

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

It was such a pleasure to cut the ribbon at Roots Restaurant at the hospital last week. I'm so proud of the people that work at Howard Hospital and how they just never quit reaching for the stars.

While certainly things have changed from the old hospital to the new one, the spirit and willingness of the employees to do whatever it takes to give excellent care and service is alive and well. We are a family, and it's very evident.

Howard Hospital has reached Gold designation for the Planetree program, which is no easy feat.

Recently, they received a coveted award for 10 years of no central line bloodstream infections which very few hospitals achieve. They also received a one-year award for no c-deficit infections, which is a really big deal and shows they are good stewards of administering antibiotics.

Now, Roots is a certified Blue Zone restaurant, which means that the community has access to a public restaurant that serves healthy plant-based food with many menu options, much of it from our beautiful organic garden. Roots is a place where the public chooses to eat, unlike so many hospitals that serve "institutional" food that most people would not want to eat at all.

I am so proud of the employees that continue to reach out to find programs to engage in that make our small rural hospital an exceptional place. We are blessed to have the caliber of people who work here and to have such an outstanding, award-winning hospital.

Congratulations for a job well done.

Margie Handley, president,
Frank R. Howard Foundation

Give to your Art Center

To the Editor:

Willits Center for the Arts is once again reaching out to ask that you consider extending your loyal sponsorship and support of our community Art Center. Your generosity has maintained our building and ongoing educational and creative programs for 24 years. Thanks to your generous support, we look forward to educating and inspiring our community well into our 25th year!

Willits Center for the Arts Board of Directors and our cadre of hard-

working volunteers have continued to maintain historical offerings, such as our monthly gallery openings and exhibits, a highlight of cultural life in Willits, our popular Art Talk series, and our long-running Life Drawing group.

We also offer regular classes and open studios in ceramics, master classes in painting, photography, and collage, and our ever-popular movement classes, which provide opportunities for everything from yoga to ecstatic dance. We strive to engage area youth from the Willits, Covelo and Laytonville schools, and to offer free and low-cost classes and workshops to community members of all ages.

We are very excited to share our new membership structure for 2024, which includes expanded membership tiers, benefits, and payment options. Our new membership structure aims to encourage both financial support and personal engagement.

Email, call, or drop by and talk to our Volunteer Coordinator Alexis Halleck to find out more about using volunteer hours to pay for a membership. To sign up for monthly automated payments, please go to the membership section of our website. We hope you will find a level that works for you at www.willitscenterforthearts.org/

Remember to sign up to receive our weekly email newsletter at the bottom of the homepage to keep in touch with all the latest happenings at the WCA. Other ways to support the Art Center include taking classes, purchasing gift cards or items from the gift shop, or buying art at one of the gallery exhibits.

To make a lasting contribution, consider including Willits Center for the Arts in your will or setting up an endowment. Reach out to one of our board members to see if this is a good fit for you.

Please ensure that Willits Center for the Arts remains one of Mendocino County's most valuable arts venues by becoming a member, renewing your WCA membership, or making a tax-deductible donation today (Federal Tax Id 47-5851850).

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and thank you for your continued support!

Willits Center for the Arts Board of Directors: Sandy Strong, Laura Wiecek, Judy Fisch, Lisa Kvasnicka, Gary Martin, Alexis Halleck, Eric Hart, Margi Gomez Guhde, and Emmy Good

'Light Up the Park'

Submitted by Willits FFA

Willits FFA and the City of Willits invite you to sponsor the 1st Annual Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting, planned for Saturday, December 9 at 7 pm at City Park / Bud Snyder Park, with live music and vendors.

Sponsorship is \$125 per tree. We must receive sponsorship form and check by November 30, 2023.

Tree decorating will take place from December 4 through December 9 at 4 pm. Each business will have its own 5.5-6' tree to decorate with your own decorations. Please use solar or battery-operated lights (power will not be accessible).

Each tree will have a QR code placed on your tree that will link to your website.

For sponsorship or vendor application forms, check Natalie Spackman's page on Facebook or contact Dayana Estrada at dayanaestrada@willitsunified.com or Kelley Brackett at kbrackett@willitsunified.com / (707) 459-7700.

Mendocino College Ceramic Holiday Sale

Submitted by Mendocino College

Ukiah - The festive season is fast approaching, and Mendocino College is proud to announce its much-anticipated Ceramic Holiday Sale, set to take place on Friday, December 1 from 11 am to 4 pm. Join us for a day of holiday cheer, exquisite ceramic wares, and community collaboration.

Hosted by the Mendocino College Ceramics Club, this event promises a delightful experience for all. The ceramics on display will feature a wide array of options, including beautiful holiday gifts, kitchen and dining wares, and collectibles, each uniquely crafted by our talented student artisans.

What truly sets this event apart is the spirit of community and collaboration. In addition to the Ceramics Club, several other Mendocino College organizations will be participating. The Mendocino College Horticulture Club will offer crafted holiday wreaths to enhance your seasonal ambience. The Textile Club will showcase their handmade textile creations, adding warmth and comfort to your home. And don't forget to visit the NCO's Caring Kitchen Project booth, where you can indulge in delicious homemade treats.

This Ceramic Holiday Sale will be a joyful gathering, celebrating the spirit of the season with an array of artistic creations and a welcoming atmosphere. So, mark your calendars for December 1, and join us at Mendocino College Lowery Student Center, Ukiah Campus, 1000 Hensley Creek Road, from 11 am to 4 pm to start your holiday shopping and festivities in style.

Follow the Ceramics Club on Facebook [Mendocino College Ceramics Club], and Instagram [Mendocino_College_Ceramics].

Mendocino College is a community college located in Ukiah, dedicated to fostering cultural diversity, educational excellence, and community engagement.

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Wednesday, November 22: Hot Dogs, Chili, Mac & Cheese

Thursday, November 23: Center Closed but hosting free WCS Thanksgiving Dinner

Friday, November 24, Center Closed: Happy Thanksgiving weekend!

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

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.

Help with past-due, current water bills

Posted by City of Willits

The City of Willits is now enrolled in the California Department of Community Services & Development Low Income Water Assistance Program.

This program - LIHWAP - is a federally funded program that offers one-time support to help low-income households pay past-due or current residential water and sewer bills and keep their water on.

Many low-income residents behind on their water or sewer bills have received hundreds or even thousands of dollars in financial support to help pay their bills.

LIHWAP is administered by the California Department of Community Services and Development, which works with local water bill assistance service providers to connect low-income households to the financial support they need.

Does my income qualify?

Many low-income households across the state are already income-qualified to receive help paying past due or current water and sewer bills through LIHWAP.

- Your household is income-qualified if:

- Your total household gross income is at or below 60% of the State Media Income, or

- A household member is a current recipient of CalFresh, CalWORKS, or the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

For more details about income eligibility and how to apply if you are a renter, visit : <https://www.csd.ca.gov/waterbill>.

Or contact North Coast Energy Services at 966 Mazzoni Street, Suite 3B, Ukiah; 707-463-0303; www.northcoasteergy.com This local service provider offers residential water and sewer bill assistance to low-income households in your area through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.



Above, from left: Willits Wolverine Gunner Globe, #55, tries to break through the crowd of Knights during Friday's game. Wolverines carry flags on the field before the beginning of the game. WHS Quarterback Kooper Dockins, #7, gets ready to make a pass during Friday's game.

Photos by Ava Dockins



Above, left: WHS Wolverine Quarterback Kooper Dockins sits atop the shoulders of his teammates after last Friday's win. Above, right: Wolverines and Knights wait for the snap, helmet to helmet, on the line of scrimmage. Below, left: Willits Wolverine #8 Justin Coleman tries to leave the tangle of Knights at his feet. Below, right: Steven Husarek, #54, gets ready to make a play.

