

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 577 **Thursday, November 21, 2024**

Fire district board plans for budget workshop

Annie Evarts
Reporter
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Last week's meeting of the board of directors for the Little Lake Fire Protection District had a good amount of new business on the agenda. The board of directors' yearly workshop is on the horizon. Fire board President Tony Madrigal explained to the meeting attendees that one of the main topics for this upcoming workshop will be Little Lake's budget and funding. "What we're seeing," said Madrigal, "is that expenses are going up and our income is staying pretty level, so at a certain point we're going to be upside-down."

Madrigal asked the other board members for their ideas on potential workshop discussion items. Board member Tom Herman said one of his concerns is the sunsetting of some of the propositions, or ballot measures that the department is receiving funding from, and how to plan for the loss of that income. He also proposed that the board discuss projections for equipment replacement, possible infrastructure improvements, and extra staffing.

Additionally, the workshop, to be held in January, will incorporate a proposal on how to manage the department's unfunded liabilities, or financial obligations that are not currently funded.

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

City invites area residents to complete a Mobile Vendors Survey

Posted by City of Willits Community Development

We're gathering input to help shape the future of mobile vending in our city!

Your feedback is essential in making sure local policies reflect what our community wants and needs.

Take a few minutes to complete our Mobile Vendors Survey and let your voice be heard! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8TGX9VR>

Thank you for helping us make Willits a better place for everyone!

"The City of Willits is considering regulations for mobile vendors operating from trucks," says the introduction to the online survey. "We are seeking feedback from community members to understand

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



Above, from left: Elf helps Lisa Arkelian and Hazel Cooke hold bags of presents. Hailey Riley selects red Santa paper for her next wrap. Delores Pedersen wraps up a Hot Wheels car for a lucky recipient. Below: Elf Dana Arkelian watches as elf Danielle Barry writes the name of a child on one of the custom stockings each child will receive as a part of the Willits Frontier Days Christmas Program.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Tag Tree Time

From Paradise, to Cambodia, to the North Pole:
349 South Main transforms into Willits Frontier Days Christmas Program headquarters for 2024

There's a new location and a new crew for the Willits Frontier Days Christmas Program this year; the reins have officially been handed over from Willits Rotary to Willits Frontier Days, and the group is operating, at least for this year, out of the old Paradise Cafe and Dahvi's Kitchen 101 Burgers & Cambodian Food building.

The efforts are the same, however: Collecting, organizing, wrapping and

distributing gifts to the school-referred families who qualify for the program. This year, around 210 kids are being helped this holiday.

Trees displaying the colorful tags of wishes of these kids are up now at 101 Trailer and RV and Les Schwab of Willits, and more will be placed at J.D. Redhouse, Coast Hardware, and Howard Hospital soon.

Whether one chooses to select one item, or fulfill all the items on the tag, tags and items must be returned to a drop-off location by December 15. Drop-off location include J.D. Redhouse, Coast Hardware, Les Schwab Willits, and the Willits Chamber of Commerce. This allows the crew to finish shopping and wrapping in time for the holiday.

— Maureen Jennison



A top: Part of the crew who is making Christmas wishes come true for Willits kids this Christmas includes, from left: Hazel Cooke, Lisa Arkelian, Dana Arkelian, Delores Pedersen, Danielle Barry, and Marcy Barry. Above, from left: Lots of items, including clothing, dolls and shoes are ready to fill the needs and wants of children this holiday, but much more is still needed. Below: Delores Pedersen looks through the hanging jackets and clothing.



Brooktrails board hears from garden supporters

Barbara O'Reardon
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The Tuesday, November 12 Brooktrails Township Community Services District board meeting began with board President Tina Tyler-O'Shea asking if any directors had reports to share.

Director Ed Horrick reported that he had attended the Recreation Greenbelt Conservation Committee meeting on Thursday, November 7. He said: "Following the recent theft of the [Willits Area Cyclists] equipment trailer that was recovered empty, the group has exhibited an enormous amount of perseverance. They're doing just fine. They had a fundraiser and have already replaced a lot of the tools. They're a great group of people. The one thing that they were concerned about was the improvements that were supposed to happen on the parcourse and the reimbursements haven't happened on that. Their next meeting is set for January 23, 2025."

In beginning her report to the board, General Manager Tamarez Alaniz remarked: "I can provide an update for the committee about the status of the project. Last Friday a pallet arrived that contained the equipment for the project that staff is unpacking and tallying. About the grant reimbursement, we did finally receive

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

'Atmospheric river' moves into Willits

Jennifer Poole
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"The flooding has begun," announced the City of Willits Wednesday morning on Facebook, as the heavy rain the meteorologists predicted – called by some an "atmospheric river" – started to affect the city. National Weather Service has put a Flood Watch up for Willits through 10 pm Friday, November 22.

NWS predicts heavy rain throughout the week in Willits, with a possible 11 inches predicted Wednesday through Friday night for the Willits area. Rain is predicted to taper off some on Friday, but flooding can continue for some time after the rain stops.

"The Recreation Grove is starting to flood at the entrances to the bathrooms," the 10:30 am City of Willits post signed by the Services & Facilities Crews reported.

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

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Keep the Brooktrails Community Garden

To the Editor:

Thirteen years ago, a group of Brooktrails residents came together to reclaim the dilapidated tennis courts across the road from the Brooktrails Lodge and turned it into a thriving community garden. With lots of hard work and support from Brooktrails Township, The Gardens Project, and the California Conservation Corps, we broke up the old concrete, fought back massive blackberry bramble, dug drainage ditches, and built 4'x16' redwood garden beds.

Since 2011, we've grown hundreds of pounds of organic vegetables, flowers galore, held workshops, and given garden tours, tended the soil, and most importantly, we built community around a shared love of gardening and the taste of a fresh heirloom tomato.

Now our garden is being considered as a potential site for a new water treatment plant and I urge the Brooktrails Township Community Service District Board of Directors to look further and find another spot that won't have such an impact on the community.

Many families grow produce at the Brooktrails Community Garden to supplement their meals and put healthy food on the table. Our garden is an oasis for pollinators, and we ensure there are plenty of native flowers for them to visit. We are mindful stewards of the garden, the soil, and the watershed, and we are very careful to only use organic fertilizers and keep our garden clean.

Our garden supports the mental health of our community and we have donated plots to groups like Redwood Community Services so foster children and at-risk youth can have a place to come and connect with nature. Relocating our garden would be a huge undertaking and it would take years to get a new garden built up to what we have now.

Thirteen years ago, we turned an eyesore into a community asset, and we have been excellent stewards of the land at the Brooktrails Community Garden. We want to keep our garden in its current location and continue to provide fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers to our community. I urge the Brooktrails Board of Directors to pick another location for the new water treatment plant and allow our community garden to continue to flourish and thrive. Thank you.

Becky Button, founding member, Brooktrails Community Garden



Above: Becky Button's son, now a senior at Willits High School, enjoys a ride in a wheelbarrow when the Brooktrails Community Garden was being built 13 years ago.

Pineapple guavas

To the Editor:

I read with interest the front page article about feijoa fruit, also known as pineapple guava. I found most of it to be accurate. Lacking was the possibility or likelihood that they would not fruit in most gardens in Willits. I have grown them here for over 20 years and have never had a single fruit set.

What is true is that feijoa are hardy, evergreen, lovely, and produce flowers that are both beautiful and delicious to eat. They have attracted the interest of the beautiful western tanager in my yard. But, alas, no fruit.

My late friend Mark Albert who lived by Lake Mendocino was an avid lover of feijoa. In his climate, which is just somehow significantly different than much of Willits, they produced abundantly. I, though, have never seen one such fruit grown here in Willits. I am curious to know where the fruit shown in the newspaper was grown.

So, before running out and purchasing your own, be forewarned that they may not fruit here or may not ripen here even if they do fruit. Maybe you are one of the lucky ones. There are some varieties that are self-fruitful, but most need a separate pollinator.

Richard Tootreese Jeske, Willits

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.



WELL YEAR
END PARTY,
DECEMBER 2

Submitted by WELL

Willits Economic Localization invites the public to their 2024 Year End Celebration on Monday, December 2 at the Hub, 630 South Main Street, from 5 to 7 pm. All are welcome.

"Let's share stories of success from 2024 and envision goals for the growth of Willits in 2025." Snacks and drinks provided; good company will abound. More info: mstrong827@outlook.com



Willits Weekly
A 2024 Edition of Community and Local News

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

Volume 12, Number 577
3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

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PG&E readies resources, crews for this week's storm

Submitted by PG&E

Oakland – Ahead of the first significant storm of the season, Pacific Gas and Electric Company has mobilized crews and resources in key regions to respond to potential storm-related damage and power outages and is opening its Emergency Operations Center in Vacaville to assist in the coordination of storm response and restoration efforts.

According to PG&E Meteorologist Scott Strenfel, an atmospheric river event will arrive Tuesday and unfold over the next several days, delivering prolonged heavy rain and winds to the North Coast, North Bay, Sacramento Valley, Sierra, and Bay Area regions. The adverse weather will also impact the southern part of the service area and last through the latter part of Friday. PG&E's meteorologists are utilizing machine learning outage models to forecast areas of concentrated outages so crews can be pre-positioned to restore power.

"We expect the first strong storm of the season to bring some much-needed relief after months of wildfire conditions. If a power outage occurs, we are ready to safely restore power as quickly as possible to our hometowns and customers," said Peter Kenny, PG&E senior vice president, Electric Operations.

The company is using its storm outage prediction models that help determine the potential timing, location, and number of power outages to pre-position storm response resources including, electric crews, troublemen, distribution line technicians, and system inspectors who serve as the utility's first responders, along with personnel who will monitor electric incidents for public safety.

PG&E is also pre-staging power poles, powerlines, transformers, and other electric equipment at yards throughout its service area to restore power to affected areas safely and as quickly as possible.

If an outage does occur, PG&E customers can find real-time updates via the online Outage Center, <https://pgealerts.alerts.pge.com/> including status updates on the assessments, repairs and estimated time of restoration.

Storm Safety Tips

As PG&E follows its plan to prepare for the storm, customers are urged to prepare their families as well.

- Never touch downed wires: If you

see a downed power line, assume it is energized and extremely dangerous. Do not touch or try to move it – and keep children and animals away. Report downed power lines immediately by calling 9-1-1 and then PG&E at 1-800-743-5002.

- Use generators safely: Customers with standby electric generators should ensure they are properly installed by a licensed electrician in a well-ventilated area. Improperly installed generators pose a significant danger to customers, as well as to crews working on powerlines. If using portable generators, be sure they are in a well-ventilated area.

