Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 665 **Thursday, November 19, 2026**

City of Willits trash customers to move to weekly pickup

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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Redwood Waste Solutions has announced changes to Willits customers' trash, recycling and yard waste / green waste pickup as of the second week of December.

"We are excited to announce that your service for Organics, Recycle, and Landfill will be weekly moving forward!," Redwood Waste Solutions posted on Facebook. "This means you can place out all three cans to be serviced on the same day, weekly!"

City of Willits customers and any other customers affected will be receiving a postcard along with text/ emails reminders about the upcoming changes.

Questions? Call 707-234-6400 or email cainfo@candswaste.com

Willits Weekly confirmed with Redwood Waste Solutions that it will require two rounds on the weekly service day route to pick up all three bins. The big new waste trucks with the split bins can pick up two different types of bins on one round, but the third bin will require a second round.

Read the rest of Garbage
Over on Page 9

Round Valley Indian Housing Authority to celebrate ground-breaking of 18 new homes with Golden Hammer Ceremony

Submitted by RVIHA

Covelo, November 13 – The Round Valley Indian Housing Authority will host a Golden Hammer Ceremony on Friday, November 20, at 11 am, at the Tribal Winds–Phase 5 housing project site to celebrate the start of construction on 18 new single-family homes.

With site work and underground utilities already complete, the event puts a twist on the traditional groundbreaking. Instead of turning dirt with a golden shovel, Round Valley Indian Tribes Tribal Council members and Housing Commissioners will use a golden hammer to drive ceremonial nails into a 2x4, marking the project's move to vertical construction.

The program will include remarks from RVIHA, the Tribal Council, and the California Department of Housing and Community

Read the rest of Ceremony
Over on Page 5







Above, from left: Little Lake Fire Department Captain and Prevention and Educational Officer Harry So, left, gets help from Brooktrails Fire Department's Captain Lindsey Shively and Executive Director of the Willits Community Services and Food Bank Wendy Copperfield to load the boxes of stuffing that LLFD will prepare for next Thursday's 37th annual free Community Thanksgiving Dinner. CAL FIRE Cook Specialist 2 Michael Godinez carries aluminum trays to the truck. Godinez and Copperfield strategize their plans for the upcoming event. Below: The annual Turkey Toss (we believe the 19th annual!?) continues with members of CAL FIRE, Little Lake Fire Department and Brooktrails Fire Departments, who all flung some frozen fowl in celebration of the beginning of the holiday season.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Turkey Toss 2026

Community starts to ready meals for next week's free community Thanksgiving dinner

What purpose does throwing frozen turkeys in the air really serve? Well, nothing, to be honest, but the resulting photo op has become the official tradition to use to announce that efforts have started for the annual free Thanksgiving dinner, held on Thursday, November 26 at the Willits Senior Center.

Executive Director of the Willits Food Bank and Willits Community Services Wendy Copperfield took the reins of the event last year, and looks forward to her second year running smoothly with this great crew.

"We're very excited to be working with CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit Chamberlain Creek Fire Center Crew 5; the Little Lake Fire Department; the Brooktrails Fire Department; the Willits Senior Center; the Mendo Food Network and their new Executive Director Rachel Clark; and all the many other people and organizations who make this dinner come to life," said Copperfield. "We're also excited to have Katie Mason and the Willits Charter School volunteers help this year with cooking the potatoes and more."

CAL FIRE will be cooking the 51 turkeys that were provided by the Willits Community Services and Food Bank and the Mendo Food Network, and will also be in charge of making the gravy. Harry So and the Little Lake Fire Department is helping cook the stuffing, and So noted the donation also of six spiral hams from Little Lake and Brooktrails Fire Departments that will also be brought to the dinner.

"The Willits LDS Church is donating pies," continued Copperfield. "We are also so thankful to the Willits Senior Center for hosting the event again this year, providing the dining area, day-of prep and kitchen space, and many helpful hands to make the event a success."

This is the 37th annual dinner, and as always, the event is free to anyone wanting a hot meal. The dine-in event will offer turkey, gravy, ham, potatoes, pie, and more from 11 am to 3 pm, or until things run out, whichever is first. Donations are always welcome.

Copperfield noted that while the cooking is handled, there is still need for volunteers to come and help on the day of the event, serving, bussing, helping, etc. Any interested persons should reach out to the Food Bank at 459-3333 and NOT by calling the Senior Center.

– Maureen Jennison

Photos by Mathew Caine









Above, from left: Last year's Community Thanksgiving Dinner served food to hundreds of happy community members.



Above, left, and below: Many hands – some attached to the more-camera-shy than others - make light work moving 51 frozen turkeys into the CAL FIRE truck bound for the CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit Chamberlain Creek Fire Center out Highway 20 where they will be cooked and readied for next week's Thanksgiving dinner. Above, right: Some of the many people who will help make the 37th annual dinner happen, including from left: CAL FIRE Firefighter Apparatus Engineer Colten Boatwright; CAL FIRE Cook Specialist 1 Veronica Hamilton; Executive Director of Willits Community Services and Food Bank Wendy Copperfield; new Executive Director of the Mendo Food Network Rachel Clark; and CAL FIRE Cook Specialist 2 Michael Godinez.







Hart wins supervisor's race; two clear winners on school board

Jennifer Poole
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With the Monday afternoon update on the Mendocino County elections results, some clear winners have been reported in the Third District elections, even with some final ballots countywide remaining to be verified and counted. Supervisor-elect Eric Hart has won the Third District Supervisor's contest with 56.34 percent of the vote (2,910 votes). Candidate Buffey Bourassa received 43.66% percent of the vote (2,255 votes).

A total of 32,523 ballots have been processed countywide in Mendocino Countywide as of November 16. This is 59.99% of the total registered voters in Mendocino County.

Total ballots remaining to be processed countywide are 875 provisional ballots and 175 ballots still needing to be "cured." If you're a voter and have gotten a notice that your ballot envelope was unsigned, or that your signature doesn't match the signature in the voter records, you can still turn in a "Vote By Mail Ballot Signature Verification Statement & Unsigned Ballot Identification Envelope Statement" form by 5 pm on Friday, November 28 to have your ballot counted. Fill out the form you were sent by the Mendocino County Voter Office, or download the form here: www.mendocinocounty.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/acre/elections/0-nov-2026-combined-cure-letter.pdf

In a letter thanking supporters for his election win, Hart writes: "Throughout this campaign, I've remained steadfast in my goal to make county government

Read the rest of Winners
Over on Page 9

No Willits Weekly published next week

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Notice to our readers: Willits Weekly will not be publishing an edition next week on Thursday, November 26, Thanksgiving Day.

We have published a Wednesday edition on Thanksgiving weeks in past years, but as our regular print deadline this year is on Tuesdays, we'd have had to get the newspaper finished on Monday, and that is just not feasible.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday! We'll be back with our usual three December editions before Christmas: December 3, 10 and 17, 2026.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

Thank you, Mendocino County. Now the work begins.

First some words of thanks

I want to begin by thanking the voters of District 3 for the trust you've placed in me. I'm honored and humbled by that trust and committed to earning it every day through the work ahead.

Thank you to everyone who participated, whether you supported my campaign, Buffey's, or another candidate's. To those who volunteered, put up signs, donated, or offered advice, thank you. You made the campaigns possible.

Thank you to everyone who helped voters make informed choices: those who asked questions at meet and greets, shared views on Facebook, covered campaigns for the media, or just discussed issues over coffee or a beer. Democracy happens in these conversations just as much as it does at the polls. An informed electorate is essential to a healthy democracy.

And a special thank you to my wife, Tatum, who has been beside me throughout this campaign. Thank you for your love, patience, encouragement, and support through the long days and late nights. I couldn't have done this without you.

Thank you to the candidates in every race, and to their families. Running for office takes commitment, not just from the candidates, but from the family and friends who support them. With so many uncontested races, we need more people willing to run and give voters a choice.

And a big thank you to our Registrar of Voters, her elections team, and polling place volunteers. Your long hours and care in helping people vote and ensuring their votes are accurately counted are deeply appreciated.

I especially want to thank Buffey for stepping forward and sharing her ideas and experience. I hope she, and everyone who participated in this election, will remain engaged in our county's future. Holding public office is one way to serve our communities, but every one of us can make a difference.

And moving forward

Throughout this campaign, I've remained steadfast in my goal to make county government work better for the people it serves. That begins with fixing the foundation: improving our financial management and transparency, supporting the county employees who work hard every day to serve our communities, and building on existing efforts to make our systems and processes more efficient, accountable, and responsive.

Now it's time to turn those ideas into action.