DIVISION 7 PLAYOFFS

Wolverines dominate Knights, roll into finals

Willits' 31-7 victory features plenty of big plays

By Brian Sumpter, Lake County Sports

Willits - It was a big play that beat Kelseyville during its first trip to Willits on October 13, a pattern that repeated itself many times over Friday, November 17 as the No. 2-seeded Wolverines ended the No. 3 Knights' season with a decisive 31-7 victory in the semifinals of the North Coast Section Division 7 football playoffs at Willits High School.

Willits (9-3) advances to the Division 7 championship game next Friday (November 24) against No. 5 seed Ferndale (8-4) at Ukiah High School. Kickoff is 7 pm. Ferndale upset No. 1 seed Clear Lake 20-12, also on Friday night, to complete the finals pairing.

Willits used an 80-yard kickoff return to score the winning points in a 20-18 league victory over the Knights a month ago, and four of the Wolverines' five touchdowns in the rematch were either the result of big plays or set up by a big play.

"Big plays got us," said Kelseyville head coach Leo Flores of what he called a "sloppy" performance by the Knights, who were trying to reach the sectional finals for the first time since 1999. Unfortunately, their fifth semifinal-round performance in the last eight years wasn't sharp at all, as the Knights were whistled for more than 100 yards in penalties while committing three turnovers.

"Offense and defense were in sync," said Willits Wolverines Quarterback Kooper Dockins, #7, "and that high energy made it way harder for Kelseyville to do anything either way."

- Ava Dockins



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The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters 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.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. 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. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.



Do you have something to say? Write a letter to the editor!

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor.

Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com



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Kelseyville defensive coordinator Logan Barrick pulled double duty as offensive coordinator as Jeremy Linnell was unable to attend the game because of a family emergency.

"We shot ourselves in the foot too many times," Barrick said.

The Wolverines were led by Varsity Head Coach Brandon Norbury.

While a light rain fell at times during the game, there were also plenty of breaks in the weather that both sides tried to take advantage of with their passing games. In fact, Kelseyville's only touchdown, a 15-yard pass from Brock Barrick to Tyler Bryant on a third-and-10 play with 9:46 left in the first quarter, staked the Knights to their one and only lead of the game at 7-6 as Jose Juarez added the extra-point kick that Willits' Christian Ramirez missed after the Wolverines went up 6-0 with less than two minutes gone in the game on a 29-yard pass, also on a third-and-10 play, from quarterback Kooper Dockins to wide receiver Corey Rocky.

That was the first of the big plays for the Wolverines, but hardly the last. The longest play from scrimmage followed in the second quarter when Dockins and Kolbe Bufardeci hooked up on a 70-yard catch and run that put the Wolverines ahead to stay 12-7 with 2:49 left in the first half and was greatly aided by a missed tackle that made the play possible. Willits just came up short on the two-point conversion run.

Kelseyville pushed the ball into Willits territory on its only two possessions of the second quarter, turning it over on downs the first time when running back Max Hommer was stuffed for no gain on a fourth-and-two play from the Willits 32-yard line. The Knights were on the move in the final seconds of the first half when a Barrick pass was intercepted by Clayton Cooley.

The Knights came out in the second half in a double-tight end eye formation determined to shove the ball down the Wolverines' throats. They picked up two first downs after taking the kickoff, but Willits' swarming defense quickly shut things down, eventually forcing a punt.

Willits wasted no time adding to its lead, a 40-yard pass from Dockins to Bufardeci plus an additional 15-yards for a facemask, moving the ball to the Kelseyville 13. Finn Lessner scored four plays later on a 1-yard run for an 18-7 Wolverines lead.

Willits was on the move again late in the quarter after inheriting great field position following a short Kelseyville punt that rolled out of bounds at the Willits 49. The Wolverines punched the ball out to near midfield with four straight runs before Dockins connected with Lessner on a second-and-17 play early in the fourth quarter. Lessner changed course after coming down with the ball, cutting back to his left toward the Willits sideline where he found a clear path to the end zone. The 46-yard touchdown made it 24-7 only 26 seconds into the final period.

Kelseyville turned the ball over on each of its next two possessions, the second takeaway resulting in the Wolverines' final touchdown, a 1-yard Lessner run with 3:26 remaining.

While it was a humbling way for the Knights to end a successful 8-4 season, Flores said he is looking forward to next year when his squad returns the bulk of its starters.

"We're a junior-dominated team, and these guys are getting better and better," Flores said. "I think this experience will help them going forward."

Barrick said the Knights' defense should only be better next season.

"The two rushing touchdowns we allowed tonight were only the fourth and fifth we allowed this season," he said. "Middletown had the other three."

Willits' defense has been downright stingy in this year's playoffs. The Wolverines have allowed only 14 points in their first two games. They limited Kelseyville to 118 yards on the ground and 150 overall. If they beat Ferndale in the Division 7 finals, it will secure their first section title since 1991.

Game Notes: The two teams had to be separated while exchanging handshakes, and a bit extra, following the game, but there were no other incidents. While the Wolverines celebrated their victory near the south end zone, the Kelseyville underclassmen and coaches lined up to congratulate each of their seniors in turn, a Knights tradition.

While Willits will be playing for its first sectional title since 1991 when quarterback Brian Murphy guided the team to a championship – the Wolverines also reached the finals in 1992 (losing to Upper Lake) and in 1993 (losing to Fort Bragg) – Ferndale, a small-school power with a rich football tradition, is gunning for a 14th NCS crown.

When Willits last won the section title, in 1991, the team the Wolverines beat was Middletown, 22-14. Middletown jumped out to a 14-0 lead before Willits rallied. That was head coach Bill Foltmer's first appearance in a section final for the Mustangs. Fort Bragg's victory over Willits in the 1993 finals was the first of four straight section victories by the Timberwolves under former head coach Jack Moyer.

Lake County Sports will release its All-County football team in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks to "Lake County Sports" on Facebook for permission to print their coverage of the Willits vs. Kelseyville game on November 17. "Lake County Sports... It's not our job, but it is our passion."



Photos by Mathew Caine



Photo courtesy Cali VibeZ

Above, left: Cali VibeZ is open in the north half of the historic building located at 215 South Main Street. Above, right: Specialty hats can be found in abundance on the shelves. At left: The Cali VibeZ logo made by Wild Sparrow Creations. Below, left: Yesenia Cisneros wants to provide Willits with affordable and colorful clothing. Below, right: T-shirts are available for people of all ages.

Cali VibeZ

New and used clothing store sells unique apparel and gifts



If Yesenia Cisneros can make her dreams and plans come to fruition, Cali VibeZ, formerly known as Nifty Thrifty, will exist for a very long time in Willits, providing quality new and used clothing, hats, blankets, hoodies, jackets, and other gift items.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Although this native Wailaki woman is getting a slow start due to having to wade through city permits which delayed her opening and caused her to lose a couple of months' income, she is determined to be able to offer an eclectic melange of items for all ages and persuasions.

Cisneros always uses "we" when referring to the store, as she wants to be able to create a business that she can pass down to her children. "I have three boys and one girl," said Cisneros. "The girl is the youngest. She's 6 and she runs everything. My daughter likes to come here and hang out and work."

Situated across from J.D. Redhouse at 215 South Main Street, Cisneros is currently working on getting up signage to make it easier to find the store, as well as a system of marketing to let the people of Willits know she has opened and what they can find at her location.

The shop, originally known as Nifty Thrifty, in its 39-year residence in Ukiah, was purchased 2.5 years ago by Cisneros, who was forced to move due to the renovations being done on the original Ukiah site. Cisneros, who has been living in Willits since 2003, decided to bring the store to its current expansive location.