- Use flashlights, not candles: During a power outage, use battery-operated flashlights and not candles, due to the risk of fire. And keep extra batteries on hand. If you must use candles, please keep them away from drapes, lampshades, animals, and small children. Do not leave candles unattended.

- Have a backup phone: If you have a telephone system that requires electricity to work, such as a cordless phone or answering machine, plan to have a standard telephone or cellular phone ready as a backup. Having a portable charging device helps to keep your cell phone running.

- Have fresh drinking water and ice: Freeze plastic containers filled with water to make blocks of ice that can be placed in your refrigerator/freezer to prevent food spoilage.

- Secure your outside furniture: Strong winds can blow lawn chairs and other outdoor items into powerlines.

- Turn off appliances: If you experience an outage, unplug or turn off all electrical appliances to avoid overloading circuits and to prevent fire hazards when power is restored. Simply leave a single lamp on to alert you when power returns.

- Safely clean up: After the storm has passed, be sure to safely clean up. Never touch downed wires and always call 8-1-1 or visit 811express.com at least two full business days before digging to have all underground utilities safely marked.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is a combined natural gas and electric utility serving more than 16 million people across 70,000 square miles in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit pge.com and pge.com/news.

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, November 21: Chicken & Dumplings

Friday, November 22: Turkey, Stuffing, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll

Monday, November 25: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy

Tuesday, November 26: Pork Chops in Garlic Mushroom Sauce, Mashed Potatoes

Wednesday, November 27: Sesame Garlic Chicken Stir-Fry

Thursday, November 28 and 29: Center closed for Thanksgiving

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

Pancake Breakfast: Every second Sunday, on December 8 next month, 8 to 11 am.

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

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

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



THANKSGIVING WEEK EDITION

As usual, Willits Weekly prints a day early during Thanksgiving week, so next week's edition will be published on Wednesday, November 27. Deadlines are the same as always – end of day Monday – but we will be going to press Tuesday next week, so we won't be able to stretch deadline much next week for late-arriving information and requests. Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday!



Above: Shoppers browse the many goods for sale at the Willits Farmers Market, which has recently moved inside the Little Lake Grange. Above, right: Thea Foley represents Mulligan Gardens of Laytonville, which sells Ben Rueb's mushrooms among other commodities. Above, far right: Lotus Baker has been a fixture at the Farmers Markets for several years, demonstrating how to make bread out of various materials.

Warm and Cozy

Willits Farmers Market moves inside the Little Lake Grange for the season

The Willits Farmers Market is back at the Little Lake Grange, located at 291 School Street, with a lot of familiar vendors and some that are fairly new, and just in time to do some shopping for upcoming holiday get-togethers.

There is always live music to entertain and augment the weekly Thursday, 3 to 5:30 pm shopping experience, usually some form of the Farmers Market Band, led by Tootreese Zanon, with a revolving list of guest artists.

For prepared meals, one can stop by the Fairall's Farm booth. "I have pastries, sourdough English muffins, jam, caramel popcorn," said owner Amanda Fairall. "In the hotbox I have lasagna and biscuit pot pie today. And then we have lotus potato soup. Next week for Thanksgiving, we have Konchai brownies and lasagna for those who don't want to prepare a whole meal" For more info, visit <https://fairallsfarm.com/>.

Cocina Picante offers ready-to-eat tamales and a variety of salsas. "We are starting to offer pumpkin tamales for Thanksgiving," Yiping Hsieh explained. "It's sweet and creamy, perfect for breakfast or dessert. We'll keep offering that for a few weeks, until it's finished. We offer

a variety of salsas: Mild Green, Picante Signature, Frijoles and Mestizo, Bean Dip with Chorizo, pastor meat with pinto beans and hot cheese on top. Each week, we have different salsas. We have Nice Kick, Pico de Gallo, Salsa Fresca, and Picante Verde." Check out their Facebook or Instagram pages to learn more.

For vegetables, Jesse Tanning always has a good variety of peppers, root vegetables, and squashes. Green Uprising Farm offers seasonal vegetables and usually has a salad mix. "We have our usual assortment of greens, salad mix, chard, kale," said Allegra Foley of Green Uprising. "These greens last a very long time because we pick it the day of the market. If you buy it next week, it should still be good for Thanksgiving. Come out and get supplies for your Thanksgiving salad, your stir fries, your walnut stuffing. We have walnuts and apples. The apples are a mystery heirloom. We inherited the tree and it's been growing on our property ever since we've been here." Visit <https://greenuprisingfresh.wordpress.com/home/> to learn more.

Healthy microgreens and sprouts can be

Read the rest of **Market** [Over on page 4



Above, from left: Grant and Evelyn Fisher prepare their frozen batter for Grant's Goodies. Rose of Lettuce Make You Happy sells a variety of fresh lettuces. Mike and Roxanne Nelson sell delicious honey from their farm in Redwood Valley. Below, left: Michele Shattuck of Noyo Hill Beeswax Wraps sells reusable food wraps made of beeswax and fabric. Below, right: Chris of the Cosmic Family Band plays piano to set the mood for market shoppers. At bottom: Allegra Foley, left, smiles with her father, Market Manager Michael Foley; both work together to run Green Uprising Farm, which grows and sells greens, apples, and other seasonal vegetables.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Black Friday Sales Event

6AM-6PM

FAMILY OWNED
J.D. REDHOUSE & CO.
MODERN MERCANTILE

FIRST 20 CUSTOMERS IN THE DOOR
WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL \$10 OFF THEIR PURCHASE

THE FIRST 50 CUSTOMERS
IN THE DOOR
WILL BE ENTERED TO WIN
A \$100 GIFT CARD

6AM - 7AM
40% OFF CLOTHING
25% OFF FOOTWEAR
25% OFF TOYS & GIFTS

7AM - 6PM
25% OFF CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR
25% OFF TOYS & GIFTS

212 SOUTH MAIN STREET
DOWNTOWN WILLITS, CA
707-459-1214

Mr. Skunk's GIANT CHRISTMAS Tree

WILLITS
GATEWAY TO THE REDWOODS

DEPARTING WILLITS ONLY
For the Whole Family
NOV. 23-DEC. 31

Trains leave from downtown Willits located just off Highway 101.

Kids Ride Free!
Book tickets for our December 17, 18, and 19 departures by December 15 and your kids ride free (ages 13 and under) with the purchase of a full price ticket!

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

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!

GIFTING TIME WORD SEARCH

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

BAGGED	FAMILY	LIST	TAPE
BOXES	FRIENDS	PRESENT	TECHNOLOGY
CARING	GIFT	PURCHASE	TISSUE PAPER
CHILDREN	HIDDEN	RECIPIENT	TOYS
CLOTHING	HOBBIES	SANTA	WRAPPING
	INTERESTS	SECRET	

	1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9		
		10				11				12			
13	14				15				16		17	18	
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34											35		
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47	48	49						50			51	52	53
54									55				
56						57	58				59		
						60					61		
						62					63		
						64					65		

CLUES ACROSS

- Defunct airline
- Beverage container
- A team's best pitcher
- Unit of liquid capacity
- It comes before two
- Male child
- Type of wheat
- One's mother
- Upper side of an organism
- United is one
- Extraction process
- A being with lesser divine status
- People living together in a community
- Luxury automaker
- This (Spanish)
- Semitic language
- Period for a defined purpose
- Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure
- Up in the air (abbr.)
- American marsupial
- Decadent dessert
- Aquatic plant
- About aviation
- Summer footwear

- Rugged mountain ranges
- With tin
- Cut on the surface of a hard object
- Wrapped in cloth
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- 'American Idol' contestant Clay
- Midway between east and southeast
- Court decision ___ v. Wade
- Born of
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Actress ___ Margaret
- Not even

CLUES DOWN

- Heat unit
- ___ Faulkner, American writer
- Guatemalan town
- Of funny things
- Actress ___ de Armas
- Agents of one's downfall
- Takes forcibly
- Body lice
- Large nest of a bird of prey
- Unhappy
- Popular holiday dessert
- Habitual drunkard
- Used of a number or amount not specified
- Complications
- Fail to win
- Before the present
- Musical genre
- Flurry
- 007's creator
- Indiana Pacer Toppin
- Midway between north and northeast
- Feeling
- Damage another's reputation
- Mottled citrus fruit
- Beauty product
- They man first, second and third
- Harness
- Herb
- Expressed concern
- Mississippi scientific area (abbr.)
- Consumed
- Nostrils
- Gathered fallen leaves
- Express good wishes
- Monetary unit of Brunei
- Japanese Buddhist festival

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

November 4 to November 11

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **62 incidents** in this 8-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

November 4

5:03 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of South Main Street.

November 5

No incidents to report.

November 6

11:07 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

November 7

12:36 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

4:18 pm: DEATON, Michael Duane (41) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of Willow Lane. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

November 8

7:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Holly Street and issued a citation.

10:36 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

November 9

1:30 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and State Street and issued a warning.

3:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

the 100 block of Bush Street and issued a citation.

4:07 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued a citation.

5:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

5:37 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

9:59 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Alameda Avenue and issued a warning.

10:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:27 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Blosser Lane and issued a warning.

10:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:54 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

November 10

2:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of South Main Street and East Oak Street.

5:41 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

November 11

2:36 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

The rest of **Market** | From page 3

found at Richard and Mary Caudle's booth. They will soon have their cottage license and will be offering granola and cookies made from whole grains.

Several varieties of mushrooms and other tasty treats can be found at the Mulligan Gardens booth.

Reza Ghannadan of Reza's Breadery gets up before the sun every morning to mix and bake his locally famous sourdough boules and is now offering a Rumi bread, containing cardamom, rosewater, saffron, pistachio and apricot.

"That's my inspiration from Rumi's poetry, because all these have some symbolic meaning in his poetry," said Ghannadan. "I also have the Classic, Seedalicious (with five kinds of seeds), Kalamata Olive with Lemon Zest, Garlic Parmesan Focaccia, Garlic, Rosemary, and Green Italian Olive Focaccia. I also have frozen pizza dough that makes 11-inch pizzas. For Thanksgiving, I have a pumpkin-spice loaf and a cranberry-walnut loaf, and a loaf called 'Decadent with Chocolate and Cherry,'" explained Ghannadan. Join the "Reza's Breadery" Facebook group to find more info.

Honey, which is always a good gift and very useful for the holidays, is offered by Roxanne and Mike Nelson. "We also have hot honey which goes well over brie or turkey and ham," said Roxanne. "We also have honey bourbon bon bons."

Denise Bartolomei, with Mi Distinctive Tastes, offers balsamic vinegars and olive oils in many different flavors. <https://distinctive-tastes.com/>.

