

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Cleaning gravestones

To the Editor:

While shaving cream may help to clean a gravestone in the short term, it can cause less-desirable long-term effects.

The National Park Service (responsible for looking after many old cemeteries) says that it contains "oils and moisture-holding agents that can have detrimental effects on the stone." (<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/shaving-cream-genealogist-s-friend-or-cemetery-conservator-s-foe.htm>)

Water, a sponge, soft brushes and gentle (i.e. non-metal) scrapers can do a better job.

(<https://www.memorials.com/info/how-to-clean-a-headstone/>)

Carol Cox, Willits

Ridgewood Grade

To the Editor:

What's next for Ridgewood Grade? Circus tents!! It sure seems like the work is being performed by a bunch of clowns. Take out the old K-rail, pour new. Oops! Forgot the emergency turn around. Blacktop down. Oops! Need to grind it up and try again.

Right lane closed ahead, Oops! It's actually the left lane. Well, it's actually both lanes, first the left then the right. I think!! Did these engineers all graduate from the Emmett Kelly School for Highway Clowns. Is this really the best work we can expect for our tax dollars?

Obviously no one associated with the circus project realizes that the Golden Gate Bridge was built in 4 years, 4.5 months and came in \$1.3 million under budget!!

Frank A. Sanderson, Willits

Jim Wood won't seek reelection in 2024

SACRAMENTO – Assemblymember Jim Wood (D-Healdsburg) announced earlier in November that he will not seek reelection in 2024, which would have been for his sixth and final term in the Assembly.

"Deciding not to run for my final term was one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make in many years," said Wood. "I can make a case to continue my work, but I believe now is the right time for me to change my focus."

Wood was elected to the 2nd Assembly District in 2014, representing Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity counties, and northern Sonoma County, including the city of Santa Rosa. His final two-year term would have ended in December 2026.

"I practiced for nearly 30 years as a family dentist in Cloverdale and served on the Healdsburg City Council, including a term as mayor, where I gained a tremendous sense of community and an in-depth understanding of the challenges that this mostly rural district faces," said Wood.

Read the rest of **Wood** Over on page 4

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.

Willits Weekly

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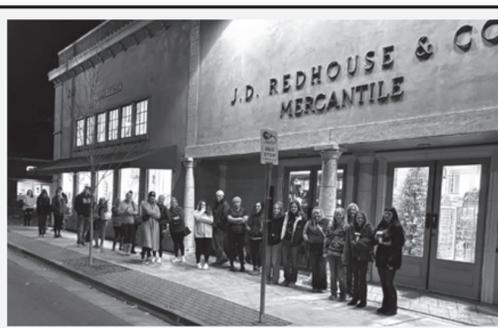
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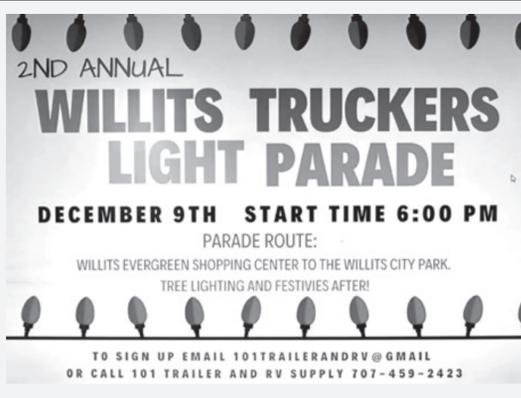
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Black Friday before dawn at J.D. Redhouse

What a way to kick off Black Friday! Thanks to everyone that showed up and shopped locally with us at 6 am! Including the lucky winner of the \$100 gift card. Thank you to everyone who showed us love today! We love our customers!

– posted by JD Redhouse & Company on Facebook



2nd Annual Willits Truckers Light Parade

The 2nd Annual Willits Truckers Light Parade is set for Saturday, December 9. Start time is 6 pm. Parade Route: Willits Evergreen Shopping Center to the Willits City Park. "Light Up the Park" Tree Lighting and festivities after! To sign up, email: 101TRAILERANDRV@gmail.com or call 101 Trailer at 707-459-2423.

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.

Thursday, November 30: Spinach Lasagna, Garlic Bread

Friday, December 1: Turkey Tetrazzini, Veggies, Roll

Monday, December 4: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread

Tuesday, December 5: Ground Sirloin, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Roll

Wednesday, December 6: Carnitas Burrito, Wet w/ Green Sauce

Thursday, December 7: French Dip, Loaded Mashed Potatoes

Friday, December 8: Chill Cheeseburger, Chips

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 10 this month, 8 to 11 am. \$10; \$9 center members; \$6 children under 8. Menu choices: 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$10; \$9 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides \$2: 3 slices bacon, 2 sausage links. Breakfast includes Peet's Coffee and orange juice or milk.