"We changed the name because we possibly, one day, want to do all new items, but still at an affordable price. We want to bring in different items like toys, as well as allowing the community to sell their things. We would buy them wholesale from local artists, and market and sell them. We also wanted to change the name because we want to eventually do a clothing brand line. The name reflects the feeling of California. We wanted a name that would appeal to all types of people. We



Above, left: Unique graphic T-shirts are available at Cali VibeZ.

Above, right: With the vast array of clothing in all styles and sizes, it's easy to find a gift for oneself or a loved one.

At left: Cali VibeZ has a large selection of items not found anywhere else in town.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: Don "Grinch" Edwards pays a visit to Frosty the Snowman at the 2022 event.

Below, left: The 2022 crowd pours in to the Little Lake Grange for the Toy Run Party.

Below, right: A beautiful knife and cutting board from CJB Forge & Knife Works out of Redwood Valley was one of many silent auction items during last year's event.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

celebrate the season with food, music and more. The toy serves as admission to the event.

The actual event at the Little Lake Grange is preceded by the group bike ride, north from the Evergreen Shopping Center and ending at the Grange. The ride will take place, rain or shine, and participants are asked to gather at the Evergreen Shopping Center at noon to coordinate the pack takeoff. All bikes, riders and non-riders are welcome to attend the ride and following event.

Once at the Grange, a free lunch will be provided to attendees who bring an unwrapped toy, or \$10, for admission, and beverages will be available for an additional donation. Music by DJ Mikey T, dancing, prizes, live and silent auctions, giveaways and a 50/50 raffle will entertain guests.

All toys that are received at the event will be taken to Marcy Barry and the helpers of the Rotary Willits Christmas Kids Program who help fulfill the wishes of local families in need via the tags that hang on Christmas trees around town.



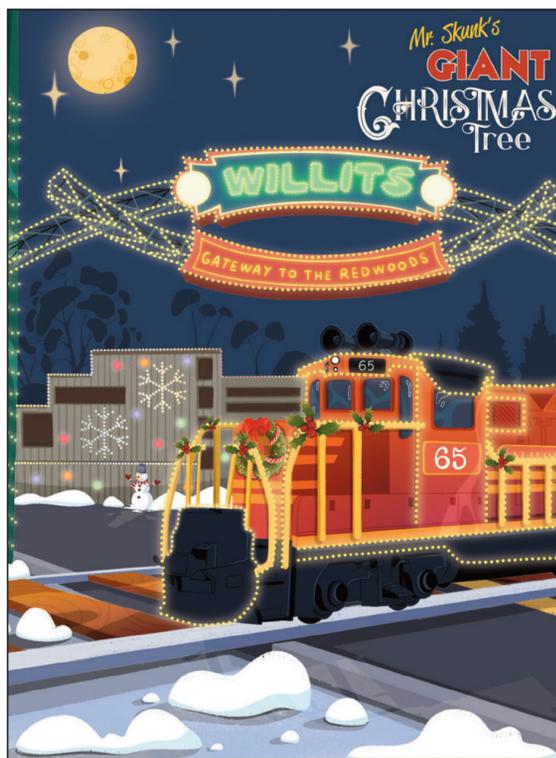
The 2023 Wild Bunch crew welcomes all to the upcoming Toy Run – and a fun time for all!

Photo by Maureen Jennison



The Toy Run biker parade approaches the Little Lake Grange down School Street. Below: Rich "Pops" Venturi and Ani McKay as the Toy Run parade of bikes arrives at the Grange.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Please feel free to visit our office for brochures, maps and additional information about the area

(707) 459-7910

Holiday Photos with Santa and The Grinch

December 3 and 9

There will be two chances this year to get your holiday photos taken by Maureen Jennison with Santa and The Grinch this year! The community is welcome to meet Santa Claus at J.D. Redhouse on Sunday, December 3 between 12 and 6 pm; The Grinch will be at the newly expanded Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot on Saturday, December 9 from 10 am to 5 pm. Digital images are just \$5 per group of people and the events will both be 50/50 fundraisers for local groups including the Soroptimist International of Willits and the Willits Charter School. No appointments are necessary, just come on by! Well-behaved pets are welcome! More info: 707-970-7047

Calvary Chapel Willits Presents

CHRISTMAS In The Park

Join us at Bud Snyder Park!

FRIDAY DECEMBER 1ST @ 6PM

Tree Lighting - Carols - Cookies - Hot Cocoa

What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, November 23
Happy Thanksgiving!

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Willits Community Services and Food Bank presents its annual Thanksgiving celebration, Thursday, November 23 at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. 11 am to 3 pm; drive-thru / to-go dinners: 1 to 3 pm; Seniors please reserve your delivered meal. Menu: Turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, yams, green beans, cranberries, green salad, roll, beverage, and pie. Call the Food Bank to volunteer or for more info: (707) 459-3333 or (707) 354-3660.

Friday, November 24

'Wait Until Dark' at WCT: Last weekend for famed psychological thriller at Willits Community Theatre. The 1966 play debuted in its widely popular film version in 1967, starring Audrey Hepburn, Alan Arkin, and Efram Zimbalist, Jr. Directed by Mathew Caine, the WCT production features veteran WCT actors Steve Marston as Roat and Sarah France as Susy. Also appearing are Joshua Sternberg, Talisman Marshall, Garrett Moore, Zoe Robertson, Emma Pyle, Austin Peterson and Ben Wilson. 37 West Van Lane, with shows on Friday, November 24 and Saturday, November 25 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, November 26 matinee at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20; available online at www.wctperformartcenter.org or at the door.

Forrest & Friends post-Thanksgiving Bash: Shanachie Pub's traditional "Day After Thanksgiving" party, Friday, November 24, 8 pm, with Forrest & Friends, features Forrest Glycer and Malakai Schindel of Schindig, joined by some of the best local musicians and singer-songwriters around, as special guests for this special night. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, November 25

Toy Depot Grand-Reopening: You are invited to attend the Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot's Re-Grand Opening on Saturday, November 25 at the Toy Depot, 262 East Commercial Street. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 am. Expect food, door prizes, sales, and fun!

'Wait Until Dark' at WCT: Famed psychological thriller shows at 7:30 pm, Saturday, November 25. See November 24 listing for more details.

Jon Gonzales at Shanachie: Ukulele-strumming artist from the Bay Area, "Jon Gonzales weaves ukulele folk-hooks with lyrical psychedelic satire and paradoxical, universal subjects in his songs." Saturday, November 25 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot

GRAND OPENING

Sales all weekend!
11am-5pm
Ribbon cutting ceremony, with food, drinks and prizes on Saturday, 11am-4pm

JOIN US FOR THANKS GIVING DINNER

at the Willits Community Services and Food Bank's 34th annual event

THURSDAY, 11/23

at the Willits Senior Center
1501 Baechtel Road, Willits

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DRIVE-THRU for TO-GO
1 pm - 8 pm

Call to reserve: 707-459-3333 or 707-354-3660

Admission: one unwrapped toy and/or \$10. Giveaway prizes, live & silent auction, 50/50 raffle. Free lunch - beverages provided for additional donation. Music by DJ Mikey T. All bikes, all riders, and non-riders are welcome to the party. The Grange, 291 School Street.

'Wait Until Dark' at WCT: Closing performance of this famed psychological thriller, 2 pm matinee, Sunday, November 26. See November 24 listing for more details.

Wednesday, November 29

Rental Ordinance Public Meeting: Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services invites you to participate in a community engagement meeting Wednesday, November 29, 5:30 to 7 pm at the Willits Library to learn about and discuss the Inland Short-Term Rental Ordinance process. This meeting will include an overview presentation, question and answer session, and details on how to provide comments. Planning and Building Staff will be available to answer questions.