Although I won't officially take office until January, the work of preparing has already begun. I'm developing plans for the transition, organizing the priorities and concerns people raised throughout the campaign, and preparing to work with county staff, my fellow supervisors, tribal governments, and community leaders to understand where we can make the greatest difference. Supervisor John Haschak has been very supportive throughout the campaign, and we've already begun meeting to discuss the transition. I appreciate his continued support and willingness to share his experience as I prepare to take office.

The tribal nations in our region are sovereign governments, and their members are an integral part of the communities we all share. Whether living on tribal lands or elsewhere, we are neighbors who work, shop, attend school, and raise our families together. I look forward to strengthening our relationships with tribal governments, respecting their sovereignty, listening to their priorities, and working together on the challenges we share.

I know that some of the challenges facing our county are significant, and that meaningful improvements won't happen overnight. I've put forward ideas and plans, but I recognize that these are starting points. Good decisions require listening to the people doing the work, understanding the financial and operational realities, and being willing to adjust our approach when the facts call for it.

As your supervisor, I intend to represent everyone in District 3, whether you voted for me, for Buffey, or didn't vote at all, regardless of your political views or background. That's the job I've been elected to do. That commitment extends to our neighbors around the Willits and Laytonville communities who were placed in Districts 4 and 5 through redistricting. District boundaries don't change the communities we belong to. I consider you part of our District 3 community, and my door will always be open to you. I look forward to working with your elected supervisors to address the challenges our communities share.

I hope the community involvement we've seen throughout this election continues. Stay engaged, ask questions, share your ideas, and hold me accountable. Good government is not something elected officials accomplish alone.

We have serious challenges ahead, but also tremendous opportunities. I look forward to working with all of you to confront those challenges, make the changes our county needs, and deliver better results for the people we serve.

Stronger Together.

Eric Hart, supervisor-elect,
Mendocino County District 3

From school board candidate Mason Rescina

To the Editor:

I am incredibly humbled and grateful to have been elected to serve on the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees.

First and foremost, thank you to everyone who has placed their trust and confidence in me. To my family, friends, supporters, and everyone who helped throughout this campaign, I cannot thank you enough.

As a fifth-generation Willits resident and graduate of Willits High School, having the opportunity to serve the district that helped shape who I am is truly an honor.

When I announced my intentions to run to be on the board, I knew it wasn't going to be easy given my young age. But I was willing to put in the work, to meet as many people as possible. I felt that my voice on the board would be beneficial for our district.

At just 20 years old, I recognize the historical significance of this moment. While I may be among the youngest individuals ever elected to public office in Mendocino County's history, I know that this achievement comes with tremendous responsibility.

I will be a board member who prioritizes student success, fiscal responsibility and rebuilding trust in our school district.

Regardless of how you voted, I promise to listen, remain accessible, and make decisions with the best interests of our students at heart.

To the community that raised me, thank you for putting your trust in me. This campaign may be over, but the real work is just beginning. Thank you all.

Mason Rescina, Willits

Volunteer drivers needed to help seniors get to medical care

To the Editor:

I am reaching out to ask our community for help with something that has become one of the greatest needs for our seniors here in Willits.

Every week, neighbors we know and love are told they need to see a specialist in Ukiah, Santa Rosa, or the Bay Area. For many of them, that trip feels impossible.

Read the rest of Letters | Over on page 9

November 16 was key ballot counting deadline

Submitted by Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber

Sacramento – The vast majority of ballots for the November 3, 2026, General Election must be counted by Monday, November 16, as part of a key deadline requiring counties to finish counting all ballots and release the vote count for those ballots on or before the 13th day following the election.

Elections Code section 15307, which became effective January 1, 2026, established the new rule and deadline for counting ballots; it applies to all elections.

Certain ballot types that require additional processing and do not fall under this requirement include provisional ballots, conditional voter registration ballots, signature cure ballots, ballots requiring duplication, ballots forwarded from other counties, and ballots (postmarked on or before November 3) received after Saturday, November 7 (E+4)

California county elections officials have 30 days from Election Day to process their remaining ballots. The frequency of updated results will vary based on the size of each county and the process each county elections office uses to tally and report votes.

Unofficial statewide election results can be tracked https://electionresults.sos.ca.gov/

Unofficial county updates of the number of outstanding ballots that still need to be processed during the official canvass can be viewed on the Unprocessed Ballots Status webpage https://electionresults.sos.ca.gov/unprocessed-ballots-status

State law requires county elections officials to report final official results to the Secretary of State by December 4. The Secretary of State has until December 11 to certify the results of the election.

More information about the official canvass process in California can be found here: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/vote-counting-process

Ballot curing reminder: Every eligible vote matters! Simple errors such as a missing or mismatched signature on a Vote by Mail Ballot envelope can prevent a ballot from being counted. County election officials will reach out via phone, email and/or mail to let voters cure their signature. It is important voters respond to this correspondence in a timely manner so that their ballot can be counted.

KLLG Willits Hometown Radio now streaming

KLLG Willits Hometown Radio is now streaming. You can listen on the radio at 97.9 FM, or listen to the low-power station's new stream online. The previous streaming link had some technical glitches, but the stream is working fine now at https://kllgradio.duckdns.org:8443/stream.mp3

Visit https://kllg.org/ to learn more about the local low-power radio station or how you can become a programmer or a member, or call (707) 234-5122. KLLG Radio, brought to you by the Little Lake Grange, is now in its 10th year of broadcasting over the Little Lake Valley.

The updated schedule is posted at https://kllg.org/schedule/

Willits Rain Box

Soaking rain finally reached the Little Lake Valley last week. The average 24-hour accumulation on Friday, November 13, came in at 1.67". The last time a 24-hour total came even close to this was April 11, 2026, when 1.41" fell across the valley. Sunday brought nearly another inch of accumulation, bringing the weekly total to 2.69", on par with the prediction.

Current forecasts call for up to an additional 2" to 3" in the coming week. As encouraging as this may be, the rainfall total for November will likely fall short of the 3-year average of 9.58".

– Tim Hanna, Willits Rain Box

Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)

location	Mon Nov 09	Tue Nov 10	Wed Nov 11	Thur Nov 12	Fri Nov 13	Sat Nov 14	Sun Nov 15	weekly total	rainfall since 01Oct26
Northbrook Way	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	1.71	0.09	0.97	2.80	3.51
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.22	0.10	1.23	3.55	4.33
Valley Rd	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	1.21	0.08	0.68	1.98	2.35
Canyon Rd	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.60	0.09	0.84	2.54	2.92
Pine Mountain	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.48	0.05	0.88	2.41	3.04
South Main @ East Oak	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.78	0.06	1.00	2.84	3.52
average	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**1.67**	**0.08**	**0.93**	**2.69**	**3.28**

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

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Above, left: The crew and family: Thelma, who worked with Sumvam in at her restaurant in Paris, Arkansas, Thy Sumvam, Dahvi Hooper, Eden Rose, and Irie Rose. Above, right: Dahvi's Kitchen is light and airy, an inviting atmosphere in which to eat or order. At right: The shrimp spring rolls are tasty and packed with crisp vegetables. At far right: Pho is always a great choice from the Asian dish menu. At right, below: The crispy noodle salad has been tested to stay crispy for hours.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Dahvi's Kitchen returns

Much-missed Cambodian food and much-loved 101 Burgers now available at 349 South Main

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Dahvi's Cambodian/American Kitchen is back in the same location at 349 South Main where it operated a few years ago, before Dahvi Hooper closed the business to expand her family. The new incarnation is a project of Hooper's mother, Thy Sumvam of 101 Burgers, who wanted a place to offer her brand of Cambodian cuisine as well as her popular burgers.

"I closed down previously to expand my family, have a bigger family, have another baby," explained Hooper. "This one, here, now, is really my mom's project. She wanted to bring it back. She just kept the same name because it is familiar, and people have tried it before. We're bringing back the same menus. Back from the dead, or rather dormancy. This was actually her project to begin with. We very first opened at the beginning of COVID. She wanted to bring the Asian food to the community. Then, the pandemic happened. She had to switch gears. She moved away. She left it to me. I brought it back, and then we closed."

Thy Sumvam actually left town to retire in Paris, Arkansas after some health setbacks; however, she ended up with another restaurant. "It was the Paris Café in Paris, Arkansas," said Sumvam. "Paris was half the size of this town, 3.5 miles from Mount Magazine National Park. I had a home there and a building. I sold it last month. So, for now, I'll just stay here and travel. I love it here. There's no place like here. I've traveled all over the world, but here you have everything. You have the ocean. When you drive over the ridge, you can see everything."