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Jollana 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.

CAL FIRE offers \$170 million in Forest Health grants

Submitted by CAL FIRE Sacramento

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has announced the availability of up to \$120 million for Forest Health and \$50 million for Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration projects. Projects will address the risk to California's forests from extreme disturbance events including catastrophic wildfires, drought, and pest mortality.

CAL FIRE is soliciting applications for projects that work to proactively prevent catastrophic wildfires and restore forests to healthy, functioning ecosystems while also sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Applications will be accepted from November 13, 2023, and will be due by no later than 3 pm on January 15, 2024.

For more info and to apply to Forest Health grants, visit www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/forest-health

"Forest Health grants continue to be an invaluable tool for funding restoration and reforestation activities that provide for more resilient and healthy forests across California," said Matthew Reischman, CAL FIRE deputy director of Resource Management.

The Forest Health Program funds active restoration and reforestation activities aimed at providing for more resilient and sustained forests. This ensures the future existence of forests in California while also mitigating climate change, protecting communities from fire risk, strengthening rural economies, and improving California's water and air.

A virtual pre-recorded workshop will be made available to explain the grant process and requirements. Please check the Forest Health webpage to view the workshop. Any questions can be directed to ForestHealth@fire.ca.gov.

Projects that receive funding from the Forest Health grant program are designed to complement the California Forest Carbon Plan, California's Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan, California's Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan, California's Strategic Plan for Expanding the Use of Beneficial Fire, and AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan.

The Forest Health grant program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities.



Above, from left: The newly expanded Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot is illuminated at night. Martin and Saprina Rodriguez hold grandson Leo who cut the grand opening ribbon for the family's toy store. Shelves are packed with toys and games for the holiday season. At left: The grand opening ribbon was snipped Saturday morning, officially declaring the new space open and the holiday shopping to begin.

Below: Saprina Rodriguez notes the date on the scissors used to cut the ribbon, the same scissors that were used to cut the ribbon when the original toy store opened several years ago.

Further below: Christina Pickett and Lorenzo Rodriguez smile from behind the counter at the newly expanded toy shop.

At bottom: Kara and Mariah Rodriguez find a second use for the large scissors: opening the veggie trays' ranch dip.



Grand Opening

Newly expanded Toy Depot opens to public and celebrates work of block revitalization

Just in time for Small Business Saturday, the ribbon to the newly expanded Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot was cut Saturday morning, welcoming friends, family and the community to come shop, and check out the newly renovated space.

Maureen Jennison, Graphics & Photographress, willitsweekly@gmail.com

Not only did the creation of the new two-story building on what was once an empty lot between the existing toy store to the east, and the preschool to the west, expand the toy shop's floor by some 900-square feet, it also allowed for a laundry facility for the preschool, a new courtyard, and a 1,000-square-foot apartment for short-term vacation rentals to be created, too.

The construction also allowed for a large safety and earthquake retrofit and overall update for the original 1800s building. The new construction was tied into the old structure, and as most renovation projects go, once you start poking into and trying to change things, more necessary and unexpected surprises will inevitably pop up.

"You know that book, 'If You Give a Mouse a Cookie?'" laughed Saprina Rodriguez, owner of the Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot. "Well, it was kind of like that, but with construction projects. We wanted to put in a window, but we found that we needed to replace some rotted boards underneath, and so on like that. People ask 'why doesn't

someone do something with these old buildings?' Well, the answer is that it's really no easy task! It's really expensive, and lots of unexpected challenges and expenses will pop up, but we're really happy to be creating locally owned, brick-and-mortar businesses in Willits."

When Rodriguez purchased the original toy store building in 2018, it was stripped down to the original carriage-house bones. It was all brought up to code, three classrooms were added for the preschool's infant and toddler center, and the original 1,100-square-foot toy store was created, all from what was just a big empty shell and storage space.

"When you do upgrades to property, a lot of people think that the city is responsible to pay for the sidewalks. Oh no. It's on the owner, and they are required to upgrade the sidewalks," explained Rodriguez. "We spent another \$35,000 to upgrade them to code for public use. We also put in decorative dark grey tiles to connect our shops together and increase the curb appeal."

Despite the pop-up extra projects, Rodriguez was excited to take the history of the old building, fix it up, and create the new space, staying mindful to be in theme with the rest of the block.