Melissa Arana and the Eastside Ranch have "all kinds of meats to buy for Thanksgiving," said Arana. "I have hams, smoked ham. I have rack of lamb, leg of lamb, lamb shanks, lamb stew meat. I have bacon for your bacon green beans. I have pork shoulder for pulled pork or chili

desire. I have eggs for all of your baking desires. I also have steak and rib eyes, or filet mignon, or hanger steaks, skirt steaks, flank steak, chuck roast for cold-weather stews, pot roast." To contact Eastside Ranch, call 707-354-2228.

Rose of Lettuce Make You Happy sells lettuce grown through the use of aquaponics, which refers to growing the vegetables in water in which fish swim, for the nutrient value. The lettuce heads are sold with their roots still attached, which allows them to last until Thanksgiving. To contact them, call 254-777-6758.

For dessert, cookies are always a welcome treat and can be obtained frozen and unbaked from Grant's Goodies. They will be introducing Candy Cane Crinkles for the holidays. Visit the "Grant's Goodies" Facebook or Instagram page for more info.

For gifts, look to Charissa Franklin and her Mermaizing Soaps, which come in many fanciful designs, colors and scents. Further info can be found at www.mermazingsoaps.com/. Michele Shattuck, of Noyo Hill Beeswax Wraps, makes reusable food wraps constructed primarily from fabric, beeswax, jojoba oil, and pine gum resin, all biodegradable materials that are compostable.

On occasion, Kara Nelson and Saba Sweda-Stevens can be found selling their handcrafted jewelry. Lotus Baker is usually at the market, demonstrating how to spin materials into thread and yarn. Amy Ragsdale of The Howland Agency will be present for a few more markets to explain the ins and outs of Medicare. Ragsdale can be contacted at insur@sonic.net.

Michael Foley, the market manager, converts EBT allowances and credit cards into wooden coins to be used for purchases at the market, which will be in the Little Lake Grange until March or April. For a vendor wishing to sell at the market, an application can be downloaded at <https://mcfarm.org/>.

LOVE THIS PAPER?

WANT TO HELP SUPPORT WILLITS WEEKLY? Become a one-time or ongoing community supporter! Eternal gratitude and more fabulous editions offered in return!

PayPal	Check	Cash
No PayPal account needed! Just donate like a regular online transaction! www.WillitsWeekly.com	Our P.O. BOX 1698 is always happy for envelopes! Mail us any amount direct!	See us out and about? At the Farmers Market? We are happy to take any cash donations!



From far left: A high-quality lambskin duffel bag from Unique Boutique is offered up for the silent auction. A player wins a rather large pot, not needing to rabuy more chips for a while. Richard Baker concentrates on his next move: whether to raise, see or fold.

Below, left: Approximately 50 players try their hands at the tournament, hoping to be the last player standing.

Below, right: The winners pose with a redwood table that was chosen by the first-place winner, Joseph Haggard, center; second place was Mark McKey; third place, Wil Boyes



Photo by Caren Pokosa

Gambling for a Cause

Spartime Supply warehouse transformed into casino for Willits Charter School Travel Club Poker Tournament

By the time the Willits Charter School Travel Club Poker Tournament ended late on Saturday evening, Joseph

Haggard was the last player standing in the fundraising event that raised \$10,726. Approximately 50 players bought in at \$100 for a chance to outlast the other players and receive their choice of three great prizes. Andrew Hosford, CEO of Spartime Supply, hosted the event in the Spartime warehouse, explained the tournament rules, trained the dealers in the correct procedures and etiquette, and provided tables and chips.

Hot Springs in Calistoga, and a full auto detailing from Thurston. The first place gets to pick first, and so on. The Calistoga trip is valued at \$900, the redwood table at \$800, and the detailing is valued at \$400."

In addition to the tri tip dinner, there was a taco bar and appetizers, pulled pork sliders, caprese skewers, roasted nuts, and Swedish meatballs to keep the players well fed.

Michel Chanelle, who supervises the WCS Travel Club and accompanies the students on their trips, feels that it is extremely important for the students to journey to new experiences outside of the small town of Willits in order to gain perspective and to realize that there are opportunities beyond what can be found in Mendocino County.

"I've been taking students to various

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

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JOHN FORD RANCH
RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California



Above, left: Pulled pork sliders are served as appetizers to the players before the dinner break. Above, right: Jake Bernie provides the sound system for the evening - Bernie also offered a VIP table to his comedy concert as a silent auction item. At left: Many items are up for bid at the silent auction, offered by the generous merchants of Willits.



Photos by Mathew Caine



ROOTS OF MOTIVE POWER PRESENTS:

HOLIDAY EXPRESS

December 7th
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
FREE FAMILY EVENT!

- FREE Train Rides
- Meet Santa & Receive a FREE Small Gift
- Wagon Full of Toys Raffle at 3:30 p.m.
- FREE Admission and Crafts at the Mendocino County Museum
- Trees, Refreshments, Decorations and More!

420 E. COMMERCIAL ST., WILLITS, CA
www.rootsofmotivepower.com

'Red One'

The Story: Fantastical monsters, magical confrontations, moral dilemmas, moral failings, possible redemption. Present day: it's the afternoon of December 24th. Somewhere close to the North Pole, Santa Claus aka "Red One" (J.K. Simmons) is enjoying milk and cookies and preparing for his soon-to-begin midnight flight to bring presents to every boy and girl in the World.



Dan Essman
Columnist

He loves all the children equally and immeasurably: the naughty ones and the nice ones. Sure, he has his infamous Naughty/Nice List, but that's not going to stop his sharing of Christmas presents.

Why doesn't he reject the naughties on the list? Because at every moment of a person's life, one can switch from "naughtiness" to "niceness" just by making the holy choice to care for someone else more than one's self, and to do the right thing. And then: Santa is kidnapped! By Powerful Supernatural Forces!

Jack O'Malley (handsome Chris Evans) is a mercenary scoundrel who will do pretty much anything for money (if he doesn't have to look at himself too closely). Jack is captured by a cohort of designated Santa protectors headed by Zoe (Lucy Liu), and by Callum – probably Santa's best friend (Dwayne Johnson). Together, Callum and Jack hunt down the ruthless, Santa-hating kidnappers. Battles with fantastical monsters galore to follow.

My Thoughts: This flick asks an important question: When is naughty punished enough? And this flick kindly affirms: Redemption is possible!

Parents: You know your young'uns. Plentiful huge ugly scary monsters. And often, the flick is quite hectic. But the good guys win. And Santa is very kind, and he loves children. All of them.

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



Willits Community Christmas Chorale, December 1

Hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 265 Margie Drive, Sunday, December 1, beginning at 6 pm. Christmas is just around the corner. Come to get into the Christmas spirit by enjoying and participating in music from our community. Refreshments of cookies and apple cider will culminate the event.

Little Lake Grange Holiday Craft Faire seeks craft vendors

Little Lake Grange is accepting entries for craft vendors for the Holiday Craft Faire, being held at the Grange Building at 291 School Street, on December 13 and 14, 2024. Spaces are filling up, so contact us for the paperwork as soon as possible by emailing willitsgrange@gmail.com or by text to 707-841-6297. All crafters are welcome.

37th annual Holiday Express, December 7

Come join Roots of Motive Power for their FREE annual Holiday Express family event, Saturday, December 7, 11 am to 4 pm at the Roots yard, 420 East Commercial Street in Willits.

FREE train rides; meet Santa and receive a small gift; Wagon Full of Toys Raffle at 3:30 pm; free admission and crafts at the Mendocino County Museum; Trees, Refreshments, Decorations; and more. More info: www.rootsmotivepower.com or check out the "Roots of Motive Power" page on Facebook.

At right: Patient Roots volunteers assist happy passengers.



Photos by Margi Gomez Guide

Magician and Mentalist Robert Goleman at WCT, November 23

Fort Bragg magician and mentalist Robert Goleman appears in his premiere performance at the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, November 23, at 7:30 pm. For an experience witnessing the impossible, the local master presents an evening of mind-bending magic and amazing mental skills, with lots of audience participation.

Goleman describes his show as an experience somewhere between belief and disbelief. "For my new show," he said, "I start with classic style magic tricks, and take a sharp turn into mentalism, making revelations with an accuracy that will leave participants shrieking in disbelief – witnessing what should be impossible – before their very eyes."

Imagine a riveting and intimate magical encounter, that audiences have called "nothing short of astonishing" and "memorable for years to come."

WCT Performing Arts Center is located at 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$20 and available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org.

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SPACE IS LIMITED
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10
RIDGWOOD RANCH, WILLITS 5-9PM

WINTER FEAST

FARM TO TABLE DINNER

A warm winter feast highlighting the very best food & drinks from Mendocino & Lake counties

What's Happening Around Town



Thursday, November 21

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the season, at Little Lake Grange, 391 School Street. Thursday, November 21, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats and hot drinks, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Market will be having a holiday on Thanksgiving Day

Community Theatre on Saturday, November 23, at 7:30 pm. For an experience witnessing the impossible, the local master presents an evening of mind-bending magic and amazing mental skills, with lots of audience participation. 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$20 and available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org.

Friday, November 22

Book Lovers Discussion Group at the Library: This group meets monthly to discuss books, authors and genres, this month: Friday, November 22, 12 to 1 pm. Come talk about why you love books! All adults welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolib.org or 459-5908.

Vendors Market: This month's Vendors Market is Friday, November 22 at Adri's Salon, 1615 A South Main Street. Local arts & crafts vendors and salon discounts. 3 to 6 pm.

Saturday, November 23

Winter Wonderland at the Gardener's Pantry: Purchase your tree and enjoy the free festivities at the Winter Wonderland kick-off event on Saturday, November 23, 3 to 7 pm, at the Gardener's Pantry. Including Hot Cocoa & Apple Cider, Cookies, Popcorn and Treats, Festive Photo Backdrop, Ornament Crafts for Kids, and "Garden Gold" earned for every purchase. Sparetime Garden Center, 208 East San Francisco Avenue



Native American Heritage Storytime: To celebrate Native American Heritage Month, the Willits Library presents a reading of a children's picture book that tells the Thanksgiving story from an Indigenous perspective. Saturday, November 23, 2 to 3 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Magician and Mentalist Robert Goleman at WCT: Fort Bragg magician and mentalist Robert Goleman appears in his premiere performance at the Willits

Los Guys at Shanachie Pub: Ukiah trio Los Guys, formerly "Those Guys," "came together on the eve of 2020, trading an itinerant and aimless jam for something resembling sculpted songs in the course of their socially distanced sessions." Saturday, November 23 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B Main Street.