It seems that the residents of Willits found a taste for Asian cuisine, and missed

Read the rest of Dahvi's | Over on page 11





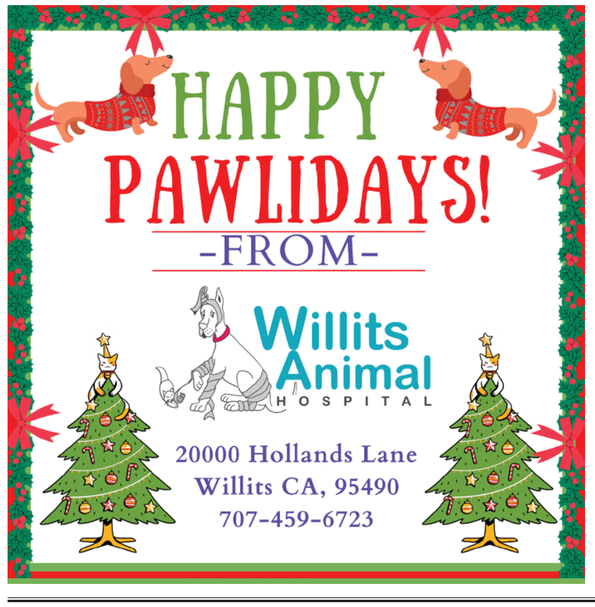






Above: Thy Sumvam came back to Willits after selling her restaurant in Paris, Arkansas. At left: The building has been several different eateries over the years, most recently Taste Buds.







Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

2	1				6			
						1		5
				5	8		6	
4					1			
	6			3			2	
	7		5					
		9	8	6	2	5		
7		8		4				
					5		4	

Level: Advanced

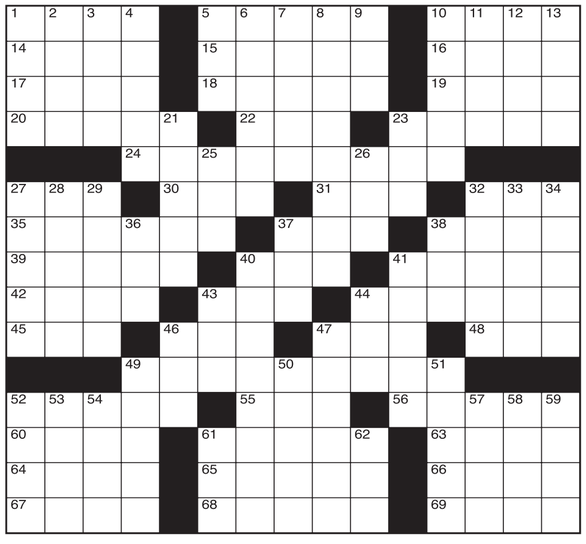
HOW TO SUDOKU

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!

GOBBLE, GOBBLE WORD SEARCH

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

ACORN
APPLES
AUTUMN
BAKE
BREAD
CASSEROLE
CENTERPIECE
COLONISTS
CORN
CRANBERRY
DESSERT
DRUMSTICK
FAMILY
FEAST
FOOTBALL
GIBLETS
GRATITUDE
HARVEST
HOLIDAY
LEAVES
LEFTOVERS
MAYFLOWER
MEAL
NATIVE
NOVEMBER
OVEN
PECAN
PIES
PUMPKIN
RECIPE
ROAST
SETTLERS
STUFFING
THANKFUL
TURKEY
YAMS



CLUES ACROSS

1. Perceive a sound
5. Pretends to be
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Keep under control
18. Weight unit for precious stones
19. You better call him
20. Fanatical
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. One who takes risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Progressive policy supporter
32. 'Losing My Religion' rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. Round globular seed
38. Somewhat
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn together
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Categorizes
52. Iraq-Syria border town
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bracts of grass
63. Italian seaport
64. Ancient city in Syria
65. Shoelace tube
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. 'Nebraska' director Alexander
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Skin care manufacturer
4. A long-legged frog
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in northern Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Bottom layer
11. Type of horse
12. Ticket part
13. Defunct currency of Guinea
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway rodent
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. City in Egypt
29. __ and flowed
32. Large quantities of paper
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. Layer of water right above sediment (abbr.)
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large, round root
41. Sound units
43. Knock
44. Soak in water
46. Hot drink
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back from being down
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. 'Perry Mason' actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Semi-liquid food
62. Consumed food

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

November 2 to November 8

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

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

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

November 2

9:33 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Alameda Avenue and South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 600 block of Railroad Avenue.

3:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

5:13 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

5:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

November 3

8:06 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Commercial Street and South Marin Street and issued a warning.

8:14 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:38 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:38 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of Central Street and issued a warning.

5:28 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

November 4

7:26 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

6:43 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

November 5

3:37 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

November 6

12:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of School Street and West Mendocino Avenue and issued a warning.

12:33 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Commercial Street and issued a warning.

12:44 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and Maple Street and issued a warning.

1:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of North Main Street.

5:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

5:54 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Monroe Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of North Main Street.

November 7

6:57 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of Railroad Avenue.

1:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Oak Street and Central Street and issued a warning.

1:43 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Central Street and East Oak Street and issued a warning.

1:54 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 600 block of Central Street and issued a warning.

2:05 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 300 block of East Valley Street.

4:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and Spruce Street and issued a warning.

5:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of Coast Street and issued a warning.

6:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

9:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Walnut Street and issued a warning.

November 8

5:33 am: CALDWELL, Cody Walker (27) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of vehicle theft and misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

9:30 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

10:14 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of Holly Street.

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

9:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and Sherwood Road and issued a warning.

9:57 pm: VORIS, Michael Jack (33) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of Holly Street following a report of an unwanted subject. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol) and driving with a suspended license (revoked for DUI).

Former Willits mother sentenced for interfering in child abuse investigation

Posted by Mendocino County DA

November 17 - During the 2023 two-county law enforcement investigation into allegations of continuous sexual abuse of a child that occurred in Willits (but was eventually reported to law enforcement in Sacramento County), the mother of the victim intentionally interfered with that investigation by providing, among other things, false and misleading information to investigators as to the perpetrator's whereabouts.

Defendant Nicole Denise Englund, age 40, formerly of Willits and currently of Sacramento, was convicted by plea Tuesday afternoon in the Mendocino County Superior Court of obstructing the detectives in the performance of their investigation, a misdemeanor.

By agreement of the parties, defendant Englund is now on court probation for twelve (12) months, the maximum term of probation allowed these days for this crime. She is to surrender after the first of the year to serve 60 days in the Mendocino County Jail. She was also ordered to pay $1,000 to the Special Assault Forensic Evaluation (SAFE) Center in Sacramento.

The SAFE Center in Sacramento is where the victim in the underlying case underwent a forensic interview in its recorded, child-friendly environment by a forensic interview social worker. The SAFE workers are specially trained to interact with children or dependent adults who may be victims of abuse or witnesses to violent crimes. That lengthy victim interview was an important piece of evidence used by the local prosecutor at trial.

Defendant Englund's purported "life partner" is currently serving time in state prison. Christopher Neil Kiger, now age 43, is serving a 24-year state prison sentence after the jury found him guilty last March of multiple molestation charges.

Aided by Englund, Kiger's arrest and trial both suffered a lengthy delay as he quickly left California to hide out in Florida after the victim found her voice and the courage in July 2023 to report her victimization to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

The law enforcement agency that focused the secondary criminal investigation on Englund and her criminal misconduct after Kiger was convicted and sentenced was the Mendocino County DA's own Bureau of Investigations.

The prosecutor who handled both the case against Englund and the case against Kiger is District Attorney David Eyster.

The rest of Ceremony | From page 1

Development, a project funder. Community members are welcome to attend and help celebrate this milestone.

Event details

•What: Tribal Winds–Phase 5 Golden Hammer Ceremony

• When: Friday, November 20, 2026, 11 am

• Where: Tribal Winds–Phase 5 project site, Foothill Lane and Tabor Boulevard, Covelo.

• Reception: Refreshments to follow at the Recreation Center, 2280 Airport Road, Covelo

For more information, contact Jordan Blough at Laco Associates at 530-383-2271 or bloughj@lacoassociates.com, or Lewis Whipple at the Round Valley Indian Housing Authority at 707-983-6188 or lwwhipple@rviha.org.

Editor's Note: The Tribal Winds-Phase 5 project will build 18 new single-story permanent rental units on a 30-lot, 9.60-acre parcel off Foothill Boulevard and Hatchet Mountain Boulevard in Covelo. There will be 10 2-bedroom / 1-bathroom units and eight 3-bedroom / 2-bathroom units.

The target occupants will be homeless or at-risk tribal members, addressing a local waitlist of tribal members. Funding includes an $8.7 million grant from the California Department of Housing and Community Development via the Homekey Tribal Program, alongside additional state housing grants.