Read the rest of **Depot** Over on page 11



Below, from left: Saprina Rodriguez talks with customers who came to see the grand opening and shop in the new store. Sweet and savory treats were offered to attendees, and swag was available to those who spun the prize wheel. This little shopper spins the wheel and hopes for something exciting from the prize table.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

Farm Fresh Christmas Trees Now Available

While supplies last

Annual Holiday Store Now Open

We will be closed December 24th through January 1st for the holidays

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Mon - Sat
8 am - 6 pm

Sunday
10 am - 4 pm

HAPPY PAWLIDAYS!
-FROM-

Willits Animal HOSPITAL

20000 Hollands Lane
Willits CA, 95490
707-459-6723

The rest of
Board |
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their focus has shifted from wildland fires to structure fires. Donaldson explained that, "The next two training sessions will be a follow-up on fire behavior, with a December 5 burn room training on the horizon."

For Alvarez's part, he's well into his inspector 2 training series. Fire Inspector 2 is the second certification in the California Fire Inspector professional certification series, consisting of inspector 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D. Alvarez talked more about his progress, sharing that he'll be finishing up the series the first week of December, and attending inspector 2D after.

He explained what his trainings entail, saying: "The inspector series dives deep into the fire code and NFPA [National Fire Protection Association] standards. These classes cover various topics of good suppression systems, fire alarm systems, commercial and residential building construction, testing and inspection of various systems, building code, fire pumps, sprinkler systems, hydraulic calculations, and the list goes on and on."

Alvarez continued: "By understanding these various systems as well as general inspection knowledge and the continued inspections of our schools, apartments, hotels and motels, this will help keep our businesses, citizens, visitors and firefighters safe in the event of an emergency."

Alvarez has also been conducting inspections on the Willits Municipal Airport in conjunction with the City of Willits. The city owns the airport, located in Brooktrails, and leases the hangers out. Describing the inspection process, Alvarez said: "Hanger inspections were to ensure all fire and life safety aspects are in order. That would include verifying that fire extinguishers have been serviced (annually) and any rags used for maintenance, 'oily rags,' are secured in an approved container to stop the spread of fire in case of spontaneous combustion."

Alvarez explained: "Other items we were looking for were open or exposed electrical wire or boxes, unsafe conditions, unsafe storage, and/or accumulated storage that would cause a heavy fire load." Inspections were also conducted by Mendocino County Code Enforcement and Building and Planning.

Training Chief Donaldson wrapped up the meeting, speaking more about the structure fire on the 300 block of State Route 20 in October. He emphasized the importance of all local fire departments working together, using the SR 20 fire as a prime example.

Donaldson told the board: "We had a volunteer from Redwood Valley Fire who showed up and did a very good job, along with a CAL FIRE chief who was just driving by. Brooktrails Fire Department was there, Ridgewood Ranch Fire responded, and [Little Lake Fire Engine 5485] responded. They did a very aggressive attack. The structure still stands and [the fire] did not spread to the neighboring house. There were very minor injuries to one firefighter."

"Traffic control was done by local PD and Fish and Game. It was a real community effort," Donaldson continued. "Without everybody helping us, it's gonna get tough. It really does take a community to save us. Ridgewood Ranch is a great asset to us along with Brooktrails. We're happy to go and join them too."

The meeting wrapped up with Donaldson reporting 53 calls for last month. There were 6 fire calls, 35 EMS/Rescue calls, 2 hazardous conditions, 1 good intent, and 9 false alarms for a yearly total so far of 529 calls total.

The rest of
Dogs |
From page 1

free up dog kennel space in order to take in more stray dogs from the community.

Going forward if needed, the dogs facing euthanasia will be posted on the euthanasia page: www.mendocinocounty.org/departments/animal-care-services/euthanasia-page

"If this occurs," as per Animal Care Services, "we hope to be in a position to list these dogs for up to five days on the euthanasia page but can't guarantee that will happen based on the variables / requests that we receive from the public about running at-large stray dogs."

Animal Care Services is making a plea to animal owners to make sure that your animals have microchips, licenses or name tags on them in case they get out and are impounded. Reconnecting the animal with the owner is much easier when this occurs. "We ask that animal owners check their fencing, gates to ensure all is in working order or make the necessary repairs that will prevent your animal from getting out."

"Unfortunately, we are not in a position to accept animals due to owners not reclaiming their impounded pets in a timely manner, impounding many animals over the last several days from the public, and due to the poor economy that reduces the amount of pets that people now adopt, own and care for."

"A large amount of the population in Mendocino County is facing economic hardships due to many variables. The average cost of keeping a dog is estimated to be approximately \$1,400 a year," as per Animal Care Services. "The decision to not adopt a dog comes down to dollars and cents for families. Mendocino County Animal Care Services understands why residents are not choosing to adopt a dog, or to surrender a dog or to not reclaim an impounded dog."