Sunday, November 24

Fall in L.O.V.E. Vegan Dinner: Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience hosts their Fall in L.O.V.E. Vegan Thanksgiving Potluck, on Sunday, November 24 from 4 to 6 pm at the Long Valley Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road in Laytonville. "Please bring a dish that contains no meat, dairy, eggs, gelatin, bone broth or honey, and label if containing the common allergens wheat, nuts or soy. Where we spare the turkey and give thanks for the indescribably delicious plant foods that sustain us in health and happiness. There's nothing like the vegan experience!"

Friday, November 29

Small Works opens at WCA: The Willits Center for the Arts invites the community to celebrate the holiday season with the 8th Annual Members Small Works Show. A beloved tradition, this exhibit features a diverse collection of small, handcrafted pieces by local artists, with all works available for purchase through December 24. Opening Friday, November 29, from 11 am to 5 pm at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. More info: visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org/

Thursday, November 28

Happy Thanksgiving!

Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Senior Center: Willits Community Services and Food Bank: presents the 35th annual free Community Thanksgiving Dinner, set for Thursday, November 28 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel

The Brothers Beyond Description at the Grange, November 22

Come join us on Friday, November 22 at the Little Lake Grange in Willits for The Brothers Beyond Description playing a benefit concert for the Grange Roof Fund.

With Jonny Mojo- Guitar, Sean Lehe- Guitar, Daniel Roholt-Bass, Scott Guberman- Keyboards. Gary Campus- Drums, and Davis Lee- Drums.

"Celebrating the music of the Allman Brothers Band; special closing set in tribute to Phil Lesh." Special guest "Our Little Sister" Bella Rayne.

"The Brothers' line-up came together in May of 2024 to pay tribute to Dickey Betts shortly after his passing. Jonny and Gary have been incubating a wonderful monthly gig at the Crazy Horse in Nevada City called "The Band Beyond Description" of which both Sean and Scott are regular contributors. David, Sean and Danny play together in a classic rock power trio up and down the Sacramento valley.

"The roster of bands these gentlemen have been involved with would look like this:- Phil Lesh & Friends, Achilles Wheel, Poor Man's Whiskey, Jelly Bread, Izabella, Moody Cat, The Deadbeats, and Caltucky."

Doors open at 6 pm at the Grange, 391 School Street, and music starts at 7 pm.

Willits Community Services & Food Bank Invites you to a Free Sit Down Dinner

35th Annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner

November 28, 2024
11AM - 3 PM

Come Give Thanks and Celebrate This Holiday with your Community

Willits Senior Center
1501 Baechtel Rd

There is no charge. Anyone may eat for free. Donations are gladly accepted and will benefit the WCS & Food Bank in their continuing effort to provide Essential Human Services

Food Made Possible by Sherwood Valley Casino
Desert Made Possible by the Seventh Day Adventist Church, The Church of Jesus Christ and Members of the Willits Brown Bag Program
Food Prepared by Parlin Forks Conservation Camp

Back Porch Trio at Shanachie: fun-loving sound influenced by folk, blues, classic rock, jam band, americana, and bluegrass, with unique songwriting and a blend of vocal harmonies. Rosie Wetzel (ukulele and vocals), Steve Hahn (acoustic guitar and vocals), and Jeff Taylor (bass). Saturday, November 30 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, December 1

Willits Toy Run: The Willits Wild Bunch presents the 32nd annual Willits Toy Run, on Sunday, December 1. Meet and Greet, 11 am at Evergreen Shopping Center. 50/50 Raffle. Bikes leaves at noon for a beautiful ride through Little Lake Valley to Little Lake Grange, 391 School Street. All Bikes, All Riders, All Non-Riders Welcome. Admission to the Grange Party: one unwrapped toy for the Willits Kids Christmas Program, and/or \$10, includes Free Lunch. Beverages provided for additional donation. Music by Mikey T. Live auction.

Willits Community Christmas Chorale: Hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 265 Margie Drive, the Willits Community Christmas Chorale is set for Sunday, December 1, beginning at 6 pm. "Christmas is just around the corner. Come to get into the Christmas spirit by enjoying and participating in music from our community. Refreshments of cookies and apple cider will culminate the event."

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Members
Small Works Show
meet the artists Nov. 30, 6-9pm

Opening Nov. 29 through Dec. 24th
Weekends 11 am - 5 pm

Discover unique, small handmade gifts crafted with heart!

Join us for the December show. Deadline for entries, Nov. 25
Contact gpm1950@gmail.com
71 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA

Experience the impossible with an evening of magic and mentalism. Robert will astound you with his mental skills and intuitive abilities. In a riveting performance that you'll remember for years to come.

MAGIC and Mentalism
Robert Goleman
"Nothing short of astonishing."

November 23 - 7:30 pm
wctperformingartscenter.org
37 West Van Lane, Willits

ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

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

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

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main

and Commercial 7pm. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

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

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

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

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

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street

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

Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm – welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which

members from out of the area may drop in!"

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

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Info: www.mendolib.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Sunday and Monday.

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

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

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to

discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe". Topics will range and will be announced ahead of time."

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

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

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

PRESENTED BY WILLITS WILD BUNCH
32ND ANNUAL
WILLITS TOY RUN
MUSIC BY DJ MIKEY T
SUNDAY DECEMBER 1ST 2024

ALL BIKE RIDERS WELCOME

ADMISSION ONE UNWRAPPED TOY AND OR \$10.00
RAFFLE PRIZES
MEET AND GREET I AM AT EVERGREEN SHOPPING CENTER.
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JOIN US FOR A JOLLY GOOD TIME!

SAT DEC 14TH
5:30 START TIME

WELCOMING PARTICIPANTS & SPECTATORS

Family Friendly Event open to Individuals, groups, clubs, businesses & organizations

SANTA & MRS CLAUSE
Will be at Laytonville Fire Dept. with Cocoa and Candy Canes from 5:30-5:15

HO-HO-HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

5:00PM LINE UP TIME AT THE GOOD NEWS FELLOWSHIP CHURCH 4447 FOSTER AVE

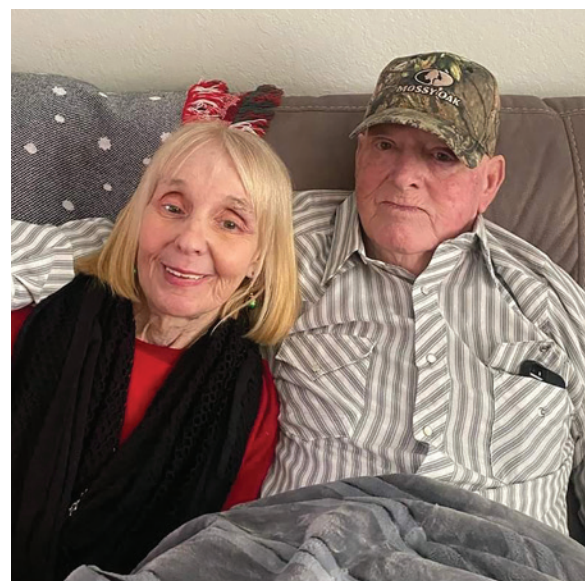
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OBITUARY |

Pamela Rutledge and Freeman Rutledge

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved parents, Pamela Kathleen Rutledge and Freeman Dean Rutledge. Dean passed away in March after a courageous battle with cancer, and Pam passed away before Dean with complications from Alzheimer's. They both left us peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of love, kindness, and cherished memories.

Pam and Dean were long-time residents of Willits, where they dedicated their careers to the local school district. They devoted their lives to raising their three daughters, Carrie, Deana, and Robin, instilling in them the values of compassion, hard work, and community spirit. Their love for Willits was evident in everything they did, as they built lasting friendships with community members, neighbors and colleagues whom they considered family.

Pam and Dean cherished the community they called home, and their warmth and generosity touched the lives of many. We invite all of their friends and loved ones to join us in celebrating their remarkable lives on November 23 at 3 pm at the Willits Fire Department. This gathering will be an opportunity to share memories, honor their legacy, and find comfort in each other's presence as we remember the joy they brought into our lives.

Our parents would be happy to know that their closest friends and family are coming together to celebrate the love and laughter they shared. We look forward to seeing you there as we honor Pam and Dean, who will forever remain in our hearts.

If you can join us in celebrating our parents, please reach out to us at rrcclark@yahoo.com or contact Deana at 707-489-1671 to confirm your attendance.

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Season's GREETINGS
from Wylatti Resource Management

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

WICKED
(PG) 2 hrs 41 mins
Fri.: 4:00 & 7:30
Sat.-Tues.: 12:00, 4:00 & 7:30

MOANA
(PG) 1 hr 40 mins
Fri.: 4:00 & 7:30
Wed.-Thurs.: 12:15, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00

Movie Times for Nov. 22 thru Nov. 28



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

BFF Ralphy

Ralphy is a happy, loving boy who loves to be around people and four-legged friends. You can take this boy anywhere with you. He is happiest by your side. He gets along with everyone! Ralphy does not like to be left behind and will become very sad if left alone for too long. He would do best in a home where his family worked from home or maybe Ralphy could join you at work? He is a gentle giant just needing someone with the patience to understand him.

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



Payton.

Quiet Cherry

Cherry can be a little shy with new people, but is very sweet as well. Cherry will do best with a guardian who has the time and experience to work with a shy dog, helping her to build up confidence. We don't think it will take long for Cherry to become a confident, secure companion.

ready to be your best buddy.

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

Curious Payton

Payton is a sweet little lady with bold, gold eyes, long legs and the softest coat you can imagine. She is always there to meet new people in hopes that today will be her day to find her own home.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumane.org, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

'Mr. Skunk and the GIANT Christmas Tree' trains out of Willits start November 23

Submitted by Mendocino Railway

Embark on a yuletide adventure departing from the Skunk Train's Willits Depot, where you'll have the chance to view the world's largest living Christmas tree! 'Mr. Skunk and the GIANT Christmas Tree' runs start Saturday, November 23, with trains departing at 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 4:30 pm, and 6:30 pm, and continue through December 31. Visit www.skunktrain.com to see all the options and to buy tickets.

Mr. Skunk personally invites you to celebrate this holiday season with a 2-hour train ride to his magical dreamland filled with festive joy. With every chug through his forest home, you can expect delicious delights like complimentary hot chocolate and holiday cookies, festive decorations and games, live music, and even a visit from Mr. Skunk himself.

The fun doesn't end there! Soon enough the train will enter Mr. Skunk's captivating Noyo River Basin, home of the world's largest Christmas tree, which doubles as his very own whimsical workshop. Decorated from top to bottom, this 222-foot-tall old growth redwood is sure to impress.

