, lumber trucking companies, and other vendors multiply that workforce we support.... As the last family-owned saw mill in Mendocino County we offer forest land owners a competitive option to the corporate-dominated operations in the county."

"The economy of the county is your constituency," he said to the supervisors. "Your focus should be to promote and protect what we have, and the challenge should be 'How do we build it stronger?' This resolution is not a part of the answer to that challenge."

Burton said they had planned for the Caspar 500 contract to provide close to 50% of the lumber for Willits Redwood this year, and have instead gone as far as Santa Cruz County to buy and haul it to the area.

Despite the objections to the resolution, and some suggestions to change or remove certain statements, the supervisors left it as is.

The resolution leads off stating, "Whereas the science is convincing that our existential fight against climate change demands expanded effort to store carbon in the state's natural and working lands to remove it from the atmosphere ... the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors embraces the responsibility to mitigate the systemic risks climate change poses to humans and natural systems...."

Williams seconded Haschak's motion, and said he hoped it would curtail some of the ongoing conflict.

"Every time I hear about tree sitters and activists blocking roads, I worry we will have a member of the public get hurt on public property interfacing with public servants," he said. "And being able to say that we've started a process, we're going to work with the state - it may be in the end [that] not everybody's happy, but I think there's value in going through that process. And it's never a mistake to get more science on the table and more documentation."

sometimes we wait a little longer."

Director Ed Horrick said, "I will make a motion to set a public hearing on the proposed rates for solid waste collection effective January 1, 2022. A public hearing will be held on December 14, 2021." The motion was seconded by Director Ralph Santos. The board then voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The general manager's report provided a drought update: Brooktrails Water Supply - The lakes are full. There is approximately 250.9 acre-feet in Lake Emily and 118 acre feet in Lake Ada Rose, totaling the maximum storage capacity of 368.9 acre feet. (Customer usage averages daily over a year at about 270,000 gallons per day and up to 400,000 during the high usage season.)

The Primrose Sewer Lift Station Project building and pumps are ordered. First-quarter expenses on the project are \$87,174 from a \$150,000 line item, leaving \$62,826 remaining in sewer capital expenses for this fiscal year. Everything is moving smoothly with the project.

General Manager Alaniz said, "If you do get a chance to just drive by the Primrose Lift Station site, you can see how Brooktrails is going to benefit from the site."

### Remote meetings continued

The board then addressed "Consideration of Findings to Avoid Imminent Risks from COVID-19 by Continuing Remote, Publicly Accessible Board Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361." Following some discussion, the board voted unanimously to continue to meet remotely. This policy will be subject to monthly review.



## WPOA to host 2nd annual Thanksgiving Dinner Drive-Thru on November 21

Willits Police Officers Association's 2nd annual Thanksgiving Dinner Drive-Thru is set for Sunday, November 21, at the Willits Police Department, 125 East Commercial Street. From 4 pm until gone!

The WPOA, with support from generous sponsors Willits Safeway, Willits Grocery Outlet, and Kemmy's Pies, are holding our 2nd annual Thanksgiving Drive-Thru. We're very excited to host again for another year to help families in need to enjoy the holidays, together!

One dinner per vehicle. Masks will be required, please remain in your vehicle and dinners will be delivered to you. Dinner is one 10 to 12 pound frozen turkey, stuffing & mashed potato mixes, vegetables, dinner rolls, and Kemmy's Pies for dessert!

– Submitted by Willits Police Officers Association

*At left, above: The Willits Police Department and members of the Little Lake Fire District distributed the dinners to families in 2020 who needed help on Thanksgiving. Below: One of the 10 hams that was escorted to the Food Bank via patrol car by Willits Police Officer K. Kersmarki in time for the Thanksgiving dinner last year.*



## Sweet Odette

This showstopper is Odette! Odette's life was on the line at Stanislaus Animal Control due to being over crowded.



We could not let that happen! So she was pulled into our rescue. She is 2 years old and fully ready to ride off into her happy-ever-after with you. Odette has quickly become a volunteer favorite here and she gives the best hugs. You're gonna want to meet this beauty before it's too late!

Odette prefers to live a cat-free life, but loves doggie company! She even loves the kiddos! She is the sweetest girl

who deserves a family of her own. Apply to add her to your family today at [www.mendohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com)!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Currently we are open by appointment only on Wednesday through Friday, and open to the public Saturday through Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, no appointment needed on the weekends! You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: [www.mendohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com), our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).

## Lively Flora

Flora is an active 8-month-old calico cat who gets along well with other cats. She is playful with toys and enjoys running around. She can get a little nippy at times so she would do best in a home with no young children.



For more info about Flora or to see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, events and updates about COVID-19 and the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com). For information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

**WILLITS POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION  
2ND ANNUAL  
THANKSGIVING  
DINNER  
DRIVE-THRU**

The WPOA, with support from generous sponsors Willits Safeway, Willits Grocery Outlet, and Kemmy's Pies, are holding our 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Drive-Thru! We're very excited to host again for another year to help families in need to enjoy the holidays, together!

November 21, 2021 4 PM - UNTIL GONE  
WILLITS PD - 125 E COMMERCIAL STREET

1 DINNER PER VEHICLE  
ONE 10-12 LB FROZEN TURKEY, STUFFING & MASHED POTATO MIXES, VEGETABLES, DINNER ROLLS, AND KEMMY'S PIES FOR DESSERT!

**SEPT 3 - FEB 13**

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**SCORE BIG**

**Earn 500 Points Each Week  
Tuesdays 1pm - Saturdays 11pm**

At the kiosk...

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- Guess total score of the Monday night game for tie breaker.

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