"When the time comes to euthanize healthy dogs, please understand that is not for lack of effort on behalf of the Animal Shelter, and that the Animal Shelter exhausted all the available resources prior to euthanizing a dog to free up dog kennel space."

"We ask that the community not criticize the decision to euthanize and understand the very difficult decision that had to be made in order to assist other stray dogs that need to come into the Animal Shelter."

"The problem of the Animal Shelter being overcrowded with dogs is not going away anytime soon."

The rest of
Wood |
From page 2

"The district is vast in geography, but smaller in population, and includes more than 300 miles of spectacular coastline. I have been an outspoken advocate for rural communities, regularly reminding my colleagues that in a state as large as California, solutions cannot be one-size-fits-all."

During Wood's tenure, he has served on many committees including Budget, Health, Natural Resources, Insurance, Agriculture and Water, Parks and Wildlife. These committees relate to some of the most pressing issues facing the district.

"As a member of these committees, I have been an advocate for broadband for all, clean water and air, agriculture, the cannabis industry, watershed protection, wildfire prevention and rebuilding, access to affordable insurance, and ensuring that our electrical grid provides the capacity when and where we need it in order to meet our housing and climate goals, including development of offshore wind," said Wood.

Wood was named chair of the Assembly Health Committee in early 2016 and has remained chair since then.

"As chair of Assembly Health Committee, I'm proud that our state has taken a leadership role on so many of the most pressing issues," said Wood. "I've taken on virtually every entity within the expansive health care industrial complex, and always with the end goal of improving the quality of health care and making it affordable and accessible for Californians. And although we have accomplished a lot, especially the creation of the Office of Health Care Affordability, there is still more work to be done and I plan to continue that work in 2024."

The 2nd Assembly District, historically, has not been considered competitive, with Wood taking nearly 70 percent of the vote in 2022.

"Many in public office say they are leaving for personal or family reasons, but that is very real for me," said Wood. "My mother has been in declining health and now requires an increasingly higher level of care, and I want to be a meaningful part of that. I look forward to finding different ways to support my district and the issues that are important to them, especially challenges faced by rural communities."

"Jim Wood will go down as one of our most distinguished legislators," said Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas (D-Salinas). "His love for this state knows no bounds, and he's committed a lifetime to ensuring future generations can realize the California Dream. I thank Jim on behalf of the entire Caucus, for all his achievements and dedication, and I'm also proud to call him a dear friend and trusted colleague. I also look forward to working with him into 2024, in particular on health care priorities, as he completes a decade of service in the California State Assembly."

"I've known for a very long time that our Speaker, Robert Rivas, would be a strong leader and the right person to lead our caucus and the entire Assembly into the future," said Wood. "He is a true friend and someone who understands the common interest we have in supporting and protecting the people in our rural communities and how their needs are unique, oftentimes requiring unique policies and solutions. I'm so grateful to be working with Speaker Rivas and it makes me proud to serve and extremely optimistic for California's future."



Animal Care Services is asking owners of recently impounded dogs to pick up their dogs as soon as possible; requesting volunteer dog fosters to help keep dogs for a week or two; and asking potential dog adopters to go to mendocinocounty.org/animalshelter and view the adoptable dogs.

If there is a dog or dogs you have interest in please fill out an online application and a staff member will contact you and make arrangements for you to see the dog(s).

McGuire's Cannabis Licensing Reform Act signed into law

Submitted by the Office of Sen. Mike McGuire

Across California, small-family licensed cannabis farmers are struggling to make ends meet amidst historic market instability. Many can't even afford to put plants in the ground, only to harvest a product that won't make a profit.

Yet, growers are required to pay full freight for their state cultivation license—up to tens of thousands of dollars annually—even if they don't plant that year. This harsh economic reality, paying for a license they may not even use, doesn't make any sense, and it's helping drive instability into the market.

That's why Senate President Designee Mike McGuire advanced Senate Bill 833, the Cannabis Licensing Reform Act, this year.

The process for an inactive or downgraded cultivation license already exists at local levels (including in Mendocino County), but currently there is no statewide equivalent that allows cannabis farmers to pause or reduce their crop size without paying the full annual fees. The state cultivation license for a 10,000 square feet to 1 acre farm is \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually.

McGuire's legislation will allow cannabis farmers to either pause their license fee, but maintain an inactive license, or reduce their license size based on crop size, saving the farmer money.

Under current state regulations, cannabis farmers have to pay full freight even if they don't grow for the year or reduce their crop size. This new law will now provide family cannabis farmers flexibility and the ability to pay less when they grow less.

"SB 833 is all about common sense. Just like with other agricultural crops, cannabis farmers shouldn't go under from one bad season, whether it's from a tough market, drought, or even a wildfire. Right now, cannabis farmers must pay their state license fees regardless—or forfeit them all together. This is nuts, and that's why we advanced this legislation. Farmers need flexibility in this erratic market and if they grow less, they should pay less. It's that simple," Senator McGuire said.