This delightful journey is fun for all ages. Additional concessions available for purchase on the train include snacks, soft drinks, juice, adult beverages, and more.

Don't miss the opportunity to join Mr. Skunk at the most memorable holiday party in the redwoods!

Located in the redwood forests of Northern California's Mendocino County, the Skunk

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

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32nd annual Willits Toy Run, December 1

The Willits Wild Bunch presents the 32nd annual Willits Toy Run, on Sunday, December 1st. Meet and Greet, 11 am at Evergreen Shopping Center. 50/50 Raffle. The pack leaves at noon for a beautiful ride through Little Lake Valley, and then to the Little Lake Grange, 391 School Street. All Bikes, All Riders, All Non-Riders Welcome. Admission to the Grange Party is one unwrapped toy for the Willits Kids Christmas Program, and/or \$10. Admission includes Free Lunch! Beverages provided for additional donation. Music by Mikey T and a live auction.



Margie Lee Handley

September 29, 1939 - November 9, 2024

Margie Handley, a devoted mother, wife, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, accomplished businesswoman, and philanthropist, passed away peacefully at her beloved ranch on Hearst Road along the Eel River on November 9, 2024. Born in Bakersfield, California to Bob and Jayne Harrah, Margie moved with her parents when she was 2 years old to Branscomb in Mendocino County where her dad joined his brothers and father in a sawmill business. Margie moved with her family to Willits where her dad started Remco, which at that time manufactured sawmill equipment. Margie spent a large part of her childhood trailing her father around sawmills. She had her first job at one of her father's companies, a sawmill in Willits called Firco, scaling log tickets.

Margie met her husband, Gordon Lovell, in school and ceased her schooling to get married at the age of 16. She was blessed with the birth of four children before she turned 22 years old. She and Gordon moved to Montague, California where she raised her family for 12 years. While she was in Montague, she returned to school and received her GED while mother to two young boys.

In 1969, Margie started her first business, Shasta Pallet Company, which built boxes by hand to ship Nike missiles and Howitzer cannon barrels. From working as a secretary for the Superintendent of Schools, to owning a western store in Yreka, to serving as Vice President of Microphor and President of Hot Rocks, an asphalt, sand and gravel plant, Margie was a savvy businesswoman. She was part of her family business, Harrah Industries from 1981-2021 and held a General Engineering Contractor's Class A license.

Margie was blessed to meet Bud Handley, the man she would always refer to as the love of her life, and they married in 1975. They shared 17 years together before his passing.

Margie struck out on yet another adventure when she decided to get into politics after serving as an alternate delegate for Ronald Reagan in Kansas City. She ran for the California Senate seat in 1990 and 1993 and then threw her hat in the ring for the California Assembly in 1996. She held multiple elected and appointed political positions across the state. This included serving on the California Economic Strategy Panel from 1995-2000, the California Transportation Commission from 1986-1990, and the California Rural Development Council from 1998-2000.

Her dedication to the town of Willits and the County of Mendocino was evident as she held the position of Chair of the Howard Foundation Board for 30 years (1993-2024) and sat on many boards of businesses throughout the County. She was a member of the Rotary International Club of Willits and served as President from 2004-2005. As Chair of the Howard Foundation Board, she led the charge for fundraising and negotiations that culminated in the construction of the new Howard Memorial Hospital and the neighboring Lamprich Medical Office Building.

These were the crowning jewels of Margie's accomplishments. She gave generously of her time and money for the betterment of the town she loved. She will be deeply missed and impossible to replace for all who knew her. She was a strong woman of integrity.

Margie loved to travel and was fortunate enough to visit 68 countries before her death. She had a beautiful large family that she cherished, that included 37 grandchildren.

Margie found love again late in life. Her dear friend Tom Hawthorne, whom she had served on the California Transportation Commission with, asked her to marry him in 2020, and she said yes. He was 91, she was 80.

Margie is preceded in death by sons Gordon Lovell Jr. and Steve Lovell, grandsons Kyle Lovell, Shannon Lovell, Avery Lovell, and husbands Gordon Lovell, Bud Handley, and Tom Hawthorne. She is survived by her sister Bonnie Harrah, sons David and Ronald Lovell, numerous grandchildren including Alicia Logan (Lovell), Matt, Christi, Andrea, Seth, Clayton, and Cindy Lovell.

A memorial service will be held for Margie at 1 pm on Saturday, November 23rd at the Willits Senior Center. Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to the Frank R. Howard Foundation at 3 Marcela Drive, Suite A Willits, CA 95490.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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Willits, CA 95490
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Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
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www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
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Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:30 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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25 Hazel Street, Willits
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St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Anron Bandanadam
Mass times
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at
707-459-2252

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We welcome All Walks of Faith

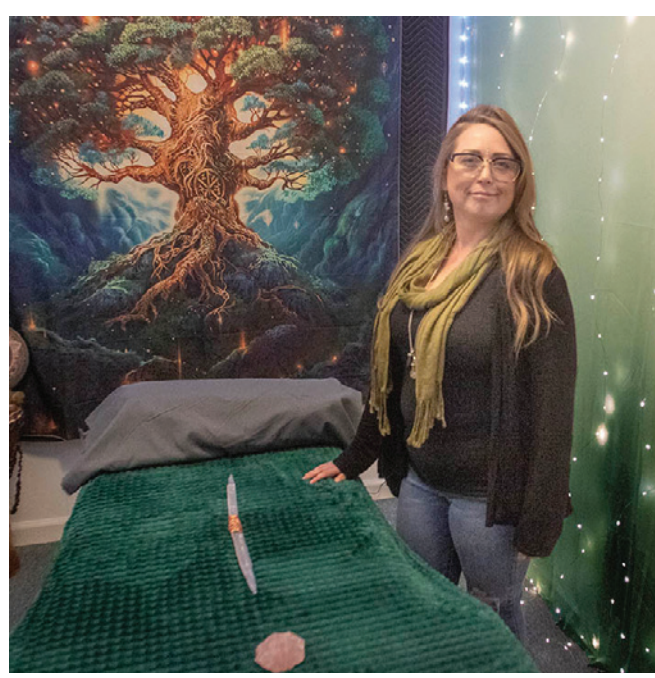
St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
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ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Brunau

St. John Lutheran Church
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(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
707-459-5714
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Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
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wumc@outlook.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willitsumc

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



Ministry of Divine Consciousness

Metaphysical practitioner provides spiritual life coaching and mystic energy sessions, helping clients tap into their intuition

Even the most hardened skeptic of New Age medicine and healing would feel the relaxing ambiance of Tiffany Woodard's Ministry of Divine Consciousness. As one enters, they are aromatically transformed by the sweet, earthy aroma of a combination of Palo Santo (burned as the holy wood, a tree material burned for its relaxing qualities) and frankincense (a resin of the Boswellia tree used for its calming effect). Complementing the aromas are the melodic, droning sounds of a loop of otherworldly music. Even Woodard herself projects a serene image of one much older than her years, with an ethereal wisdom that transcends the day-to-day chaos of the world around her.

"I am a nature-based clergy that does mystic, spiritual life coaching and mystic energy sessions," explained Woodard. "I intertwine ritual with frequency and energy work. I also do coaching, helping people tap into their self and their intuition. I've been practicing since I was a really young child, and I hit my mid-20s, and I realized that this is what I wanted to do full time. By the time I hit my early 30s, I put myself in a position where I could step out and start doing this full time."

"Sometimes, if your root chakra is ungrounded and your heart chakra is super open, it can lead to a lot of emotional hurt," Woodard explained. "You open yourself up to being hurt emotionally because you're more sensitive and giving, and when you're not grounded in that, the people around you can take advantage of your openness. That can drain you and it just becomes a big imbalance. It can lead to sickness if you don't take care of the imbalance."

"I do cord-cuttings," continued Woodard, "where your soul is so intertwined with another soul, that even though you're no longer with that person, or have broken ties with that person, you still feel this really strong connection," said Woodard. "I do energy work to remove that connection, so

you don't have that lingering over you, as you try to move on.

One of the most popular treatments Woodard offers is aura cleansing. "Auras are one of those things that all day, every day, you're interacting with other people, so your auras are matching up and meeting each other," she explained. "Your aura field extends about six feet around you, so within six feet, you're constantly taking on other people's auras. Aura cleansing helps to rid a person of other people's energies, especially during the holidays when everything starts to get chaotic and you're interacting with people constantly."

Other services offered are tarot card readings and Akashic record readings, a practice in which Woodard taps "into the divine records of the universe, a conscious knowledge of everything that is intertwined with everything. I tap into that for certain insights into things that you're looking into. I work a lot with peoples' personal insights, where they might want to know, directions on where they want to go personally or professionally to do the best that they can to manage for a better situation. I help people to try and tap in and figure out their way in life. Sometimes life can be confusing when you don't know what to do."

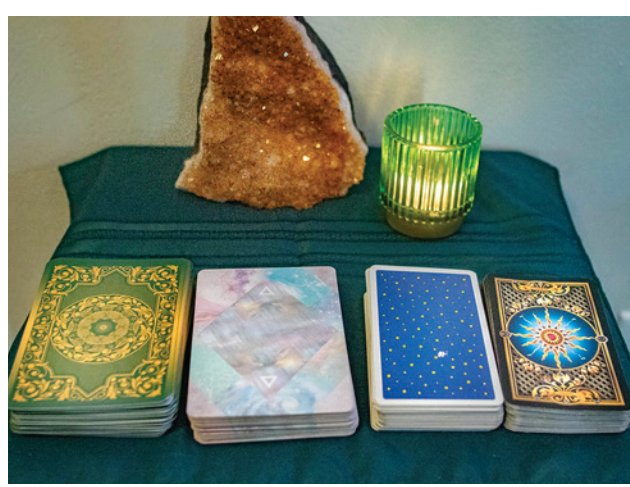
Woodard utilizes several objects to project healing sound, color, and beneficial energy, and uses tarot to tap into a universal story. "I do tarot readings to help people get a little bit of insight into day-to-day issues," continued Woodard. "Things they might be contemplating doing, not the 'my life depends on it' kind of things. The cards actually tap into an energetic field of yours."

"So, the way I do it will facilitate you in energetically tapping into the cards. Then, we will shuffle the deck and ask the questions, and I will intuitively read into the cards depending on your question. Every card and every suit have different meanings, different directions."