Above: This aerial view of the future Tribal Winds–Phase 5 Housing Development shows the footprints of the 18 new units of housing in place on Foothill Lane and Tabor Boulevard. At right, and below: Aerial photos of the Tribal Winds–Phase 5 Housing Development in Covelo, showing the underground utilities and other site work already completed.

Photos courtesy of Round Valley Indian Housing Authority



FURRY FRIENDS HOPING FOR A HOME

Friendly Mendy

Mendy is a 1.5-year-old girl weighing in at 60 pounds, with a big heart and lotsa love to give! She came to us as a very skinny stray from Lake Mendocino, but now Mendy is ready for a fresh start and a family to call her own. This sweet girl is social, friendly, an easy walker, and a joy to be around – she loves treats and being by your side.

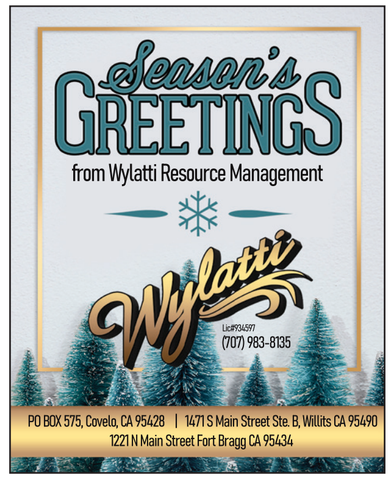
The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from 9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.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

Handsome Brooks

This handsome boy, about 10 months old and weighing 62+ pounds, is ready to start his next chapter! Brooks, a German shepherd / cattle dog mix, has previously lived with other dogs, and while we're still getting to know him (the shelter took him in October 22), we're excited to see his personality shine! He's looking for a loving forever home where he can settle in, feel safe, and make plenty of happy memories. You can watch a video of Brooks politely accepting treats on the Humane Society's Facebook page.

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



















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Info? 707-459-1905
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Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
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(707) 459-5023
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Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-
6-7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-
7-8:00 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
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Celebrating Life In Christ
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For appointments call:
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St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
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Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
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Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointmet at
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https://stanthonywillits.org/
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church
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707-272-0177
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
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St. John Lutheran Church
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24 Mill Creek Drive
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Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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wumc@outlook.com
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Facebook: facebook willits umc

If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Willits Community Services & Food Bank
37th Annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner
November 26, 2026
11:00am – 3:00pm*
*Or until we run out, whichever comes first
Willits Senior Center Dining Room
1501 Baechtel Road, Willits
All are welcome to join us for a meal in gratitude and fellowship together with our Willits Community friends and neighbors.
*This is a free event. Donations will be accepted, but not required. All proceeds benefit WCS & Food Bank programs.
Special thanks to the following organizations for making this event possible:
Sherwood Valley Casino, Willits Senior Center, Mendo Food Network, Chamberlain Creek CAL FIRE station, and Little Lake Grange
This community effort requires many hands to do the work. We thank all our friends, neighbors, businesses and organizations who make this event possible through their efforts! Contact Willits Food Bank for info or to help! (707) 459-3333
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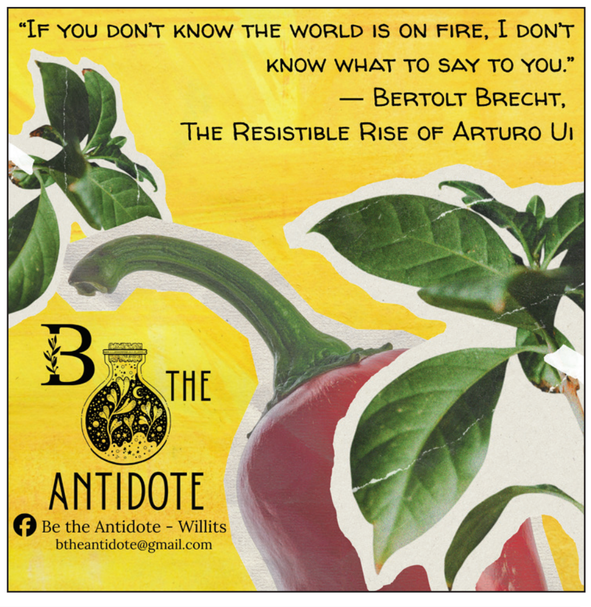
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— Bertolt Brecht, The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui

B THE ANTIDOTE
Be the Antidote - Willits
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At far left: Kaitlin volunteered at the raffle table with baskets put together from donations by participating businesses. At left: Daniella Delmonte and Runa Link served up several hot and cold esoteric beverages. Below, left: Michelle Fordyce, aka Mademoiselle Michelle, handled the emcee duties with grace, intelligence, empathy, and a touch of humor. Below: All ages of audience members enjoyed the music of Michelle Lambert.

Photos by Mathew Caine






The vendors were presented in colorful tents of exotic fabrics.


This altar in front of the stage was used by Candice Stein during her opening prayer and mantra session.

Day of the Divine

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"I am washing you with light," Candice Stein intoned to begin the six-hour "Day of the Di vine" event on Saturday at the Grange. "You're welcome to come up and wash. I have a small power object. This object is coming from the tradition I come from. We welcome the divine into our hearts, invoking a sense of sacredness that everyone who comes here today will feel our intention. We're calling for, in whatever way, is connected to our hearts. We are welcoming that divinity into this space. Everyone that comes today are also honoring all of the performers and the art that are coming through. There are all these sacred practices. I'm going to be chanting some mantras. Invoking both the inner and higher self."

Tommy G Presents created this 2nd annual event specifically for women but inviting to enlightened men as well. The Grange Hall was reminiscent of a Turkish bazaar, with tents along the side housing several esoteric vendors, selling salves, tinctures, creams, watercolor paintings, jewelry, earrings, and even cookies (by Grant's Goodies).

Entering the hall, to the left was Mendocino Botanicals, represented by Runa Link and Daniella Delmonte, serving esoteric herbal drinks. "We have a full menu of lots of fun drinks," Link said. "We have a lot of goddess-themed beverages. We have Persephone's Pleasure, which has pomegranate and rose. We have Magdelaine's Macha which is a macha with rose. Pomona's Paradise which is pear, cardamon, and nutmeg. We have a Hot Tara (instead of a Hot Toddy). Tara is a Hindu goddess." Mendocino Botanicals provided a lounge for attendees to gather and sip.

Kelly Viss is one of Tom Girdauskas' partners in his entrepreneurial endeavors. "I'm one of the co-producers in the production company," she said. "I did a lot of the vendor coordination, in charge of décor, that sort of thing. Tom and I do a lot of brainstorming together. The look of the hall is my design. I have lots of pelts.

"The Day of the Divine is about celebrating the feminine," Viss continued. "We have seen such a strong demand from our community for more feminine gatherings, these sorts of connections. Last year was so powerful, everybody just seemed to resonate, so we did it again. It's about creating this safe gathering, ritual container, to get together and connect and celebrate our feminine paths, our knowledge and stories, and sharing off to the next people. We are honoring the feminine with a lot of female artists. There are a lot of female vendors, all very feminine-centric."

After Candice Stein finished her invocations and prayers, the stage entertainment began. "We have Nevaeh Travis, then we're going to have Summer Rose with Lhasa Summers and Sarah Rose," explained Tom Girdauskas of Tommy G Presents. "Then, Ambria Zenitar is going to do her set. We have a duo out of southern Humboldt. They are two firefighters who helped us with our controlled burn this summer up on Shimmons. They have a duo called Duff Strugglers, which is a firefighter term for chasing the burn where you don't see it under the leaves. They have a unique sound.