SB 833 was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom and will go into effect January 1, 2024.

County Cannabis Department to accept following applications

Submitted by Mendocino Cannabis Department

The Mendocino Cannabis Department will be accepting "following" applications from December 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, for applicants who wish to follow all or portion of their Canopy in 2024.

Following submissions must include a completed Notice of Following and a Following Site Plan. The Following Site Plan must clearly show the followed area and include the total square footage of both the followed canopy and canopy that will remain in use. The Following Site Plan must match the Site Plan MCD has on file with your application.

Following Applications must be submitted via email to mcdpod@mendocinocounty.gov. Only complete following submissions will be accepted. Both the Notice of Following and Following Site Plan must be included in a single email submission.

Following is a tax status that can potentially lower your True-Up tax for the followed year. Applicants who

follow all or a portion of their canopy are still subject to annual renewal and inspection by MCD staff. Following does not affect your status with Department of Cannabis Control, and you must continue to renew your state license.

[Editor's Note: See press release in this week's Willits Weekly from state Sen. Mike McGuire about new state regulations, effective January 2024, allowing cannabis farmers to pause their state license fee, but maintain an inactive license, or reduce their license size based on crop size.]

Only Cannabis Cultivation Business Licenses may be followed in Mendocino County. Nurseries cannot be followed.

Following applications for 2024 submitted before December 1 or after December 31 will not be accepted. Incomplete Following applications will not be accepted

Read the rest of **Following** | Over on page 9



Above, from left: The J.D. Redhouse crew gets ready for the Christmas sales to come. Willits Furniture manager Kyle Brandon is working on liquidating the store. The crew at the Senior Center Christmas Store prepares for the December 2 opening: from left, Sue Sawyers, Lucy Stanley, Joy McKeever, Bette Pimentel and Dorothy Roediger.



Shop Small

Willits stores kick off holiday savings on unique gifts with Black Friday and Shop Small Saturday sales

According to a sign prominently situated near the door of Willits Furniture, it is important to shop locally because "You keep dollars in our community. You create local jobs. You fund community services. You keep sales tax dollars local. You embrace our uniqueness. You create more choice. You support entrepreneurship. You make Willits a destination."

Mathew Caine, Features Writer, willitsweekly@gmail.com

These are more than enough reasons for one to spend their hard-earned dollars on businesses unique to this town.

With Christmas rapidly approaching, Willits merchants are gearing up in order to provide goods at affordable prices and discounts in order to keep the money local. Vendors began their season of Christmas discounts with some attractive savings.

The Toy Depot, which had its grand reopening on Shop Small Saturday on November 25, offered 25 percent off certain items all weekend long. "From now until Christmas, we'll be open seven days a week until Christmas Eve," said Toy Depot owner Martin Rodriguez. "We're normally open from 9 am to 5:30 pm but Saprina might extend those hours."

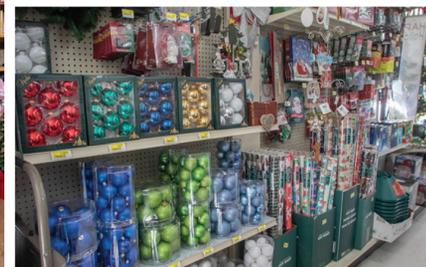
J.D. Redhouse is gearing up with various sales and fun activities. "Today, we did a scavenger hunt for items throughout the store," explained Ashton Bloomquist, co-owner. "We also made up gift cards and hid them throughout the store. We did huge gift certificates, ice cream certificates, \$20, \$30, \$50 and \$100 gift cards. People got to find them. We might do that again as it was such a big success."

"We're having our 12 Days of Christmas Sale. We feature a brand or a department in the store each day that will have a higher discount. It starts on December 13 and goes through

Read the rest of **Shopping** | Over on page 9



Above, left: The Sparetime holiday gift shop contains many fun items. Above right: Bell Springs Candleworks has a stunningly colorful display of candles in the Sparetime gift store. At right: Colorful Carhartt sweatshirts may be one of the items in the 12 Days of Christmas sales at Willits Power and Hardware. Below: Mariposa Market has some great discounts on items in the gift section. Below, right: Coast Hardware will soon be discounting all of the Christmas ornaments and other items.



Photos by Mathew Caine



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COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Napoleon'

The Story: The narrative begins in Paris with the guillotine and Marie Antoinette. Infamous battles are recreated by director Ridley Scott. Napoleon (Joaquin Phoenix) risks desperately in love with Josephine (Vanessa Kirby). He woos her, or perhaps, she seduces him. They marry. His love for her is heartbreaking. A decade passes. About three million soldiers charge at each other and kill each other. Horses, too, charge and die. It's horror.