"The tarot is actually a story of 'The Fool,'" Woodard said. "When you start to learn tarot, you realize that the whole tarot system is a story base. It moves from being new and bright and looking towards the future, to going through every little aspect

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

Above, left: Tiffany Woodard of the Ministry of Divine Consciousness prepares her relaxing Reiki room. Above, right: Tiffany Woodard's office sits in this quiet, colorful complex of healing and artistic practitioners. Below: Woodard makes candles in addition to her spiritual healing work. Woodard employs several modalities in her healing work including these tarot decks. Tiffany Woodard has been certified as a practitioner in spiritual life coaching, as a minister in the Universal Life Church, and an Akashic records coach.



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LEGAL NOTICES

WW519
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0480
The following person or persons are doing business as Fashion BallaChris, 76401 Covello Road, Unit 9, Covello CA 95478; mailing address: 2738 Comanche Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.
Registered owner: Celestina Blanco Martinez, 2738 Comanche Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on October 16, 2024.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on October 16, 2024.
Publication Dates: October 31, November 7, 14, and 21, 2024

WW520
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2024-F0458
The following person or persons are doing business as MJ Farm, 5926 Ridgewood Road, Willits CA 95490.
Registered owners: Jeff and Melissa Apodaca, 5926 Ridgewood Road, Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a married couple.
The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 24, 2024.
Publication Dates: October 31, November 7, 14, and 21, 2024

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The rest of **Poker** | *From page 5*

places for about 20 years now," said Chanelle. "We've been to New York City and Boston, which is the most popular one. They get to see all the stuff they study about in history. It's a more educational trip. When they go to New York City, they see the Statue of Liberty, China Town, and they have to see a Broadway show. I've taken students to Italy. It was beautiful and worth it."

"The interesting thing is that all the stuff they're studying in school, they actually get to see it," said Chanelle. "It really makes that connection. One year, we took students, my kids as well, to New York. We went to go see Rockefeller Center, where television started. We took the studio tour. They got to see where 'Saturday Night Live' is filmed. They get excited when they watch 'Saturday Night Live,' they get to go 'I was there!' We had students waving at the camera outside the 'Today Show' at NBC."

Prior to beginning the tournament, Hosford took the amateur dealers aside, sat them down at a table, and demonstrated the proper methods of preparing the deck, the rules of the game, how to determine the small and large "blinds" used to create the antes, and how to deal with any problems that may occur during the game play. Although the players only paid \$100 to buy in, the chips were much higher denominations: from \$25 to \$5,000. Players could "re-buy" at any point to replenish supplies of chips, or otherwise drop out.

In addition to the game play, there was a table with many silent auction items, generously donated by local merchants. Hosford additionally offered the players a chance to buy into a supplemental "high-hand" in which the best hand in a certain period splits the money from the \$20 buy-in with the Willits Charter School.

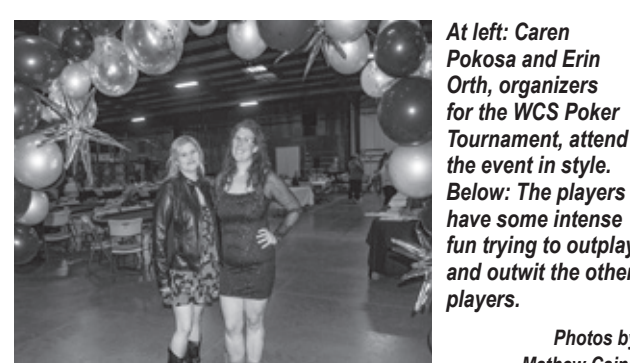
"We wanted to raise money for scholarships for kids who don't get out of Willits and would have never thought of going on to higher education," explained co-organizer Orth. "We want to send them to Washington D.C., so they can examine the steps of Congress and come home and say that they want to change the world, too; if they want to get into poli-sci or journalism, so they can make a difference, so that they know that they can make a difference."

Andrew Hosford deserves thanks for his tireless efforts on behalf of the several organizations for which he has

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Deputy Probation Officer I & II \$55,577 - \$74,505
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner \$84,323 - \$102,460
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Principal Department Analyst \$82,264 - \$100,006
Public Safety Dispatcher \$53,643 - \$65,187
Screener \$41,142 - \$50,024
Senior Program Specialist \$62,504 - \$75,982
Social Worker Assistant II \$46,176 - \$56,139
Supervising Health Program Coordinator \$75,920 - \$92,268
Supervising Public Health Nurse \$113,609 - \$138,091
Youth Corrections Officer - Extra-Help \$26.61 - \$32.34 Hourly
For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
EOE

helped raise funds. "I like to support the community, make sure there's an outlet for these small clubs, and to raise money. In a small town, that's where the money is going to come from. It's nice to have the community showing up and showing their support. This is the first tournament for the Travel Club, and we have almost 50 players, which is really good for the first one. They did a really good job of marketing. These ladies are amazing. They showed up about five weeks ago and said they wanted to do a tournament and the date they wanted to do it on. I told them they had a lot of work to do. They accepted the challenge and rocked it."

"The economy is kind of tough, especially in Mendocino County, but we still have our youth that need opportunities to get out of Willits and see other things," said Hosford. "It broadens their horizons, but everywhere they go, it lets them know how special this place is."



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

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Indoor Yard Sale
Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley (across from the Broiler), Saturday, December 7-8 am to 4 pm

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



MINISTRY OF DIVINE CONSCIOUSNESS
The rest of **Ministry** | *From page 10*

to grow into the future. Tarot is really fascinating when you look into the back history of it, because it is a story."

Woodard can also be seen at craft fairs, selling her finely crafted organic beeswax candles and dispensing relaxing vibes to people who come to her booth. She is quick with a welcoming smile and a friendly chat.

The Ministry of Divine Consciousness, located at 32 East San Francisco Avenue Suite C, is open seven days a week, by appointment and for walk-ins, Wednesday through Friday, noon to 4 pm. For more info, visit www.ministryofdivineconsciousness.com/, call 707-518-0083, or email ministryofdivineconsciousness@gmail.com.

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



Above: Gary Martin is seated at the lead Toast & Roast table with his husband of many years, Lou Celaya. At right: Current WCA Board President Lisa Kvasnicka stops by the bar to visit with her husband, John Kvasnicka. At far right: Willits High School art teacher Carolyn Bakewell spoke with affection about the 25 years of Art Under 20 exhibits at WCA that she worked with Gary Martin to present below, left. This lovely arrangement was donated by floral designer Wil Gonzalez of W/E Flowers-Willits Flowers to honor outgoing curator Gary Martin on his special night.



Above: WCA General Manager Sasha Thomas and Volunteer Coordinator Sonja Bursal enjoy the special celebration. Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde



Above: Members of WCA boards, both old and new, gather for a photo: from left, Eric Hart, Margi Gomez Guhde, Lisa Kvasnicka, Gary Martin, Judy Fisch, Lexi Halleck, Carole Aleshire, Sandy Strong, Emmy Good, Barbara Willens and Jennie Jergensen.

Toast & Roast

Retiring WCA Curator Gary Martin honored at dinner held in his honor

Gary Martin has lived a rich and varied life. Before serving as curator at the Willits Center for the Arts for nearly a decade, Martin attended the Cleveland Institute of Arts and he gained an M.A. from San Jose State University. After living in a number of places around the country, including in New York where he worked for many years as an art dealer, Martin found himself in Mendocino County, teaching art history for a time at Mendocino College and serving on the Arts Council of Mendocino.

Willits city landmark were there to recognize and show appreciation for Martin's efforts in bringing a wide scope of artistic endeavor to Willits and Mendocino County.

Diners took time between courses to express love and laughter about Martin and his time at WCA. Founding WCA member and former board president Sandy Strong said that Martin will be missed.

"He always brought in the ideas and financial support that kept the whole art center up and running," Strong said. "His dream of having WCA be the best art gallery in the United States was always at the center of his dedication and hard work."

"In addition to curating exhibits, I have been immersed in the delightful experience of teaching students about art," said Martin, who has been volunteering his time to teach Willits children for 13 years.

A glittering event called "Toast & Roast" took place last weekend at the Willits Center for the Arts to honor Martin's spearheading of professionally curated exhibits, and note his retirement from the WCA curator position.

A full course Italian dinner was prepared by Martin's close friend and family member, beloved restaurateur Adam Celaya. Celaya was assisted by WCA Board of Directors President Lisa Kvasnicka, with a lively bar served by Lisa's husband John Kvasnicka.

The candlelight dinner was appropriately held in the WCA galleries, and artists and supporters of Martin and the well-known

Supporter Jane Camp told a humorous story relating her gratitude to Martin for the many art talks he has presented (and will continue to present) to the public, with a gentle admonition to "Speak up!"

Early board member Jennie Jergensen added, "May Gary's legacy shine on the path forward!" And founding member and well-known yoga teacher Emmy Good described the evening as "love-filled and beautiful, celebrating Gary's many contributions to WCA." She emphasized the organization's accomplishments, many of which have been guided by Martin's efforts, unique vision, and good taste.

Martin related the story of his beginnings as curator at Willits Center for the

Read the rest of Gary Over on page 15

The rest of Brooktrails From page 1

reimbursement from the parcourse per capita grant."

Continuing, she said, "The emergency replacement Spring Creek tank has been delivered. Our guys had to really be creative to get it up where it will be installed, offroad, but they did a great job. We're confident that installation will be completed next week."

Also, the Fire Department's metal building is on course to be finished. The concrete pad and utilities have been completed.

Finally, Alaniz reported that the recently purchased office building renovations are coming along well. The building is across the street from the office's present location. There were many things that needed to be addressed and corrected, but almost everything has been done, she said, and though there is no announced move-in date set, it will be happening soon.

President Tyler-O'Shea noted: "At our last meeting someone asked the question, 'Why would someone want to build a home in Brooktrails?' In the moment I didn't have a response to that question. But first thing the next morning, out my kitchen window I watched the sunrise, and it is magnificent. I also enjoy morning walks at Lake Emily where I can see bears, otters, deer, ducks, geese and swans, as well as the redwoods and ferns. And, the ocean is one hour away, plus it's 15 degrees cooler than Ukiah in the summer."

Moving on to public comments, Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer announced: "As of November 1, CAL FIRE has lifted the burn ban. Open burning is now permitted, however you are required to have two permits: one from CAL FIRE, available at www.fire.ca.gov/burnpermit and one from the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District, available at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd/

"You have to have those permits," Chief Noyer said. "We don't write them anymore. I'm sorry about that. Note: the Air Quality permit costs \$17, and it takes two weeks to receive the permit. Brooktrails doesn't do the permits anymore because Air Quality and CAL FIRE want to have control for purposes of data collection."

Brooktrails Community Garden supporters addressed the board: Brian Weller, Doreen Blumenfeld, and Cathie Nicolaus spoke individually about their 13 year involvement in the garden.