Hilary & Christiane at Shanachie: Folk-based country and blues and unique vocals and harmonies by Sonoma County-based multi-instrumental duo Hilary & Christiane - harmonica, ukelele, dobro, mandolin, and banjo. "Fun and engaging to audiences of all ages." Saturday, December 2 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Thursday, November 30

'A Touch of Mendocino' at the Library: "What is Hypnosis?" Certified local hypnotist Margaret Andrews guides her audience through an informative and experiential program on hypnosis and its benefits. Thursday, November 30 from 11 am to 12 pm. "A Touch of Mendocino County" series takes place on the last Thursday of the month at the library meeting room. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Seating is limited. Info: visit www.mendolib.org or call the Willits Library at 707-459-5908.

Sunday, November 26

31st Annual Willits Toy Run: The annual Willits Toy Run, the kick-off to the Willits Kids Christmas Program, is presented by the Willits Wild Bunch on Sunday, November 26. The day starts with a Meet and Greet at the Evergreen Shopping Center. The motorcycle pack leaves at noon for a beautiful ride through Little Lake Valley to Little Lake Grange.

Friday, December 1

Christmas in the Park: Presented by Calvary Chapel Willits. Join us at Bud Snyder Park, on Friday, December 1 at 6 pm. Tree Lighting, Carols, Cookies, Hot Cocoa.

Donnie "Mississippi Saxophone" at Shanachie: Local harmonica (aka "Mississippi saxophone") player Donnie and his friends and fellow musicians play an improvisational variety of Chicago style Blues, Rock, Funk, Latin & West African music. Friday, December 1 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, December 2

PTO Holiday Bazaar: Brookside and Blosser Lane Parent Teacher Organizations host a Holiday Bazaar, Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3, 11 am to 4 pm, at the Blosser Lane Cafeteria, 1275 Blosser Lane Cafeteria. Come join us for a weekend of raffle prizes from local merchants, shopping, food, music and fun. Visit from Santa and pics 12 to 3 pm.

WCA Free Ceramic Ornament Workshop: Join us for creativity and community as ceramics instructor Sofia Alaoui hosts this free workshop, Saturday, December 2 from 1 to 4 pm, with a community polluck. Embark on a journey of self-expression through the art of ornament-making. Paint your ornament and have it glazed! Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. No registration necessary, just show up.

Sunday, December 3

Laytonville Holiday Bazaar: Join over 40 local arts & crafts vendors to kick-start your holiday shopping at the Laytonville Holiday Bazaar. Sunday, December 3 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Tin Gym (new location), 200 Branscomb Road. Info: 707-984-8089.

2023 Roots Holiday Express: Roots of Motive Power's annual free Holiday Express celebration set for Saturday, December 2, from 11 am to 4 pm at the Roots yard, 420 East Commercial Street. Trains, Treats, Free train rides

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Ongoing Events

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.

Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl: "Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Games start at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of two, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've got everything you need!" Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main Street.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank: Twice-monthly drive-thru food distribution in Willits, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, located in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields, 9:30 to 11 am. Groceries to go, senior basket (for low-income seniors 60 or older), and diapers.

"Garraoke" at Diggers Bar: Karaoke night the second and fourth Friday of every month, with host and DJ Garrett Moore. "From 8 pm to midnight, then get down until closing!" Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays and Fridays at 3 pm: The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: .

Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym: Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers a free karate program for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 pm, for new students ages 7 and above. Use the back doors to enter. Special small child (Lil Dragons) classes only on Thursdays at 6 pm, ages 3 to 6. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0565. Program is continuous year-round. Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street.

Ongoing Events

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SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church
290 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:00 p.m.

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
• Sound of Soul events
• Membership Discourses
• Spiritual Discussions
• ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Modified Worship Service
10 a.m.
Other ministries suspended for now.
For appointments call:
(707) 459-3106

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

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

St. John Lutheran Church
Church Service:
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

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

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort
where all are welcome
Pastor Rosemary Landry
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@willitsonline.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



Above, left: Graphic Designer Kiersten Hanna, Marisela de Santa Anna from the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, and Senior City Planner Taylor Perry discuss the new signage project. Above, right: Local residents examine a variety of mapping options presented by Braggadon Signs and Graphics. At right, top: Lucy Bartholomew from Blue Zones Mendocino offers a public showing of the Willits mapping signage at a recent Willits Farmers Market. At right: Willits civic leaders and the general public attend a "First Look" reception for the proposed signage.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde



CAL FIRE offers kitchen safety tips for Thanksgiving

Submitted by CAL FIRE, Sacramento

Thanksgiving is an important time of the year for families and friends to come together. Whether you are gathering around the table to indulge in family recipes that have been passed down for generations, or you're creating something new in the kitchen this year, CAL FIRE has some kitchen safety tips to help you prevent accidental kitchen fires.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the holiday season sees a peak in home cooking fires. Data from 2017 to 2021 highlights unattended cooking as the primary cause of such fires and associated casualties. Each year, cooking fires cause hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries, and more than \$1 billion in damages. California experienced over 60,600 cooking fires from 2017 to 2022, which equates to over 1,000 cooking fires per month in our state alone in a five-year period. Nearly 5,300 of those fires resulted in injuries, with 571 unfortunately resulting in fatalities.

Frying the turkey instead of baking it for hours has become increasingly popular. "Cooking fires are preventable. Always use your device outdoors, have a fire extinguisher handy, and never use water to put out a grease fire. It's also important to remember when frying your turkey, fry on concrete, not grass, as any sparks on vegetation could cause a fire," advised California State Fire Marshal Daniel Berlant. "Never leave your turkey unattended, regardless of where and how you choose to cook it."

Following the proper safety precautions this holiday will help you and your family and friends enjoy a safe holiday.

Cooking safety tips

- Always stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period, turn off the stove and oven.
- Regularly check on food that is simmering, baking, or roasting; and use a timer to remind yourself that you're cooking.
- Turn pot handles towards the back of the stove.
- Keep children 3 feet away from the hot stove, and away from hot food and hot liquids.
- Never use water to put out a grease fire. Instead, turn the burner off and slide a lid over the flame. Baking soda can also be used to help extinguish a small grease fire.
- Make sure a fire extinguisher is in the kitchen and you know how to use it.
- Ensure you have working smoke alarms installed in your home. Press the test button and if the alarm does not beep, replace the unit immediately.
- When using a turkey fryer, be sure to follow instructions closely. Don't exceed the recommended oil level and only use the device outdoors. Never place a frozen or partially thawed turkey in hot oil.
- Know your exit routes in case of a fire emergency, get everyone out and then call 911.

For additional cooking safety tips, visit <https://www.nfpa.org/cooking>.



The rest of **Dams** | From page 1

to create a Two-Basin Solution for the project and establishing the Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee in 2018 when they learned that PG&E was surrendering the license. The committee, made up of a wide range of tribes, stakeholders, agencies, local governments, and PG&E, formed the basis for negotiations surrounding dam removal and water supply in the two watersheds.

Additional details of PG&E's plan

The utility must provide a plan to federal regulators as part of the license surrender process triggered by PG&E's decision to divest from the financially infeasible project, which has not generated power since 2021. PG&E must submit a final Draft License Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan to federal regulators in May 2024, and a Final License Surrender Application in January 2025.

PG&E's draft also includes, as an alternative for evaluation, a revised framework proposal from a regional group to negotiate terms for a new diversion facility that could support ongoing limited water diversions into the Russian River watershed after removing the dams, provided such diversions are consistent with the full recovery of the Eel River ecosystem to self-sustaining, harvestable populations.