Meanwhile, Napoleon is declared emperor. He has Josephine crowned his empress. France invades Russia; it is probably the most famous disaster in European history. So many French soldiers die that Napoleon is exiled to the Island of Elba. But he returns to France. He rebuilds his army. And then, of course, Waterloo! Napoleon is exiled to St. Helena Island. He considers his life. He drinks bad wine. He falls over dead.

My Thoughts: A great flick. Joaquin Phoenix plays Napoleon as quirky, silent, moody, and sometimes peculiarly and even comically awkward. Phoenix's brilliant acting brings to mind his stand-out performance as the Joker. Vanessa Kirby as Josephine is both subtle and confoundingly attractive.

And more thoughts: In the early 1800s, being a military hero was just about the coolest thing a man could be, and the art of war was lauded by the aristocracy. Napoleon himself read Julius Caesar and celebrated Alexander the Great. My own reality check: war is stupid and un-prety. Ridley Scott has re-staged the bloody meat- and terror-filled chaos of the 19th century battlefields. The lack of glory stuns and shocks.

Parents: Violence. Sex. Not for children. Should be available for teens.

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

Calvary Chapel Crafters presents...

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, December 2, 2023
9am - 3pm
145 Wood Street

Calvary Chapel Crafters presents...

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, December 2, 2023
9am - 3pm
145 Wood 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.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is now indoors for the winter season at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Local fall produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, December 1

Book Lovers at the Library: Book Lovers Discussion Group meets monthly to discuss books, authors and genres. Come talk about why you love books! All adults welcome. Friday, December 1, from 1 to 2 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

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.

Art Talk: 'The High Renaissance.' The next in this series of Art Talks presented by the Willits Center for the Arts is "The High Renaissance, a look at 16th century art and its profound impact on artistic paradigms." Friday, December 1 at 6:30 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-1726.

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

Senior Center Christmas Store: The annual sale of Christmas treasures opens Saturday, December 2, then continues from Monday, December 4 through Thursday, December 7, from 9 am to 4 pm each day. A wide range of Christmas ornaments, decorations, wreaths and trees, toys, clothes, Christmas music, and more, with prices that can't be beat. All proceeds support essential Senior Center programs and services. Plus See's Candies in the lobby and at the thrift shop, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm.

Christmas Craft Fair: presented by Calvary Chapel Crafters, Saturday, December 2, from 9 am to 3 pm, 145 Wood Street.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS Presents

Spencer Brewer

Mendocino Piano Quartet

Ben Reub
Dr. Wenbo Yin

An intimate evening with Spencer Brewer and Friends

Saturday, Dec 16th at 7 p.m.

A fundraiser for your Art Center
Tickets \$50.00
Free tickets contact:
www.willitscenterforthearts.org
707-459-1726
71 East Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490

CONFESSIONS OF A 40 YEAR OLD HULA HOOPER

A tragic DANCE COMEDY show sponsored by "Fossil" Gummies performed by Pearl Marill

Join the Willits Branch Library for "Haunted and Mysterious Forests," an evening of eerie tales on Wednesday, December 13, from 5:30 to 6:45 pm. We will investigate haunted and mysterious forests and who or what dwells within them. Get the chilling answers as library staff regales you with stories of the most haunted forests of North America, Europe, and Asia. Part of the monthly "Paranormal and Beyond" series, which takes place on the second Wednesday of the month in the Willits Branch Library community room, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolib.org or call the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.

What's Happening Around Town

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 on cars pulled by Roots' steam locomotive, treats in the beautifully decorated Engine House, and visits and pics with Santa with a small toy. The Mendocino County Museum will be having a book sale and Take and Make Crafts, with local Sober Grad kids selling lunch in the Engine House. Info: <https://rootsofmotivepower.com/> or check out the "Roots of Motive Power" page on Facebook.

Open Houses for new Willits Map: The Willits Chamber of Commerce Willits Signage Committee presents a new draft map of Willits "that has been created to encourage exploration and use of our community assets." Drafts of the map design continue to be on display at designated locations throughout Willits for your feedback. The next open house is Saturday, December 2 at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, from 11 am to 4 pm, and then, Thursday, December 7 at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, from 10 am to 4 pm.

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.

Winter Crafts at the Library: Let's create together - join us at the Willits Branch Library each Saturday from December 2 through December 23, 11 am to noon, for an easy winter craft the whole family can enjoy. Supplies will be provided. Saturday, December 2: Acorn Garland; December 9: Wooden Cut-out Gnomes; December 16: Candle Votives; and December 23: Snow Globes. 390 East Commercial Street.