Read the rest of Divine | *Over on page 11*

PETE SAWYER & THE LEFT HAND MONKEY WRENCH GANG
The Gang:
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Jerry Saracini (Phil Lesh)
Justin Purtill (JGB)
Zach Jones (Stu Allen)
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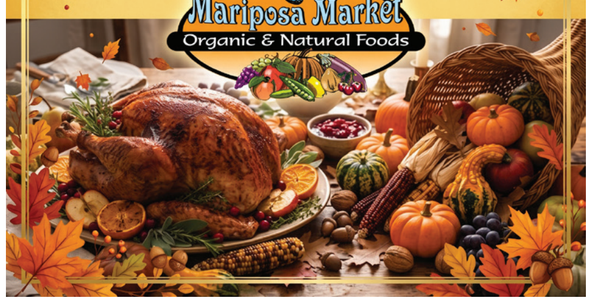
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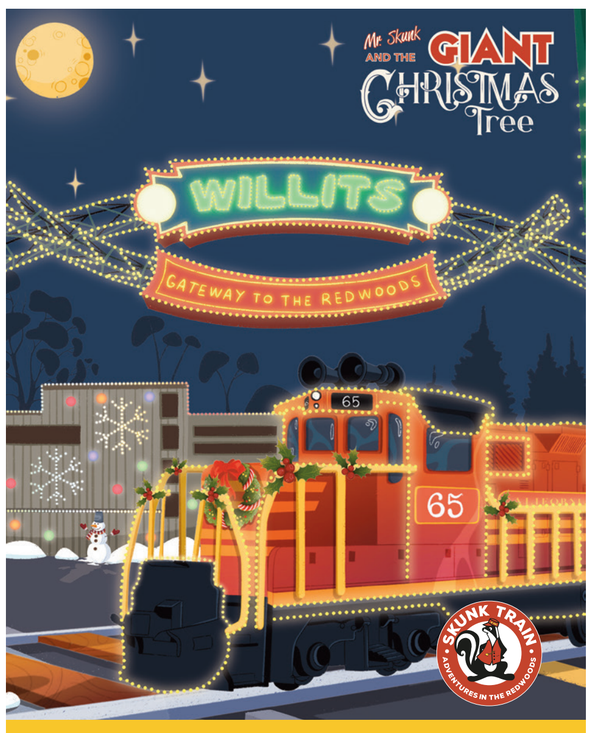
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Thursday, November 19



Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors at Fall Market indoors at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, on Thursday, November 19 from 3 to 5 pm, for the freshest produce available, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot and cold food from local businesses, along with crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. No Farmers Market on Thanksgiving Day, November 26!

Friday, November 20

Hillshaker at Shanachie: Clay Hawkins blends rapid-fire fingerstyle slide guitar and honest, heartfelt acoustic rock songwriting, with longtime co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass. The duo play what some say is, "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart." Friday, November 20 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, November 21



Christmas Vendor Fair at Adri's Salon: Christmas themed vendor fair, Saturday, November 21 from 11 am to 3 pm at Adri's Salon, 1615 A South Main Street. Beaded items, 3D printed items, Resin Art, Crocheted items, and more. Shop local!

Pete Sawyer and The Left Hand Monkey Wrench Gang at the Grange: Pete Sawyer and The Left Hand Monkey Wrench Gang features some of California's finest interpreters of Grateful Dead music. Pete and The Gang will play two fat sets of "all killer – no filler" Grateful Dead classics, deep cuts and unexpected gems at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Saturday, November 21, 8 pm. $25.

While We're Young at Shanachie: Powerful Mendocino County band featuring Dennis Hogan on guitar and vocals, Reginald Dunham on guitar, keys and vocals, Ken Ingles on drums, and Rique Pagan on bass. Saturday, November 21 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, November 22

Harvest Celebration and Potluck Friendsgiving at the Pub: Eat, dance and celebrate at the Shanachie Pub, with Silky Puma. Potluck at 2 pm, live music at 5 pm. 50 South Main Street.

Wednesday, November 25

Willits Senior Center Thanksgiving Bake Sale: Let us ease your stress and do your baking for you! Enjoy freshly baked pies, cookies, and much more at our annual sale, Wednesday, November 25 from 8:30 am to 3 pm, at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. All proceeds raised will support essential programs and services for Willits seniors.



Thursday, November 26

37th annual WCS Thanksgiving Dinner at the Senior Center: Willits Community Services and Food Bank invite the community to the free dinner – donations are welcome! – on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, from 11 am to 3 pm (or until we run out, whichever comes first). Willits Senior Center Dining Room, 1501 Baechtel Road. All are welcome to join us for a meal in gratitude and fellowship together with our Willits community friends and neighbors. All proceeds benefit WCS and Food Bank programs. Interested in helping out? Call the Willits Food Bank at 707-459-3333.

Friday, November 27



Back Porch Trio at Shanachie: fun-loving sound, original songs and covers, influenced by folk, blues, classic rock, jam band, americana, and bluegrass. BPT is Rosie Wetzel (ukulele and vocals), Steve Hahm (acoustic guitar and vocals), and Jeff Taylor (bass). Friday, November 27 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, November 28

Marjo Wilson Trio at Shanachie: Marjo Wilson (lead singer, songwriter, acoustic guitar with her husband, Morten Jenson (on bass), and a drummer. A grooving, dancing Country, Bluesy, Rock, Americana mix. Saturday, November 28 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, November 29

35th annual Willits Toy Run: Willits Wild Bunch benefit for the Frontier Days Christmas Program. Meet & Greet at Evergreen Shopping Center. Pack ride leaves at noon, escorted through town by Little Lake Fire Department and Brooktrails Fire Department – and a beautiful ride through Little Lake Valley to the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. All bikes, all riders, and all non-riders welcome! Admission: One unwrapped toy and/or $10 donation. Music by DJ Mikey T with FREE lunch! – donations appreciated – 50/50 raffle, raffle prizes, and a separate Canik 9mm pistol raffle. Beverages available by donation.



Photos with the Grinch: On Sunday, November 29 from 10 am to 1 pm at Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot. Digital images by photographer Maureen Jennison are $5 each, no appointments! See Santa at J.D Redhouse on Sunday December 6 from 12 to 4 pm!

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'You Can See Everything'



Dan Essman
Columnist

The Story: This documentary invites the moviegoer to Elizabeth Holmes' San Diego beach house in the weeks before she is sent off to prison for defrauding investors in her alleged "medical technology breakthrough." Her sentence is 11 years in a minimum security Texas house of detention.

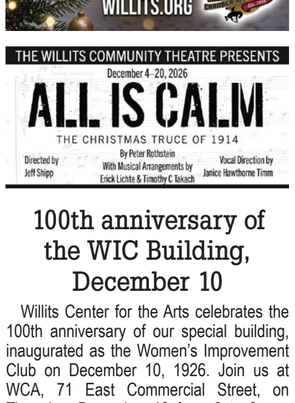
But is she really guilty? There's plenty of evidence and yet, at the same time, her peculiar mien is captivating and suggests a possible innocence of intended wrongdoing. There's no apparent mens rea (legal Latin for guilty mind). "But the Trial! But the Jury!" And still, she's so very innocent!

And how could this young wide-eyed blonde mother of a baby and a toddler ever be guilty of anything? She doesn't even look like she's pretending to be innocent!!! Perhaps she's on the autism spectrum, or she's a visitor from somewhere very far away. Gosh ... just listen to her vibe ... this flick leaves us with so many questions and surprises ... all right there in front of the filmmakers.

My Thoughts: This is a great movie ... truly! For emotionally mature and intelligent teens and adults. It raises questions about love and couples, about honesty, about truth when confronted with contradictions.

Parents: This movie will be fascinating for you, but clearly is too complex for children.

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



100th anniversary of the WIC Building, December 10

Willits Center for the Arts celebrates the 100th anniversary of our special building, inaugurated as the Women's Improvement Club on December 10, 1926. Join us at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, on Thursday, December 10 from 6 to 8 pm. Redwood Valley's Mendocino Spirits will serve a signature Centennial "Willits Old Fashioned" cocktail, and we'll offer a generous charcuterie and vegetable platter and share a Happy 100th birthday cake. Live music from beloved area pianists Spencer Brewer and Ed Reinhart will add extra sugar and spice to this community celebration. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Tickets available online at $25 at www.willitscenterforthearts.org, at our front desk during weekend gallery hours, or at the door at 71 East Commercial Street.



Ridgewood Ranch's Great Cookie Gathering, December 6

Ridgewood Ranch's annual Great Cookie Gathering and Holiday Open House is Sunday, December 6 from 1 to 4 pm at the historic Howard House, 11725 Orchard Lane. Mendocino County's biggest holiday cookie exchange! Stock your holiday kitchen with the finest ingredients, produced at Ridgewood Ranch: Mendocino Grain Project: flours, grains and baked goods; Headwaters Grazing: grass-fed beef and lamb, fiber gifts; Golden Rule Gardens: fresh produce & dried flower gifts; Black Dog Farm & Catering: seasonal preserves and handmade farm-to-table gifts. Photos with Santa in the historic coach! More info: www.ridgewoodranch.com/greatcookiegathering











The rest of Winners | From page 1

work better for the people it serves. That begins with fixing the foundation: improving our financial management and transparency, supporting the county employees who work hard every day to serve our communities, and building on existing efforts to make our systems and processes more efficient, accountable, and responsive.

"Now it's time to turn those ideas into action."

School board winners

The same Monday afternoon update showed that Nicole Karkar (with 28.04% and 2,823 votes), and Mason Rescina (with 25.17% and 2,534 votes) have won two of the three open seats on the Willits Unified School Board of Trustees, and Jeanne King, currently in third place (with 23.57% and 2,373 votes), is likely to have won the third seat. Paula Nunez (with 23.22% and 2,338 votes) is in fourth place.