Weller started: "In light of the recently published newspaper report regarding the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant placement, our committee met and we wanted to give you a sense of what the Community Garden is and the value that we've brought to the community.

"It's been running now for 13 years," Weller continued. "The garden site is below the Brooktrails Lodge and was reclaimed from the former tennis courts. We have 26 active members. We've built a really good community asset, and we've enjoyed a really wonderful community gardening experience over these years.

"We charge \$50/year per plot. We have a greenhouse for starter plants and a very good, functioning toolshed. We grow vegetables, fruits and flowers. Notably, one of our members, Anthony Ward, who has been a member for over 10 years, is a nationally recognized floral designer who does presentations/displays all over California. He has created arrangements for everyone from the Dalai Lama, Dr. Maya Angelou, Madonna and Jane Fonda."

Nicolaus who is the manager of the garden remarked on how she has seen the garden grow from of a dilapidated trash-filled tennis court space into a beautiful area where people can grow food for their families.

She stated: "Any resident of Brooktrails is welcome to be a part of the garden. We have room to grow and create more plots, and annually invite new members to join. We also donated a plot to a therapist who takes care of foster children so we are available to the foster community. All are welcome to come participate and to tour the garden. Thank you, Brooktrails, for our garden, for giving us a place to grow."

As she began to speak, Blumenfeld remarked how she was touched by what the board president had said about living in Brooktrails. She said: "From where I live, I don't see the sunrise, but I see outstanding sunsets. We live in such a gorgeous place, and another great asset to Brooktrails is the garden. For many years I drove above it and never saw what it was.

"Then, one day I went in and looked at it and saw what a beautiful space it is. I had a disabled friend who wanted to get involved with it, and it became such a love for her. The people that participate in it derive such benefit from it. It's a wonderful gathering place where seniors and younger people can grow their own food, and there's great sharing of recipes.

"There's also a lot of sharing of vegetables, fruits and flowers that goes on," Blumenfeld continued. "There's a true community-building spirit that's fostered in the garden which is very important at this time. It's taken years to foster the beds. I'd hate to see it moved; to have to start all over again. I hope it can stay where it is."

On another topic, Keith Rutledge of Sherwood Firewise went to the podium and said: "I wanted to make you aware of County General Government Committee meetings discussing the abatement process on vacant lots in Brooktrails and all throughout the county. There have been problems with having abatement where we can't get permission from lot owners. Mailings that go out are being returned to us. In many instances, we can't find the owners. The county now has a grant ... \$300,000 has been dedicated to hire a consultant to advise the county. There is also FEMA money that will go toward clearing as many as 2,000 lots.

"The supervisors have asked that the committee look at the abatement process, to make it more streamlined and effective," Rutledge said. "Clearing around people's homes and home fire hardening is of ultimate importance to provide defensible space. I'm glad to know that board member Rick Williams will be the liaison with Sherwood Firewise attending meetings, and I hope he will also be working with the county committee."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak then spoke and reiterated what Rutledge had shared. "I've been the Chair of the County General Government Committee for the past two years," he said, "and we've been able to keep this [abatement] issue at the forefront. I won't continue to be on the County General Government Committee [next year], because I will most likely be the chair of the Board of Supervisors. Whoever is on that committee needs to be prompted to be the 'squeeze wheel' to keep attention on this very important issue, to make things work."

Editor's Note: More of reporter Barbara O'Reardon's comprehensive report on the November 12 Brooktrails board meeting will be published in next week's Thanksgiving edition on Wednesday, November 27.

The rest of Workshop From page 1

"We'll just have to collectively decide how conservative we want to be in setting aside money for unfunded liabilities," said board member Arnie Mello. "Short story, it should be a pretty easy decision because we're not in bad shape compared to some other districts, but that's also why this is a really good time to get this policy in place and make sure that we don't fall behind going forward."

Also, in new business, Chief Eric Alvarez, Deputy Chief John Thomen, and all the Little Lake staff have been busy maintaining the department's buildings and equipment in their down time. Alvarez said Thomen, a skilled jack of all trades, is meticulous about the upkeep of the department's assets. The fire crew generally does all its own maintenance, including roof repair, sealing asphalt, small and large engine repair, etc. The fact that they're able to do so much of this work themselves saves the department a significant amount of money every year.

Continuing in that same vein, Alvarez shared with the board the progress of equipment sales through the website, goveals.com. So far, Little Lake has generated \$7,666 in revenue from the sale of a utility vehicle, a camper shell, and other miscellaneous items. Deputy Chief Thomen will soon be listing a high-temperature acetylene torch through the site that's able to cut through thick metal, as well as some outdated SCBA tanks that would have otherwise been thrown away. Engine 5482, an older, Type 1 engine, will also potentially be listed on the site. Thomen is assessing how to properly price the low-mileage engine before putting it up for sale.

Further, Alvarez told the board he'll be attending the Northwest Leadership Seminar in March of 2025. The seminar has a long-running history, beginning in 1970 with a focus on fire management. It was first organized by the Portland Fire Bureau's Chiefs Association, and since then, has evolved into a training and education conference for all kinds of public safety leaders, according to its website.

The seminar, praised for its innovative leadership content, came highly recommended to Chief Alvarez. Presentation titles for the event include, "Ethics, Nobody Needs It ... Until They Get Caught," By Dr. Dale Henry, and "Emotional Survival," by Dr. Kevin M. Gilmartin, a behavioral scientist who wrote a book with the same title. Dr. Gilmartin's presentation is described by its summary as, "designed to assist public service professionals in developing behavioral strategies to prevent the loss of idealism and the emergence of inappropriate behavior patterns. It explores the short- and long-term effects that high-stress careers can have on both personal and professional aspects of life."

The conference will also give Alvarez the chance to connect and network with other emergency service professionals in the region, and the opportunity to share ideas and glean a little wisdom from the experiences of public safety leaders he would normally not otherwise be exposed to.

Lastly, the burn ban lifted on November 1, Chief Alvarez wants to remind folks to please adhere to burn permit requirements. The maximum pile size is 4 feet in diameter with a minimum clearance of 10 feet from all flammable material. There must be an adult in attendance with a shovel until the fire is out, and there needs to be a water supply at the burn site, no matter how wet it is outside. Burn permits can be obtained through Little Lake Fire, CALFIRE, or Mendocino County Air Quality Management District, online at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd/ or in person.

MCSO releases name of jail inmate who died

Submitted by MCSO

November 19 – The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Coroner's Unit has provided notification to the Sheriff's Office Corrections Division that the next of kin of the inmate found unresponsive at the Mendocino County Jail has been located and notified of his death.

The individual has been identified as being Issa Niambele, a 40-year-old male from Ukiah, Niambele.

The cause and manner of death is still pending an official determination by the Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy-Coroner. Once that determination is made, a subsequent press release will be publicly disseminated.

As the October 30 press release from MCSO reported: on October 29, after a MCSO corrections deputy noticed two inmates inside a holding cell at the jail who were apparently asleep on the floor, the deputy determined one was unresponsive, "absent breathing and a pulse."

Lifesaving efforts by corrections personnel and the onsite Naphcare medical personnel, then from the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority "resulted in the individual regaining a pulse."

But after being transported to the Adventist Health Ukiah Valley Emergency Department, where further advanced lifesaving efforts were continually provided after admittance, Niambele was pronounced deceased on October 30, 2024 at approximately 12:14 am.

Editor's Note: Issa Niambele was booked into the Mendocino County Jail on October 29, at 1:22 am, on a felony charge of "Arson of Structure of Forest Land" and a misdemeanor charge of "Unauthorized Non-Agricultural Burning."

The rest of River From page 1

"In the interest of public safety due to the wet ground conditions and high winds potentially disturbing the tree canopy above the park, City crews have posted 'ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK' signs mounted on barricades at the entrances to the park and are recommending that people avoid the area until the storms pass."

The City of Willits has a sandbag station set up in the parking lot of City Hall, which will be checked and stocked at the beginning of the day and at the end of the afternoon shift, as materials are available over the new few days.

"We ask that you only take what you need and be courteous of others who may also be trying to pull their vehicles close to the pile for loading. If dump trucks or other loading equipment is attempting to restock the sand, please give them the right of way and maintain a safe distance."

Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall posted a storm prep update on the "Mendocino Sheriff" page on Facebook Tuesday night. "We are beginning preparations for the upcoming winter storm," Kendall wrote. "Today the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services held a meeting with our state and local partners regarding the upcoming storm which will materialize over the next couple of days."

"The National Weather Service is predicting heavy rains beginning Wednesday afternoon and continuing through Friday. Weather models show we could receive between 2 and 4 inches per day along with windy conditions. This will likely cause trees and debris to fall and could cause power outages across the county."

"The biggest concerns are mostly in Northern Mendocino County, from the Willits area north, however it is likely this storm could likely impact larger portions of our county," Sheriff Kendall wrote.

"Crews from Mendocino County Department of Transportation, as well as Caltrans, PG&E and our local and state fire service have been staged and prepared to serve our residents during this time.

"Please, if you see our crews out working, cut them a wide swath as you pass. These folks will be working extremely hard over the next few days and nights, in dangerous conditions. These conditions become more dangerous when vehicle traffic is added into the equation."

"Please, if you see a barricade don't drive around it. Don't drive over flooded areas, and if you can, stay home if you don't absolutely need to travel. When you see our crews, let's try to use extra caution and meet all of these folks halfway to keep them safe while they are out working in some pretty dangerous conditions. They deserve to make it home safe to their families," Sheriff Kendall wrote.

The PG&E Outage Map <https://pgealerts.alerts.pge.com/outage-tools/outage-map/> reported multiple outages along the Mendocino coast Wednesday morning, due to the weather. But so far, no outages have been reported in the Willits area.

In a Tuesday afternoon press release (see Page 2) PG&E reported it was pre-positioning crews and inspectors and pre-staging equipment in key areas preparation for the storm, and has opened its Emergency Operations Center in Vacaville to assist in the coordination of storm response and restoration efforts.

The rest of Survey From page 1

your opinions, concerns, and interest regarding these mobile businesses in our city. Your input will help guide the development of a fair and balanced ordinance that supports both local businesses and residents. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated."



A MCFSC crew member provides free home hardening help for an income-eligible senior.

Fire Safe Council offers free home-hardening help for income-eligible seniors

Submitted by MCFSC

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council offers a number of programs to help local people survive and thrive in a wildfire-prone environment. One key ingredient in making a property more fire-resistant is creating defensible space, which means clearing vegetation from around homes. It's hard work, and if you can't do it yourself, it's expensive. For retired people on a fixed income, it's easy to let high-dollar hard labor fall to the bottom of the priority list.