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 potluck. 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.

Hilary & Christiane at Shanachie: Folk-based country and blues and unique vocals and harmonies by Sonoma County-based multi-instrumental duo Hilary & Christiane - harmonica, ukulele, 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.

Sunday, December 3

Photos with Santa: Santa is back at J.D. Redhouse for one day only this year and Maureen Jennison will be taking photos with the man in red for the community on Sunday, December 3 from 12 to 6 pm. As always, digital images are just \$5 per group of people and the events are a 50/50 fundraiser for the Soroptimist International of Willits. Well-behaved pets are also welcome! No appointments, just come by 212 South Main Street in downtown Willits. More info: 707-972-7047

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.

PTO Holiday Bazaar: Brookside and Blosser Lane Parent Teacher Organizations host a Holiday Bazaar, December 2 and 3, 11 am to 4 pm, at the Blosser Lane Cafeteria, 1275 Blosser Lane Cafeteria. See December 2 listing for details.

Creative Correspondence Workshop: The Mendocino County Museum hosts another in its series of creative workshops led by visiting guest artist and printmaker Rachel Dziga: "Chine-collé Printing with Collage," on Sunday, December 3 from 1 to 3 pm. Get ready for holiday correspondence and learn creative techniques to make unique greeting cards! Attendance is free with Museum admission; ideal for adults and older children. Info: www.mendocinocounty.org/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

Sufi Sound Medicine Experience: Musical prayers in five ancient languages, with Manaar Azreik and Friends. "In Sufism, the root meaning of existence is ecstasy. There's a thirst in every cell of our body. It is called 'ishq' (passion), the wine of love." Sunday, December 3, at earlier time: 5 to 6:30 pm. The Muse, 34 East San Francisco Avenue. Sliding scale: \$10-\$30. Please RSVP: Mana at 707-354-2475.

Tuesday, December 5

'A Season of Peace' Concert by Mendocino College: One of three free concerts around the county presented by the Mendocino College Chorale Ensembles. In Willits, guests are the Willits Community Choir and the Mendocino College Chamber Choir featuring Adrian Hanson, cellist. Tuesday, December 5, at 7 pm, at the Willits High School Auditorium, 299 North Main Street.

Wednesday, December 6

Twining Time at Brickhouse: John Wagenet and Anita Wagenet Blu of Twining Time perform at Brickhouse Coffee, Wednesday, December 6 (and the first Wednesday of every month), from 12 to 2 pm. Folk/Country/Mountain Americana Roots - plus new and old

Botanical Gardens Festival of Lights 2023

The 13th annual Festival of Lights is open now, rain or shine every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from through December 17 at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, 5 to 7 pm. Tickets \$10; free age 16 and under; advance tickets recommended. More info: www.gardenbythesea.org/calendar/festival-of-lights-2023/

2023 Winter Solstice Spiral Dance

December 20

Celebrate the Return of the Light, with Drums, Songs, Stories, Candles and a Community Spiral Dance. All are welcome to attend. Rehearsals on December 15 and December 18 at 6 pm at the Grange for children and adults wanting to participate in the story and/or ceremony, to sing in the choir, etc. Event is Wednesday, December 20, at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Ceremony begins at 7 pm, followed by the Spiral Dance. Suggested donation: \$5 to \$10. Children are free. A benefit for the Little Lake Grange.

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA

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

Coming Soon:
WISH & WONKA

Thursday, December 7

Open House for new Willits Map: The Willits Chamber of Commerce Willits Signage Committee presents a new draft map of Willits "that has been created to encourage exploration and use of our community assets." Drafts of the map design continue to be on display at designated locations throughout Willits for your feedback. The final announced open house is Thursday, December 7 at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Michael Trew at Shanachie: A special solo appearance by this Pacific Northwest singer / songwriter at Shanachie Pub, with songs from his album, "Waiting in the Wings," new material, and a few dusty gems. Vocals/ Piano/ Guitar/ Flute/ Looping. Thursday, December 7 at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, 7 pm.

Friday, December 8

Holiday Crafts Fair: 36th annual community crafts fair, Friday, December 8 from 3 to 5 pm; Saturday, December 9 from 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, December 10, from 10 am to 4 pm. Two locations: Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, and the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Live music, booths hosted by artists and crafters, food and beverages. Info: willitscenterforthearts.org.

Norman & The Boyz at Shanachie: Norman & The Boyz is a talent laden R&B ensemble that has been delighting audiences for many years. Norman Boyden (Bassist, Songwriter) formerly with The Project 4 Band and the Kast N Krew Blues Band brings his 50 plus years of music experience to the stage. Anthony Conlon (Keyboard, Trombone, Vocalist) is the heartbeat of the group. Friday, December 8 at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, 8 pm.