It's unknown how many of the estimated total 1,050 provisional ballots and ballots needing "curing" countywide are from voters in the Willits Unified School District. It's always unknown how many of the provisional and need-to-be-cured ballots will end up being verified and counted. With only 35 votes between third and fourth place in the Willits school board election, and with the place order in this race having changed before with updates, it's unlikely, but not impossible that third and fourth places will change with the final results. Last-minute ballots in Mendocino County don't generally change results.

The Mendocino County Elections Office will report another update for the November 3 election on Thursday, November 19 at 5 pm.

Willits City Council

The November 16 update for the two seats on Willits City Council shows Sherrie Ebyam in the lead with 49.15% of the vote (1,011 votes) and Robin Leler in second place with 50.85% of the vote (1,046 votes). Both candidates will be seated on the council in December.

Election tidbits

Democratic U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson, District 4, lost his reelection bid to Democratic challenger Eric Jones. This was one of the last California House races to be called; the Associated Press didn't call the race for Jones until November 13. With "the vast majority" of California ballots counted as of November 16, as per California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Eric Jones has received 52.53% of the vote (133,179 votes) and Rep. Mike Thompson has received 47.47% of the vote (120,361 votes).

Rep. Thompson represented Mendocino County in the U.S. Congress, as part of the then-District 1, for 14 years, from 1999 to 2013. Redistricting after the 2010 Census moved Mendocino County out of Thompson's district.

"It's been the honor of my life to serve the community where I was born, grew up, and still live today," Rep. Thompson said in a November 13 statement. "I look forward to continuing to serve the community through the end of my term and beyond."

Democrat Mike McGuire won his bid for the redistricted 1st Congressional District against Republican James Gallagher by 58.71 percent (167,791 votes) to 41.29% (118,015 votes) in the districtwide vote. In Mendocino County, McGuire won 60.86% of the vote to Gallagher's 39.14%.

Democratic State Assemblymember Chris Rogers, 2nd Assembly District, won his district by 71.11% districtwide (144,512 votes) to his Republican opponent Michael Greer, at 28.89% (58,775 votes). In Mendocino County, Rogers won 67.55% of the vote (21,246 votes) to Greer's 32.45% (10,205 votes).

The rest of Garbage | From page 1

Redwood Waste also reminded customers about the upcoming holiday schedule: "Trash will NOT be collected on Thursday, November 26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday! All Thursday and Friday curbside pick-up service will be delayed by one day. Friday pick-up will be on Saturday."

Redwood Waste Solutions is also picking up City of Willits customers' green waste bins every week in November, so Friday, November 20 still remains, and the Saturday morning holiday pick-up on Thanksgiving week, November 28.

Wildfire home hardening and fuels reduction aid offered to areas up Sherwood Road

Submitted by Mendocino County Executive Office

November 13 – the County of Mendocino is now accepting applications for home hardening and hazardous fuels reduction assistance through the Mendocino County Wildfire Community Resilience Project, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program.

The project is designed to help eligible residents reduce wildfire risk by strengthening their homes and reducing hazardous vegetation around their properties. The project area includes Brooktrails Township, Sylvandale, Spring Creek, and the Gates Subdivisions.

Owl Check is the project management team working with the County of Mendocino to coordinate project implementation and assist residents through the application process. Residents in the designated project area who are interested in participating should contact Owl Check to learn more about available assistance and begin the application process.

Owl Check can be reached through the following options:

- Website: owlcheck.net
- Office: 1702 South Main Street, Willits (next to Subway)
- Phone: 707-360-0056
- Email: contact@owlcheck.net

Community meetings will be held at the Owl Check's Office at 1702 South Main Street, Willits every Saturday from 6 to 7 pm. From November 14 through December 12. Residents will have opportunities to learn more about the project, ask questions, and get information about home hardening, hazardous fuels reduction, and the application process.

The County of Mendocino encourages residents in the designated project area to contact Owl Check to learn more about available assistance and how to apply.

The rest of Letters | From page 2

They can no longer drive because of poor eyesight. They are afraid to drive long distances, especially in city traffic they don't know. Some live alone and have no family nearby to take them. And many are facing procedures where they will be under anesthesia, and the facility simply will not allow them to drive themselves home.

These are not luxuries. These are cancer treatments, heart appointments, eye surgeries, and follow-ups that cannot wait. When a senior has no ride, they often delay care, cancel the appointment, or try to go alone when they shouldn't have to.

The Willits Senior Center is searching for volunteer drivers to provide out-of-town medical transport to these appointments. You would be giving them something far more than a trip. You would be giving them safety, dignity, and peace of mind.

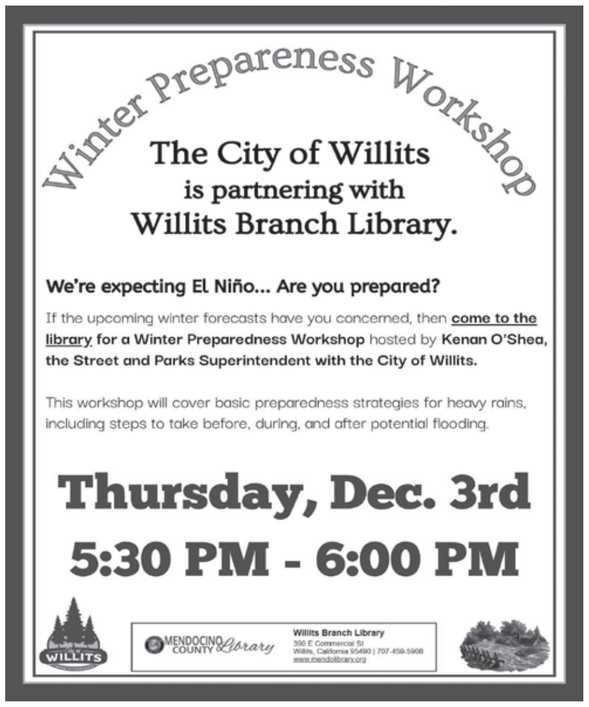
You don't need a special vehicle or special training, just a valid driver's license, a reliable car, a kind heart, and some time to give. Even one trip a month can make a life-changing difference for someone who would otherwise have no way to get there.

We will connect you with a senior who needs the transportation, and you can agree upon a reasonable fee that will cover your gas expenses.

If you have ever worried about a parent, a neighbor, or a friend facing this alone, this is your chance to step in help someone in need.

To volunteer or learn more, please contact the Willits Senior Center at 707-459-6826 and ask to speak with Richard Baker or email wsidirector@willits-seniors.org With gratitude,

Richard Baker, director,
Willits Senior Center



Huffman, colleagues demand answers on Trump admin effort to gut endangered wildlife protections

Submitted by Natural Resources Committee Democrats

Washington, D.C. – On November 11, House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-Calif.), Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) and Don Beyer (D-Va.), and Senators Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) led 37 other Democratic lawmakers in demanding answers from Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick on the Trump administration's attempts to gut core Endangered Species Act protections by reinterpreting what the agencies consider "incidental take" and "harm" in memoranda to federal employees.

The lawmakers warned the reinterpretation would strip protections from wildlife killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities, even when those deaths and injuries could be foreseen. Under the administration's interpretation, the law's prohibition on killing or injuring protected wildlife would apply only when someone deliberately targets a protected species. The lawmakers warned this would undermine decades of safeguards that allow economic activity to proceed while requiring commonsense steps to prevent wildlife deaths and injuries.

"For decades, the ESA has provided a framework for allowing economic activity to proceed while requiring reasonable measures to avoid and minimize harm to threatened and endangered species. These memoranda would undermine that framework by removing incentives to prevent foreseeable wildlife deaths and injuries," the lawmakers wrote.

The letter challenges two identical internal memos issued September 14 by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Brian Nesvik and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration General Counsel John Luce. The memos direct staff to interpret "take" – which includes killing or injuring protected wildlife – as covering only intentional actions targeting those animals. The lawmakers are demanding an explanation of the legal basis for that interpretation and whether activities that could foreseeably kill or injure endangered species still require permits.

The directives came as the Trump administration eliminated the longstanding regulatory definition of "harm," which covered habitat destruction that kills or injures protected wildlife. Both changes took effect the same day, threatening protections for endangered animals and the places they need to survive.

"Any reinterpretation that could eliminate protections for these species is a serious and troubling departure from that framework and would undermine the law's implementation," the lawmakers wrote.