Potter Valley Project background

The Potter Valley Project includes two Eel River dams, a diversion tunnel that moves water out of the Eel River watershed and into the East Branch of the Russian River, and a powerhouse. The project's owner, PG&E, has allowed its license for the operation to expire and is currently working with federal regulators to develop a license surrender and decommissioning plan for the facilities.

Located on the Eel River 20 miles northeast of Ukiah, Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam are over 100 years old. Equipment failures in 2021 caused project owner PG&E to permanently suspend hydropower operations. Water storage levels in Lake Pillsbury, the reservoir created by Scott Dam, have been reduced by more than 25% due to increased seismic safety concerns with the dam.

Scott Dam completely blocks fish passage to high-quality cold-water habitat in the Eel River headwaters. The smaller Cape Horn diversion dam has a faulty fish ladder that needs to be revised to meet current environmental standards.

Removing the Eel River dams would make the Eel California's longest free-flowing river and reconnect salmon and steelhead with almost 300 miles of cold-water habitat.

Tribes, conservation and commercial fishing groups have long advocated for a free-flowing Eel River. In 2023, American Rivers named the Eel one of America's Most Endangered Rivers, citing the Potter Valley Project dams as major factors driving Chinook salmon, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey toward extinction.

Congressman Jared Huffman represents California's 2nd Congressional District, which spans the North Coast of the state from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border, and includes Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties. He currently serves on the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. In the 118th Congress, he serves as Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries. He is the founder of the Congressional Freethought Caucus.

The rest of **Garbage** | From page 1

contract to be extended for an additional 19 months until December 2022. Following a brief discussion the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution transferring the franchise agreement for collection, transportation, disposal and recycling of garbage, refuse and rubbish from SWOW, Inc. to Redwood Waste Solutions, Inc.

Next on the agenda was "Resolution 2023-13 Establishing Solid Waste Rates for Calendar Year 2024." The general manager noted that at the next scheduled meeting of the board, Tuesday, December 12, a public hearing is set to discuss the rate adjustment which will result in an increase of \$1.77 per month for individual customers.

"Resolution 2023-12 regarding Senate Bill 1205 R-2 Inspection Report" was presented by Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer in a memo which provided the results of the state-mandated annual multi-residence inspection program for the calendar year 2023. The memo further stated that the results shall be reported to the fire department's governing body prior to the start of the new fiscal year annually as per SB1205.

For the year 2023, the Brooktrails Fire Department sent out 24 requests for inspection, and 12 have completed the inspection process. The inspection report will be filed with the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The board voted to accept the filing of the report and approve the resolution.

Next was "Consideration of Golf Course Operator Request that the District Purchase New Tables for the Golf Course Business." The Brooktrails Golf Course operator alleged that the district or district staff took tables that were stored in the Brooktrails Community Center.

Michael Rice, a golf course helper, stepped to the podium to address the issue. The golf course operator Marcus Newby was unable to be present. Rice's daughter, Jaclyn Christian Newby, was present but was unable to speak due to being ill with a bronchial condition.

Rice said there were initially seven round tables that were owned by the golf course, and during the COVID 19 pandemic all of the tables were stored in the Brooktrails Community Center. Two tables were recovered, and five are missing. After a short discussion, Director Ed Horrick said: "It doesn't look like any specific individual is at fault here in this situation. I guess the district was acting as custodian of the tables while they were stored here. I think the solution would be to split the cost of the replacement for the tables, approximately \$350."

Brooktrails Counsel Chris Neary provided that "irrespective of fault, there is a premise for district liability. On the other hand, if I was a judge, I would listen to the evidence, and I think that this would be a 50-50 deal."

Prior to a motion, Director Ralph Santos made the suggestion that if the golf course needed to store any items in the future that the items not be stored in the Brooktrails Community Center. All agreed that was a good suggestion.

Director Horrick then made the motion that the district reimburse the golf course operator for the purchase of the new tables not to exceed \$350 or if 50% of the cost is less than \$350, that the district pay that amount.

Finally, the last item on the evening's agenda: "Discussion of Future Water Treatment Plant Improvement Needs, Energy Efficiencies and Funding Alternatives." This item is a discussion on seeking qualifications and proposals from design-build firms capable of providing comprehensive energy, gas and water infrastructure improvements for energy efficiencies at the water treatment plant and throughout the Brooktrails District, as appropriate.

From the General Manager's Report: "Brooktrails staff is close to completing the major infrastructure projects that are underway and has been preparing to address operations and maintenance needs at the water treatment plant. Several improvements have already been identified as essential, and staff is preparing to address needed pipeline rehabilitation and potential tank replacement or repair to the treatment vessel(s)."

"It's been determined," the report continues: "that it would be helpful to have a comprehensive review of new technologies available for SCADA controls, electronic interfaces, energy or revenue generation, and energy efficiencies to reduce payments to the electric utility, and how the district's facilities can be improved to reduce costs to the ratepayers while responsibly managing its carbon footprint."

Brooktrails staff is prepared to circulate a request for proposals to get a better understanding of the costs of receiving those types of services, the potential bidders' availability and willingness to work in our rural area, and the feasibility of moving forward or executing a wider-ranging energy efficiency plan.

The board gave its full support for the general manager to direct staff to circulate a RFP to design-build firms who provide comprehensive review and recommendations for energy-efficiency improvements at the water treatment plant and throughout the District, as appropriate.

The rest of **CHP** | From page 1

The leading primary crash factors were impaired driving, speeding, and improper turning. Specialized enforcement operations will be conducted during the year focusing on areas with dangerous driving behaviors and crashes in an effort to protect life. Officers will also conduct public awareness campaigns in the Round Valley community.

"We are taking a proactive approach to respond and address the needs of the Round Valley community in Mendocino County," said CHP Lieutenant Commander Tami McCannless of the Garberville Area office.

Funding for this program was provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety through a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

Points of Interest

New signs with maps of Willits attractions unveiled, committee seeks public input

After almost a year of work, the Willits Signage Committee is announcing a new mapping project created to encourage the discovery and increased usage of Willits' unique community assets. Drafts of the new map designs were displayed at a "First Look" reception at the Mendocino County Museum on Wednesday, November 15, which was attended by a number of civic leaders, along with members of the public.

This initial offering featured visually distinctive options for the proposed signage, presented for public feedback by Kiersten Hanna, owner and creative director of Braggadon Signs and Graphics in Fort Bragg. Notes and stickers were available for public responses, and Hanna and a wide variety of local residents engaged in avid conversation, offering ideas and suggestions on the proposed project.

At the reception, Senior City Planner Taylor Perry, who has provided support and technical assistance on behalf of the city, expressed her enthusiasm for the mapping signage, explaining that the initiative will present an overall City of Willits map, along with four distinct district maps of the North Willits and South Willits districts, Downtown Willits, and the Recreation (Commercial Street) District, each with its own unique identity.

The mapping signage will be displayed at various city parking lots and other important locations such as the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Perry explained that the City of Willits envisions that the new mapping signage will bring increased community engagement, amplified

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






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Photos by Mathew Caine

Above, from left: Karen Mattson, Mendocino County Museum administrator and PTO member, passes out symbols for people to use to show their likes on the displays. Several pizzas are set out for people to eat while looking at the displays. Several displays show the various aspects of the Commercial Street project. At right: Willits City Manager Brian Bender and Leiloni Shine of the city planning department display the proposed plans for improvements.



Above: People of all ages enjoy perusing the displays to gather an understanding of the various parts of the project. At right: People mark the displays with stickers that they like. At right, below: Small maps and aerial views are distributed to those who wish to learn more. Below: Karen Mattson, administrator of the Mendocino County Museum, helps attendees with stickers and other materials.