MCFSC is offering to do some of that work at no cost for income-eligible senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Its Defensible Space Assistance for Income Eligible program is funded by Mendocino County through disaster-relief funds from PG&E following the 2017 Redwood Complex wildfire. Program Coordinator Bobbie Delgado makes the case for creating defensible space.

"Defensible space is crucial for wildfire safety," Delgado says. She describes the levels of clearance that are required by law and are key for wildfire defense and firefighter safety. Zone 0 is the area within 5 feet of the home, where intense fuel-reduction is needed to protect against ember ignition. Zones 1 and 2 extend from 5 to 30 feet and 30 to 100 feet from the home. The work entails varying levels of vegetation management, depending on the zone, from keeping branches at least 10 feet away from chimneys to ensuring proper placement between shrubs and trees, and making sure that flammable items are not stowed under decks and stairs.

The program is administered with a light touch. It uses HUD guidelines to determine income eligibility, but relies largely on the trust that's so essential in a well-functioning community, allowing self-certification rather than requiring income documentation.

So far, over 439 Mendocino County residents have

been served by the Defensible Space program, with a goal of serving another 100 per year until 2026. Other local agencies are pitching in, too: some senior centers and neighborhood fire safe councils help people apply for the program. Some firefighting agencies also offer help with applications and even provide their own crews to perform the defensible-space work. So far, the Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company, the Leggett Valley Fire District, and the Anderson Valley Fire Department have joined the DSAFIE effort.

Delgado emphasizes that the Defensible Space program is nothing like the invasive clear-cutting that some landowners have experienced at the hands of state agencies or utilities. "We really try to focus on the client's needs," she declares. There is always a work plan for clients to review and approve. "We might make recommendations, but we won't go in and cut your prize roses and clear all the trees you have for privacy around your home," she says reassuringly.

There is an educational aspect, too, with crew members offering suggestions that clients are free to incorporate or reject. "We always respect our clients' needs," Delgado says. "But we also try to focus on the next step that they could take to prevent any risks around their home." Ideally, people will eventually do all of the work needed to minimize their risk from wildfire, including having a completely nonflammable Zone 0 (the 5 feet immediately around the home). And the program may require more work in the future. But for now, the Defensible Space is giving people a good start toward becoming wildfire-prepared.

You can apply for the Defensible Space program on MCFSC's website at firesafemendocino.org/dsafir or by calling Bobbie Delgado at (707) 462-3662.



School of Adaptive Agriculture awarded USDA Rural Business Development Grant

Submitted by SAA

Mendocino County's School of Adaptive Agriculture was awarded a Rural Business Development Grant from the USDA to expand SAA's Farm Business Accelerator Program. The grant period is one year, and will provide support for a cohort of four to five farm businesses in the program.

The SAA campus at Ridgewood Ranch includes 6 acres of fenced, flat land with hookups to ag water, access to a shared tool and equipment library and cold storage, and some on-site housing. The program also offers technical support and mentorship for the participating farmers. Participants in the program can opt in to specific uses that will be appropriate for their business, with the option to farm at the SAA campus for up to three years. Applications for the program will be available on the SAA website on November 22 for the 2025 season.

Grant activities will also focus on developing more affordable land access options for farmers across the county in partnership with other organizations who share this goal; including North Coast Opportunities, the Mendocino Land Trust, the University of California Hopland Research and Extension Center, Agriculture and Natural Resources Division, and others.

Program staff will include Caroline Radice, owner of Black Dog Farm & Catering and co-founder of the Good Farm Fund, and Katherine Flink, graduate from the SAA Practicum Program who has gone on to be both field manager and Practicum Program coordinator for SAA.

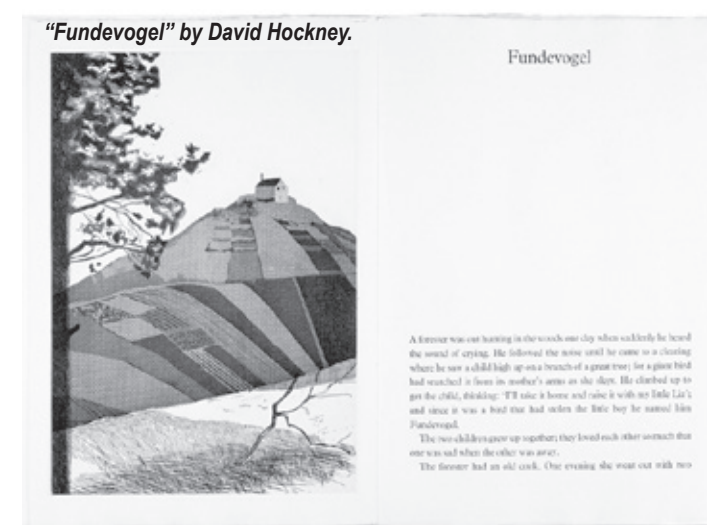
Find out more about the School of Adaptive Agriculture at schoolofadaptiveagriculture.org/



At top: Participants in a School of Adaptive Agriculture Orchard Workshop smile for a photo in the sun. At left: Michael Foley, founder and director of the School of Adaptive Agriculture, speaks at last year's Harvest Dinner at the Little Lake Grange.



"Earth Water 2017" by Loren Madsen.



"Fundevogel" by David Hockney.



"Jo," a silver gelatin print, by Markus Pfitzner.

Mendocino College Gallery show features works from the Permanent Collection

Submitted by Mendocino College

The Mendocino College Gallery is thrilled to announce "If You'll Never Leave Me, I'll Never Leave You," an ambitious exhibition featuring modern photography, prints, and conceptual sculptures. The exhibition includes works by renowned artists such as David Hockney, Isabel Bishop, Reginald Marsh, and Frank Gehry from the Mendocino College Gallery Permanent Collection. Additionally, the exhibition will showcase sculptures by Loren Madsen and photography by faculty member Markus Pfitzner and students.

The opening reception on Thursday, November 21, from 4:30 to 7 pm, will coincide with "Light Matters," a captivating performance by the Mendocino College Repertory Dance Company. Tickets for "Light Matters" are available at the door, at the Mendocino Book Company in Ukiah, or online

at www.artsmendocino.org. General admission is \$15, and student tickets are \$10. For more information, please call (707) 468-3079.

This exhibition features the Mendocino College Gallery's Permanent Collection, including a generous donation of works collected by Loren Madsen during his 30-year career as an artist in New York City. Highlights include David Hockney's "Fundevogel," from the "Illustrations for Six Fairy Tales" from The Brothers Grimm series, small drawings from Frank Gehry's sketchbook, and abstracted photographs of land-artist Lita Albuquerque by Steve Kahn. Etchings by Isabel Bishop, Paul Cadmus, William Wiley, and Reginald Marsh are also on display.

Loren Madsen's statistic-driven minimalist sculptures in

wood, addressing conceptual concerns such as the ratio of saltwater to freshwater on Earth and the number of terrorist deaths in the United States, are featured throughout the gallery. The exhibition also includes faculty member Markus Pfitzner's series of motion-based black and white photographs on vintage paper, edition 1 of 1, along with a selection of student works.

This exhibition is free and open to the public, and will run through January 23, 2025, at the Mendocino College Gallery, Center Theater Lobby, Center for the Visual & Performing Arts, 1000 Hensley Creek Road in Ukiah. Gallery hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 3:30 pm; Wednesdays from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm; or by appointment during Winter Break – email Gallery Director Jazzminh Moore at jmoore@mendocino.edu

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The rest of Santa

From page 9
Train is a heritage railroad that has been operating both freight and passenger service since 1885. Initially used to move redwood logs to the Mendocino Coast sawmills from the rugged back country, the Skunk Train has become a beloved institution touted as one of the "10 Best Rail Tours in the Country" (USA Today), and a "Top 10 Family Activity in California" (National Geographic Traveler).
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The rest of Gary

From page 12
Arts. "I came to Willits 25 years ago, when the Willits Center for the Arts was in an earlier phase," Martin explained. "Holly Madrigal asked me to curate shows for the WCA. I told her I was an art snob, and she responded by telling me I could have carte blanche on any exhibit I wanted to bring to the Center. So I said, OK!" Martin estimated that he has curated and hung nearly 100 exhibitions at Willits Center for the Arts since that day.

The outgoing WCA curator recalled the amazing variety of exhibits and openings that he has overseen at WCA. "Ursula Partch's gallery installation of a forest of fabric was stunning and surprising.

"Another memorable show that I produced featured Loren Madsen and Linda MacDonald. Loren did an installation piece that was amazing, filling the room. Linda MacDonald astounded with her very large paintings, some up to 6 feet in height."

Martin said that one of the most challenging things about his work as a curator is remembering people's names and deadlines. He advises both curators and artists to put all relevant

deadlines on their personal calendars. He also has tips for would-be exhibitors.

"Before contacting a gallery, prepare a cohesive portfolio and artist statement," Martin emphasized. "Clear communication and meeting deadlines are essential. And be aware of the importance of respecting exhibit guidelines and gallery space. Most of all, be professional!"

In addition to his many exhibitions, Martin has continued with his first passion, teaching. "I currently reach over 2,500 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, in Covelo, Laytonville and Willits, as well as with the Sherwood tribe," Martin explained. "I feel that my art history classes have provided students in our rural area with a greater sensitivity and appreciation for the arts."

Martin has been named Teacher of the Year in Mendocino County and was recently elected Art Champion of Mendocino County. In 2023 he was awarded the Visual Arts Arts Teacher of the Year for Elementary Schools, and he hopes to recruit artists and teachers to continue the volunteer teaching program which has reached so many

Ho ho ho! Merry Christmas!

It's Santa here, writing to all of you in the wonderful town of Willits. I've loved visiting with you each year, and my heart is full of joy from all the love and cheer you've shared with me. You've made my Christmas journeys so very special, and I'll always treasure the memories of our visits. This year, however, I must let you know that I have to spread my holiday cheer far and wide. There are many other children across the world who are also waiting for my visits, and it's important that I share my magic with all of them.

But don't worry, I've not forgotten you. To make sure you still feel the holiday spirit, I've asked some of my special helpers to visit JD Redhouse & Co.! They'll be there to take fun Christmas photos and, most importantly, collect any letters you have for me. I know it's not quite the same, but I promise I will be thinking of you all!

Remember, Christmas isn't just about the presents or the visits; it's about the love, the kindness, and the magic we share together. Keep being the wonderful, kind-hearted children I know you to be, and know that I'll be sending extra Christmas cheer your way. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas filled with joy, love, and lots of holiday magic!

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