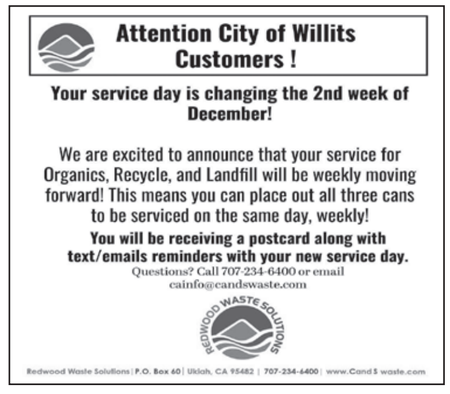
The lawmakers requested responses by November 30, 2026, including what protections would remain for species threatened by habitat destruction and whether states and tribes were consulted. They also asked whether Interior would suspend implementation until it publicly explains its legal reasoning and assesses the consequences for endangered wildlife.

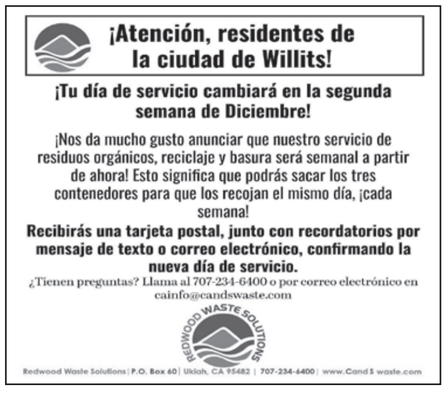
"The Services must abandon this approach and preserve the ESA's longstanding protections for threatened and endangered wildlife and the communities that depend on them," the lawmakers concluded.

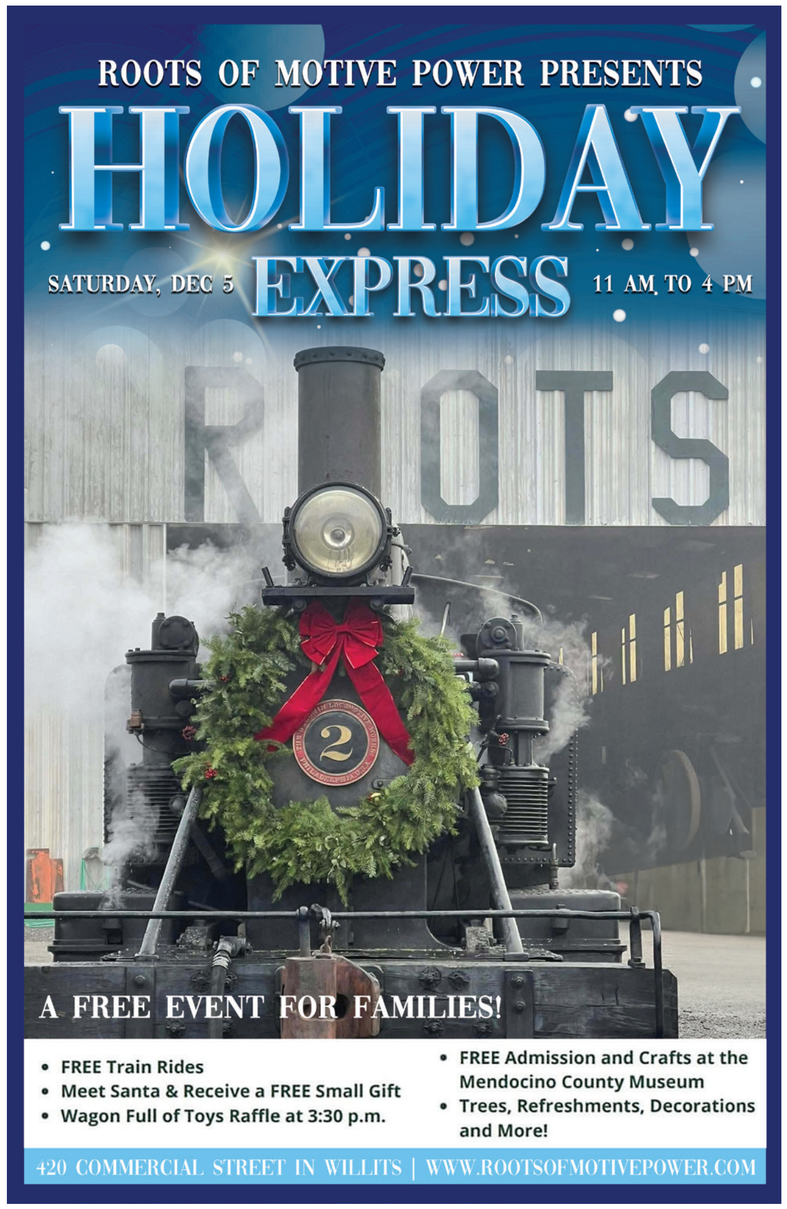
Additional House signers included Representatives Becca Balint (D-Vt.), Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.), Julia Brownley (D-Calif.), Ed Case (D-Hawaii), Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.), Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas), Diana DeGette (D-Colo.), Mark DeSaulnier (D-Calif.), Sarah Elfreth (D-Md.), Dwight Evans (D-Pa.), Glenn Ivey (D-Md.), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.), Mike Levin (D-Calif.), Sarah McBride (D-Del.), Dave Min (D-Calif.), Kevin Mullin (D-Calif.), Frank Pallone Jr. (D-N.J.), Scott Peters (D-Calif.), Emily Randall (D-Wash.), Deborah Ross (D-N.C.), Mary Gay Scanlon (D-Pa.), Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.), Dina Titus (D-Nev.), Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), Jill Tokuda (D-Hawaii), and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.).

Additional Senate signers included Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), Jack Reed (D-R.I.), Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.).

Read the full letter here: https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/download/bicameral-letter-to-fws-and-noaa-re-esa-harm-and-take















The rest of Dahvi's From page 3

it during the years that Dahvi's Kitchen was closed. "My mom thought this was going to be more like a second place to get your 101 burgers," Hooper said. "She wasn't really around when I had it for a few years. Everyone got a taste of that Asian food, and everyone has really been missing it. The first two days that we've been open this time, we've only sold about a dozen burgers. Every other order has been the Asian food. Some people haven't tried it yet, but a lot of people have. We're excited to be back," said Hooper proudly.

Sumvam says she is used to smaller towns, having grown up in a tiny town in Cambodia. "I was born in a small town in Cambodia, Battambang. I was born in 1966, and I never saw the capitol until 2013," recounted Sumvam. "I like it here. It's a small town like where I was born. It was really close to Thailand. I walked to get into a refugee camp in Thailand to become a refugee. It is farm country, lots of trees, unlike the city. Any town that has more than four stoplights drives me nuts. It is farm country, lots of trees, unlike the city.

"The basis of Cambodian cooking is a lot of lemongrasses, turmeric, tamarind for the sour instead of vinegar. You use turmeric on the soup, and you use a lot of lime for pickling instead of white vinegar. Ginger is used on ginger chicken [Cha Kney] and stir fries."

Sumvam loves preparing and serving people food, however, she considers herself basically retired. "We might close for a week or two sometimes when I want to go on vacation. I will let people know when that is going to happen," she said. "This restaurant is my retirement project."

Hooper and Sumvam plan to have their grand opening on Friday, November 20. Davhi's Kitchen's current hours are 11 am to 6:30 pm, Monday through Saturday, at 349 South Main Street; 707-367-4448 (text ahead to pick up an order). Keep up by visiting the "Dahvi's Kitchen" page on Facebook.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW633

CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Annual Invitation for Inclusion on the 2027 City of Willits List of Qualified Bidders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that: The City of Willits is soliciting applicants for its 2027 List of Qualified Bidders. Interested parties should complete the City of Willits Informal Bidding Annual Pre-Qualification Application for 2027 and submit to Brandy Sanderson at:

bsanderson@cityofwillits.org

or

Brandy Sanderson
City of Willits
111 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490
Re: 2027 Qualified Bidders List

Bidders are hereby advised that the previous bidders list will be replaced with the new list and no contractors will be carried over from the previous list. Questions concerning this notice should be directed to Brandy Sanderson at bsanderson@cityofwillits.org. The application can also be found on the City's website on the Engineering page; http://www.cityofwillits.org/147/Engineering.

CITY OF WILLITS: s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
DATED: 11/19/26

Publication Dates: November 19, December 3, 10 and 17, 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

Brown Bag Lunch Program

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

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers – starts at $500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at http://www.oaknvine.net/tp

Homemades & Alterations by Teresa

Alterations & seamstress work available locally. Reasonable prices and prompt service. Contact: (707) 472-8787.