Blueprint Viewing

Community members attend 'Beautify Willits' meeting at Baechtel Grove Middle School to give feedback on proposed plans

"We are excited because the city of Willits has agreed to bring their East Corridor presentation to Baechtel Grove Middle School," said Karen Mattson, Parent Teacher Organization member and Mendocino County Museum administrator.

Mathew Caine

Features Writer

willitsweekly@gmail.com

"It's here because we realized a lot of the plans involve our youth and their families. We'd like to get our middle school students involved and be a part of it from the beginning and could see the plan unfolding. It might help them to become better stewards of any of the projects that get installed."

For the reasons expressed by Mattson, the city planners of Willits, Taylor Perry and Leiloni Shine, decided to have a public information and comment meeting at Baechtel Grove Middle School on Thursday, November 16, from 5 to 7 pm, complete with free pizza. Community members were encouraged to become involved in the plans for the beautification of the city and creation of safer streets.

Read the rest of

Beautify

Over on page 11



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The rest of Maps From page 8

visibility, and economic activity, as well as an enriched resident and visitor experience.

"The highlighted features will span civic, history, and arts facilities, museums, libraries, parking areas, prominent landmarks, and parks and recreation sites, among others," said Perry.

Mendocino County Museum Administrator Karen Mattson related that initially John Haschak and Jolene Carrillo both expressed a need for increased signage to promote Willits.

"Jolene thought more signage would help drive visits to the museum, and encouraged me to do something about it," explained Mattson. "I knew that significant effort had been made in the past to create signage, and I decided to start a committee to build upon work already completed. I held the first meeting on Zoom, inviting all the partners I could think of and asking those people to do the same."

Since that first meeting, Susan Mahoney from the Willits Chamber, Andrew Hosford from Sparetime Supply, Lucy Bartholomew from Blue Zones Mendocino, local geographic information specialist Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles, Gary Martin from the Willits Center for the Arts, Jolene Carrillo and Dickie Winkle from Willits

Rotary, various representatives from the City of Willits, and Third District Supervisor John Haschak have joined Mattson at numerous meetings to share ideas, perspectives and feedback.

"The goal is to have multiple maps of our various districts installed throughout Willits," Mattson said. "There have been up to a dozen people working together consistently on a project that we feel will benefit all of Willits. There are so many great assets here. We feel that new mapping signage will highlight those assets and form a great foundation for future efforts to put Willits 'on the map.'"

Thematic and stylistic elements of the maps will reflect the Willits identity, incorporating historical, environmental, and artistic points of interest, and including iconic monuments and places beloved to the City of Willits and its residents.

QR codes are also planned as a dynamic element included on all the district maps, directing users to the official Chamber of Commerce website, and providing a "digital gateway" to allow access to important information and resources about local businesses and service providers. Special events and cultural activities will also be highlighted to connect the city with its residents and its visitors.

Mattson says she personally feels



school first held in September 1904 in a second floor of the



Above: A meeting of people interested in the Commercial Street improvements is well attended. At bottom: City Council member Gerry Gonzales, right, discusses the project with a concerned citizen.

Photos by Mathew Caine

The rest of Beautify From page 10

presentation boards depicting various aspects of proposed projects for the city, including a permanent shade structure for the Farmers Market in Bud Snyder City Park, a possible (although not probable) amphitheater for Recreation Grove, ways to make crosswalks more visible on East Commercial Street, and several more improvements.

Attendees could pick up stick-on stars from Mattson which they were encouraged to place on the parts of the displays that they liked, or if they wished to comment, there were sticky notes on which they could expound on certain projects.

Senior City Planner Taylor Perry spoke to Willits Weekly about the proposals for the process: "There are a lot of beautiful pictures here, some of which will become a reality by 2026, which we have already allocated the funds for from the grant. We've already received the funds from the grant, so we're right at the finish line of finishing off that written grant agreement and getting those funds, which we can begin spending in April. We were awarded \$2.7 million."

Perry explained that funds have been allocated for a 2,000-square-foot structure which will house the weekly Farmers Market. The structure will be equipped with electricity so the vendors can plug in heaters and lights for winter months.

"We're here to gather what the community wants," said Perry. "The city cannot solely decide what to build or how to build it or where to put it. It's difficult to decide what the priorities are without engagement."

The Baechtel Grove meeting was one of two meetings seeking community input. According to Perry, a draft will be released soon and more feedback will be needed before the final plan is adopted next year.

Perry explained the sources of funding for the improvements: "The Clean California Grant is a different project although there is a lot of overlap. The 'Beautify Willits' project will begin to solicit contractors in April of next year. This is the 'East Commercial Street Corridor Enhancement Plan.' We can modify plans for that grant through this open house."

"We've already gotten funds from CalTrans for certain projects," Perry said. "We just don't know how to design it, what elements the public would like to see. For example, are we looking for archways that are more modern in style or historic. We definitely want more public art, more street art, more murals. The city definitely wants more of those types of things."

As for the attendees, they had several concerns. Andy Hilkey found some problems with the plans for a Skunk Train extension and posited that the displays were created by an outside company that did not have an extensive knowledge of certain aspects of the city's institutions.

TinaMarie Silveira suggested erecting lighting on the soccer fields in order to make the fields more playable in the late fall and winter month afternoons. She also mentioned better seating for parents and better goals.

"This is a very exciting project," said Willits City Manager Brian Bender. "We have full support of the city council. We've made a couple preliminary presentations to the council. We're going to have a more formal one on December 13."

"A terrain landscape architect, Sam Bickel, who has been overseeing the project for us, is going to make a formal presentation to the council," said Bender. "The formal adoption of the plan will be on January 8, within which will be an implementation strategy of all the various items. Currently none of the recommendations or projects are fully funded. As the council moves through one or two budget cycles to pursue grant opportunities, we'll look at Bickel's plan and decide what fits a grant opportunity or any other funding sources."

If all goes according to plan, the City of Willits may become safer and more user-friendly for residents and tourists, with improvements to infrastructure, streets, recreation facilities, parks, and more.



From page 8

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Mattson says she personally feels



Yumraiser

See's Candy fundraiser now through December 1 benefiting Sherwood School

Submitted by Friends of Sherwood School

Friends of Sherwood School's 'See's Candy Yumraiser' is live and open for business now until December 1!

Treat yourself and your loved ones this holiday season while supporting the students of Sherwood Elementary School.

Profits from the sale goes toward enrichment activities, field trips, music and art lessons, and supplies for our students.

If you don't want to order online and wait for items to be shipped, you can also pick them up from Brown's Corner (thank you, Shauna Brown Martin!)

Above: See's Candies, benefiting Sherwood School, are available at Brown's Corner and online. At left: These assorted 1-pound mixed chocolates are a classic favorite and are just \$29. Below: Peanut Brittle is a salty sweet treat and the 1-pound 8-ounce box is also \$29.

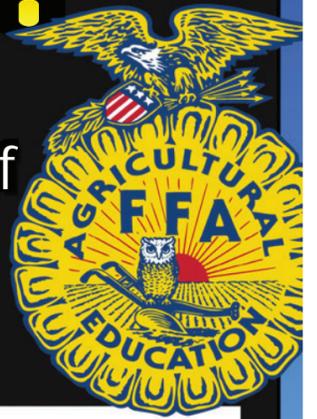


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BUYER: ACTION RENTS



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Additional Thanks

An additional Thank You goes out to the Mendocino County Farm Bureau, Geiger's Long Valley Market and Ukiah Taco Bell for their sponsorship of the buyer's hats and to the Savings Bank of Mendocino County for all of their hard work throughout the event.