Veteran Handyman

Hire a Veteran for your handyman needs. •Electrical •Changing light bulbs •Leaky toilets & sinks •Clogged drains •Odd jobs. Reasonable rates. Senior Discount. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Call Tom (707) 841-8106

House, Pet Sitting – Elder Care

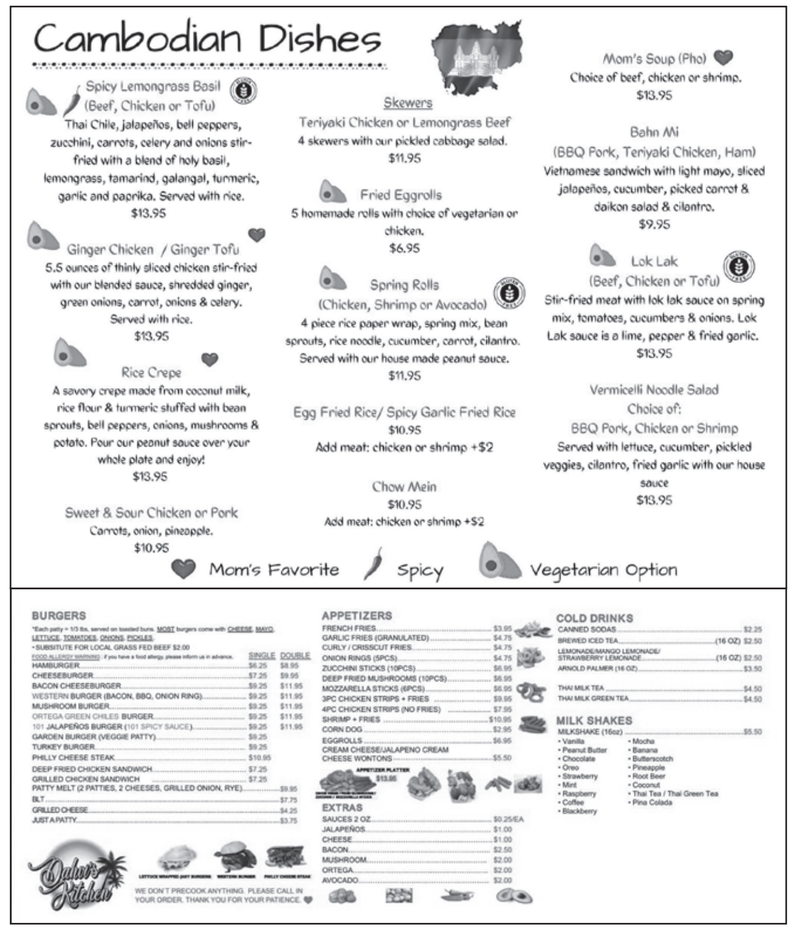
Experienced, dependable local caregiver. Large dogs welcome! State-licensed for senior care. Offering transportation to appointments, errands, meal preparation, light cleaning, medication assistance, and companionship. Serving Willits and nearby communities. 707-367-1075.

'The Creative Imagination'

"The Creative Imagination - Where Your Dreams Become Possibilities." You are warmly invited to an open discussion at the Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St., Tuesday, December 1, 11 am to 12 noon Free books and refreshments. Questions? Call Joy at 707-367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar in California and Nevada. This program is neither sponsored by nor affiliated with the Mendocino County Library.

Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, December 5** from 8 am to 4 pm







Above, left: Headliner Michelle Lambert did a long set of her songs and played on violin. Above, right: One of the members of the Duff Strugglers, a duo of firefighters, sang amongst the mist. Below: Kids love to dance to live music. Marjo Wilson got them on their feet.



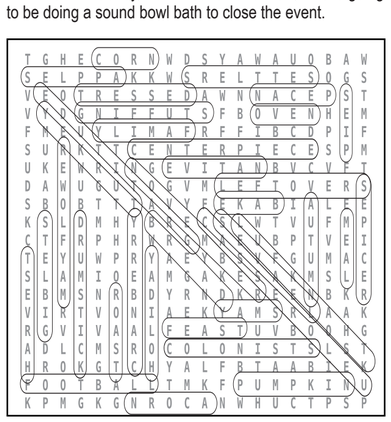
The rest of Divine From page 7

"Then, we have Denbaya Collective, which is a West African dance group. They will be performing and doing choreography and engaging the audience in some dance. After them, we have Marjo Wilson and Morton on bass. Marjo is actually our headliner's Michelle Lambert's godmother. They're all from Covelo. Michelle Lambert will be playing with a band behind her, from 4:30 to 6 pm. Then we have Erin Corley, from Flourish and Flow, who is going to be doing a sound bowl bath to close the event.

Although the crowd was sparse in the early hours of the event, people filtered in throughout the day, at a relaxed pace, until the hall was filled with attendees who danced and swayed to the music. Michelle Lambert finished the entertainment portion of the Day of the Divine with her flamboyant high-energy violin and rap-like songs. People couldn't help but dance to the rhythms of her trio. The evening ended with Corley's sound healing ceremony on her vibrational bowls.

Emcee Michelle Fordyce, aka Mademoiselle Michelle, introduced the vendors as well as the performers, with wry humor and homages to the Divine Feminine. "Feminine knows no body. We are not confined to be defined as emotional. We are all emotion. When you receive some of those feelings that Nevaeh was discussing prior to her songs, you see that to receive something is to completely transmute it, to do alchemy. Something happens to you as you put it into yourself, to transmute it into art. Femininity is a whole."

Tommy G Presents will be involved in several projects in the spring of next year, including the second annual Battle of the Bands as well as a free instrument lending library to get kids interested in music.



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OBITUARY |

Barbara Lincoln



Barbara Lucille Lincoln, a longtime resident of Willits, California, passed away peacefully on November 1, 2026, at the age of 77. She was born on October 8, 1949.

Barbara was a well-known and respected member of the Willits community, where she built a life and a reputation as a real estate guru. Her knowledge of the area, her years of experience, and her connection to the community made her a familiar and memorable presence to so many.

Barbara also had a love for adventure and a passion for traveling the world. Her travels took her to many wonderful places, including Africa, Australia, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, and Peru. She enjoyed experiencing different cultures, discovering new places, and embracing all that life had to offer. Her adventurous spirit was a reflection of her curiosity and zest for life.

Above all, Barbara cherished her family. She is survived by her loving husband, Donald L. Lincoln Sr.; her son, Donald L. Lincoln Jr.; her daughter, Amanda L. Swank; and her two beloved grandsons, Noah W. Swank and Donald L. Lincoln III.

Barbara leaves behind a lifetime of memories, a family who loved her dearly, and a lasting place in the community she called home. She will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Celebration of Life

Family and friends are invited to gather in remembrance and celebration of Barbara's life on November 20, 2026 at 2 pm at Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

Following the service, family and friends are welcome to join together at Barbara's home on Center Valley Road for refreshments, fellowship, and an opportunity to share memories.

She will forever be loved, remembered, and missed.



Above: Laying the pavement for the Willits Rail with Trail project last week: the 10-foot-wide asphalt surface down the center of the trail provides a flat, smooth surface for bicyclists, skaters, and other wheeled users to enjoy. Below: The 2-foot-wide unpaved shoulders on each side of the project are designed to provide a softer surface with more give for runners and walkers. At bottom: Workers started paving the Willits Rail with Trail project last week. The Willits City Council awarded the construction contract to Bouthillier Construction of Willits in February 2025.

Photos courtesy City of Willits

Chime in on amenities for the Willits Rail with Trail project

Posted by City of Willits Community Development



November 9 – The City of Willits is getting closer to opening the community's new 1.6-mile Willits Rail with Trail project, part of the Great Redwood Trail. The trail extends from East Commercial Street at the Skunk Train Depot to East Hill Road near Howard Memorial Hospital. We are paving the trail right now!

Help shape the trail's future

The Willits Rail with Trail construction project gives us the basic infrastructure, but the City of Willits is also interested in what we can do over time to make this feel uniquely Willits: public art, local history displays, enhanced native landscaping and green spaces, and other amenities that turn the trail from simply a path into a community space.

Standard amenities like benches, resting areas, interpretive signage, crossing improvements, and waste/recycling receptacles are already included as part of the plan

The City of Willits is open to suggestions as to which amenities or features people would like to see on the trail and is also looking for groups interested in possible adoption of segments of the route. To learn more, please contact the Community Development Department at 707-459-7168 or cstack@cityofwillits.org.

Editor's Note: The Willits City Council awarded the $8,979,271.90 construction contract for the Willits Rail with Trail project to Bouthillier Construction of Willits in February 2025. The original engineer's estimate when the project went out to bid was $8,233,390. Nine bids were received, all of them higher than Bouthillier's bid, ranging up to more than $12 million.

Funding for the project includes a $6 million grant from the California Transportation Commission in 2019; a $3.8+ million grant from the California Coastal Conservancy in 2023, followed by an additional appropriation of $936,000 approved in 2026; and $90,000 from Caltrans with a $10,000 match from the Mendocino Council of Governments to do the initial planning.