Turkeys from the FFA

The circle of life and enjoyment of local food at center of purpose for Future Farmers of America, Willits chapter

Four students, including Logan Sanderson, Kaleb Whitehurst, Kolten Davis and Abigail Sherf, and two parents helped Willits High School Ag teacher Kelley Brackett and her husband, Jim, Sunday morning, processing 13 turkeys the Willits Future Farmers of America club raised to sell for Thanksgiving.

The white broad breasted turkeys were raised at the school's Ag farm again for the first time since the club did it during COVID. The event is also a bit of a homage to times past when Ag teacher Greg Randrup, who passed away in 2015, used to head up a turkey-raising effort each fall, providing birds, and life experiences, to students, family and friends with the processing events.

Processing the birds is a several-step process:

"We put them in a cone upside down, quickly slice the throat, wait until they are 'asleep,' then dip them in hot water," explained Brackett. "We then put them in the poultry tumbler to get most feathers out, and then hand-pluck the rest of the feathers. We then have to clean the insides out, then put them on ice to rest, and they're ready to go."

Turkeys are being sold for \$60 each, weigh between 16 and 20 pounds, and the club still has a few available for last-minute needs.

- Maureen Jennison



At top, from left: Kolten Davis and Jim Brackett remove turkeys from the pen. Davis places a turkey upside down inside the cone for easy dispatching. Brackett then dips the carcass into hot water to loosen the feathers. Kaleb Whitehurst transfers the carcass into the poultry tumbler to remove the bulk of the feathers.

Above: Kelley and Jim Brackett work at hand-plucking off the rest of the feathers.

At far left: The poultry tumbler helps remove most of the feathers. At left: Logan Sanderson removes final feathers from one of the 13 birds processed by the crew Sunday morning.

Photos provided by Kelley Brackett



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Above, left and right: Students created gooseneck gourd dragon centerpieces – each one has its own character. At right: The elementary grades perform a song and dance at the festival. At far right: This was one of the fantastical dragon breads – all the breads were incredibly delicious. Below: The kindergarten and first-grade students start the show off with their morning verse. At bottom: Rainbow sprinkles and colorful frosting adorned the unicorn-themed cakes available to enjoy at the party.

Photos provided by Ann Kelly



La Vida Charter School and Community celebrate thankfulness with Dragon Feast

Submitted by Ann Kelly, director, La Vida Charter School

Last Tuesday La Vida Charter School elementary students staged the annual fall performance, entitled "Beauty and the Beast Tell All," a musical about stories and genres.

Students in grades K through eight participated. The play was followed by a potluck feast of

simple, yet exotic fare of soup, bread and cake. Eight homemade soups were embellished by fantastical breads in the shapes of dragons and unicorns, made by courageous and creative parents.

Dessert was an array of unicorn cakes. Students in the art class transformed gooseneck gourds into dragon centerpieces. The idea came as a musing at a faculty meeting while enjoying the kindergarten dragon bread celebrating the Festival of Courage.

The school's theme this year is "La Vida Charter School in a Land called Honahlee," which encourages everyone to work with the imagination in writing and creating stories and. at the same time. lifelong learners get to play with dragons and unicorns.

The school is ever-grateful to the wonderful community of parents, students and staff who work so hard every year to make this day possible, and to the Golden Rule for generously sharing their beautiful space.

As a member of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Schools, La Vida is inspired to provide child-centered onsite enrichment classes two days per week for K-12 independent study and home study students. Located on the beautiful and historic Ridgewood Ranch, the Home of Seabiscuit, there are a few openings for the Winter Trimester which begins after Thanksgiving break.

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Above: The revised graphic showing the new flags planned for the Mendocino County Fallen Vietnam War Veterans memorial at the Museum in Willits.

City Planning releases new concept graphic for Veterans Memorial

A note from Dennis Miner:

The community might be interested to read the City of Willits' answer to my previous letter "What's Missing?" This is a very satisfactory answer.

The photo shows the proposed placement of the additional flagpoles and flags now under consideration at the Vietnam War Veterans memorial in front of the Mendocino County Museum. I would like to acknowledge the support of Roger Ham of the local American Legion Post 174 for his assistance in helping make this progress.

Now I look forward to the day the American Legion performs a flag raising ceremony with the new flag poles!

Posted by the City of Willits:

We'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude to a community member, Dennis Miner, for bringing to our attention a meaningful aspect of our community that was inadvertently left out of our recent East Commercial Corridor Enhancement Plan renderings displayed at the October 18 Open House and used in the October 26 Willits Weekly article. The Veterans Memorial, a cherished tribute to our heroes, deserves the utmost recognition!

Dennis Miner, who played a pivotal role in bringing this memorial to life, reminds us

Read the rest of **Veterans** Over on page B7



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Above: Willits Junior Horsemen members smile with wreaths made last year including, from left: Kaydance Lopez, Jordan Shull, Grady Fonsen, Payton Shull, Alayna Folsom, Macy Lawrence, Madison Lawrence. Photo provided by Mary Fonsen

You're invited!

Willits Junior Horsemen host wreath-making event on November 30

Submitted by the Willits Junior Horsemen's Association

The Willits Junior Horsemen's Association will be hosting a Christmas Wreath Making Workshop, Thursday November 30 at the Horsemen's Clubhouse.

Bring your beverages, and your bestie, and get into the holiday spirit. This event starts at 5:30 pm, and ends roughly at 8 pm. We will provide everything to make a beautiful holiday wreath. We are asking for a \$25 donation for each wreath made.

Please RSVP to Mary Fonsen at 707-354-0112.

SANTA & GRINCH PHOTOS
BY MAUREEN JENNISON!

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Regina

Sokka

Darby

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Athletic Regina

If you're searching for your forever athletic companion, Regina may fit the bill! She is a fairly independent gal, and needs exercise. She is jumpy, and gets a bit wound up and mouthy, so dog-savvy adults are best for her. She does seem respectful, even a bit wary of cats.

Happy and friendly, Regina's focus is mainly centered on people. With her active energy, Regina's forever home would ideally love to go on long walks, and hikes.

She is super sweet and loves attention once she settles in. Sadly she is pretty pent-up with her kenneling, she has been with us a long while.

To learn more about Regina 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 707-459-4900.

Sweet Sokka

Sokka here LOVES people! You can bet he'll greet you with a smile and butt wiggles ... and even be happier as he gets with many scratches and scratches as he can!

"Sokka has been the best houseguest!" reported his foster family. "He is getting along well with both of our dogs. Sokka is house-broken, crate-trained, knows basic commands, and has a great personality. He's such a good boy in so many ways. Zero accidents in the house, and absolutely no destructive behavior (chewing, etc.). Enjoys playing with other dogs. No reaction to a cat sitting still. He's amazing with small kids too."

Come on down to meet Sokka yourself! Help this guy find his forever family!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at

9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to come 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.mendocinohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Darby's Rough Start

Darby needs a special home - could that be your's? Darby is not like most puppies with their innocent trust, wagging tails and excitement for physical touch. Darby was found as a stray in Covelo. He came to Ukiah Shelter absolutely terrified. It has only been three weeks, but there have been some improvements. His appetite is excellent. Darby walks around the yard on a leash with no issues. He has days that he will allow some cuddling on the couch or on the bed.

He's good with the small senior dogs and the senior cats that are in his foster home. His potty training is going well and he is being crate-trained.

Darby needs a quiet, calm, and patient home. His adopter needs to be willing and able give him the time and tools he needs to become the best version of himself. Darby's person needs to understand that he's not going to make strides in weeks, but rather it will take many months.

Because Darby seems to feel more comfort and kinship toward other animals rather than to humans right now, him being in a home with another dog would definitely help him come out of his shell and having a dog that is an appropriate playmate for him will really help him blossom.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet our feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinoshelter.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW463
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
ROBERT E. WHIPPLE.
CASE NO. 23PR00184**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: ROBERT E. WHIPPLE.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by JOSHUA M. PINA in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that JOSHUA M. PINA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: December 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.

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

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

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

Attorney for Petitioner: Alexander C. Rich, CARTER RICH PC, 716 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490 Telephone: 707-459-9210

Publication Dates: November 16, 22, and 30, 2023

WW464
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLITS ADDING CHAPTER 17.59 MODEL WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE, TO TITLE 17 (ZONING) OF THE CITY OF WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE

The City Council of the City of Willits shall convene at the duly noticed council meeting on December 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Willits City Hall Council Chambers, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, to consider the adoption of a City ordinance adding Chapter 17.59 to the Willits Municipal Code entitled Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. The following summary of the proposed ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code section 36933, which provides that a city council may publish a summary of a proposed ordinance in a newspaper of general circulation at least five days prior to the city council meeting at which the proposed ordinance shall also be posted in the office of the Willits City Clerk for at least five (5) days prior to the City Council meeting of December 13, 2023.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NEW ORDINANCE:

This new chapter has been prompted by recent drought conditions in California, underscoring the need for heightened water conservation. In September 2009, the state enacted the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006 (AB 1881) requiring all local jurisdictions in California to implement measures to reduce water consumption in landscaping starting January 1, 2010. Governor Brown's Drought Executive Order of April 1, 2015 (EO B-29-15) directed the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update the State's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) through expedited regulation. The California Water Commission approved the revised MWELO Ordinance on July 15, 2015.

As of December 1, 2015, cities and counties were mandated to either adopt the updated MWELO or establish their own water-efficient landscape ordinance that is at least as effective in conserving water as the MWELO. The City has continuously implemented the MWELO by default but did not expressly adopt it in 2010.

The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure the design, installation, and maintenance of landscapes within the city adhere to the requirements specified in the State of California's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO).

/s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
Publication Date: November 22, 2023

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW459
**Fictitious Business
Name Statement**
2023-F0347

The following corporation is doing business as Terphogz IPC, THIP, 95 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490. Registered owner: Terphogz Intellectual Property Corp., 95 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

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

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 7, 2023.

/s/ Jon Orantes, COO
Publication dates: November 9, 16, 22, 30, 2023

WW460
**Fictitious Business
Name Statement**
2023-F0348

The following person is doing business as Esthetics by Eden, 152 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Eden Hincker Tye, 24900 North Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on August 23, 2023.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on November 6, 2023.

/s/ Eden Hincker Tye
Publication dates: November 9, 16, 22, 30, 2023

LEGAL NOTICES

WW461
**Fictitious Business
Name Statement**
2023-F0451

The following corporation is doing business as EuRoad Travel Guides, 1816 Buckley Road, Willits, CA 95490. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2127, Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: Digital Aeon Inc., P.O. Box 651, Nyack, NY 10960.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

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

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 25, 2023.

/s/ Victoria Lief Bertotti
Publication dates: November 16, 22, 30, December 7, 2023

WW464
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/s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
Publication Date: November 22, 2023

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FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 25, 2023.

/s/ Victoria Lief Bertotti
Publication dates: November 16, 22, 30, December 7, 2023

The rest of
Veterans
From page B5

of a profound quote by Calvin Coolidge: "The Nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." Let's remember and honor the immense sacrifices made by our veterans and active-duty servicemembers.

We are proud to support our troops and veterans, showing appreciation for our beloved memorial located in front of the Mendocino County Museum, and we're excited to share that the East Commercial Corridor Plan features proposed improvements to the memorial, including new lighting and flags.

In addition, we welcome your thoughts and feedback on the East Commercial Corridor Enhancement proposals. If you have any comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to our city Planning Department, or contact us via email at tperry@cityofwillits.org. Comments and concerns, such as Dennis', do not go unheard.

Let's stand united in our support for our veterans, and celebrate the positive enhancements that lie ahead.

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Firewood and Douglas fir poles for sale: FIR: \$300/cord; OAK: \$400/cord; KINDLING: \$15/box (14x20); POLES: please call for price. Call Fred at (707) 456-0270 or (707) 354-2244.

Willits Food Bank Open
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area with an increase in numbers served. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the front office at 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits CA 95490 - knock or leave in the locked mailbox in front. Food distribution is available at the back door on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.

Indoor Yard Sale
Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Brouler). Saturday, December 9 - 8 am to 4 pm

Driver dies after colliding with a tree near Laytonville

Submitted by CHP, Garberville

On Saturday, November 18, at approximately 1:15 am, a 2020 Cadillac Escalade was traveling northbound on Highway 101 north of Steele Lane, in the vicinity of Laytonville.

For reasons still under investigation, the driver of the Cadillac veered off the west road edge of 101 and collided with a tree. The Cadillac came to rest on its wheels, facing in an easterly direction at the base of the highway embankment and became fully engulfed in flames. The driver of the Cadillac succumbed to their injuries at the scene.

The identity of the driver, a man, is being withheld until notification of kin is made by the Mendocino County Coroner's Office. This crash remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol, Garberville Area.

The following agencies responded to the scene and assisted with this incident: Laytonville Fire Department, CAL FIRE, and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Willits Weekly
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At left: Brookside School students line up to receive a fun Thanksgiving feast cooked by the Brookside school cafeteria team, and served by members of the Willits Unified School District.

Below: Willits Unified School District employees, including, from left: Melissa Ragsdale, Rachelle Vandagriff, Mark Beebe, Lynda Walker, and Lisa Duncan helped serve the Thanksgiving meal to students on Thursday to celebrate the upcoming holiday.

Photos provided by Kathleen Crossman

Brookside Students receive special feast to celebrate upcoming holiday

Submitted by Kathleen Crossman, principal of Brookside School

On Thursday, November 16, members of the Willits Unified School District Office, including Melissa Ragsdale, Rachelle Vandagriff, Mark Beebe, Lynda Walker, Lisa Duncan and Christy Wisdom came to Brookside Elementary School to serve a delicious turkey meal.

The meal of mashed potatoes and turkey gravy, stuffing, warm rolls and butter, cranberry jelly and tangerines was prepared by the Brookside cafeteria team:

Joyce Donaldson, Stephanie Reyes and Jodi Phillips.

The students were excited to try new things, like cranberry jelly and spent Friday creating beautiful fall crafts.

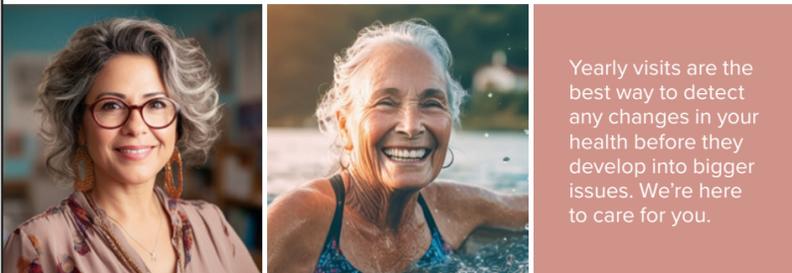
WUSD superintendent, Mark Beebe, had this great new idea this year to serve meals at all the school district sites this past week, and students loved it so much, we are doing it for Christmas, too!

Happy Thanksgiving!



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We will be closed Thursday, November 23rd for Thanksgiving

BLACK FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24TH & 25TH

Bring in this ad on or after 11/26 to receive 5% off a Christmas tree! While supplies last. Stand not included.

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*Some exclusions apply

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