Saturday, December 9

Photos with The Grinch: The Grinch is back at Imagination Station's newly expanded Toy Depot for one day only this year, and Maureen Jennison will be taking photos for the community on Saturday, December 9 from 10 am to 5 pm. As always, digital images are just \$5 per group of people and the events are a 50/50 fundraiser for the Willits Charter School. Well-behaved pets are also welcome! No appointments, just come by 262 East Commercial Street in downtown Willits. More info: 707-972-7047

Holiday Crafts Fair: 36th annual community crafts fair. Today, Saturday, December 9 from 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, December 10, from 10 am to 4 pm. Two locations: Willits Center for the Arts, 71

Dancer Pearl Marill at WCT

December 9 and 10

Dancer Pearl Marill performs "Confessions of a 40-year-old Hula Hooper" at the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10. Marill humorously describes her comedic hula hooper show as a "dance comedy sponsored by fruit gummies... with furry things to buy for people you love, pre-gaming encouraged... and bring dollar bills."

Marill is an award-winning actress, dancer, comedian and choreographer based in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Her work has been showcased at venues and festivals throughout the Bay Area and Los Angeles, and has won multiple awards.

Shows are Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 10 at 2pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at the WCT website: www.wctperformingartscenter.org and at the door.

THE HUNGER GAMES: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes

(PG) 2 hrs 37 mins
Fri.-Thurs.: 3:45 & 7:15pm

TROLLS BAND TOGETHER

(PG) 1 hr 32 mins
Fri.-Thurs.: 3:30, 5:45 & 8:00pm

East Commercial Street, and the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Live music, booths hosted by artists and crafters, food and beverages. Raffle will be drawn at 2 pm on Sunday. Info: willitscenterforthearts.org.

Winter Crafts at the Library: Let's create together - join us at the Willits Branch Library each Saturday through December 23, 11 am to noon, for an easy winter craft the whole family can enjoy. Supplies will be provided. Saturday, December 9: Wooden Cut-out Gnomes.

Mendo Crafts Holiday Market: monthly market of local arts and crafts vendors is set for Saturday, December 9 from 11 am to 5 pm. Imagination Station parking lot, 11 North Marin Street, by the park.

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

Celebrate 12 years of KYBU Radio: live music with the Funkateers, silent auction, food & drinks for sale. Saturday, December 9 from 6 to 10 pm, at the Round Valley Library Commons. Everyone is welcome. Help support your community radio.

1st annual Light Up the Park: The City of Willits and the Willits Future Farmers of America invite you to this 1st annual Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting event at City Park, Saturday, December 9 at 7 pm. Last-minute tree sponsors (\$125 per tree) must sign up by November 30, by contacting Dayana Estrada at dayanaestrada@willitsunified.com or Kelley Brackett at kbrackett@willitsunified.com or (707) 459-7700. Tree decorating will take place from December 4 through 9.

Blue Luke at Shanachie: "Blue Luke" Andrews is a prodigy guitarist, born and raised in Dos Rios, Mendocino County: "Imagine a band that takes the soul of the blues, the groove of the funk, the grit of rock & roll and the rich harmonies of jazz to create exactly what you've always wanted to hear." Saturday, December 9 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, December 10

Holiday Crafts Fair: 36th annual community crafts fair: Today, Sunday, December 10, from 10 am to 4 pm. Two locations: Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, and the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Live music, booths hosted by artists and crafters, food and beverages. Raffle will be drawn at 2 pm on Sunday. Info: willitscenterforthearts.org.

34th Annual Willits Community Christmas Chorale: Sunday, December 10, at 6 pm, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 265 Margie Drive. "Come for the music, stay for the cookies after."

LIVE MUSIC & VENDORS

LIGHT UP THE PARK WITH WILLITS FFA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH @ 7:00 PM

Willits FFA & the City of Willits invite you to sponsor the 1st Annual Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting!

A SEASON OF PEACE

Concerts from the Mendocino College Chamber Ensembles

UKIAH Monday, December 4 @ 7:30pm Mendocino College Chamber Choir
WILLITS Tuesday, December 5 @ 7:00pm Willits Community Choir
UKIAH Monday, December 11 @ 7:00 pm Vocal Jazz, featuring Jazz 85 "The Holiday Set"

Each concert is different ♦ Family Friendly ♦ Many Musical Styles

NAPOLEON

(R) 2 hrs 37 mins
Fri.-Thurs.: 4:00 & 7:30pm
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners

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.agapebilechurch.com

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

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

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

- 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/>
saintanthonywillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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



At top, from left: An estimated 200 motorcycle enthusiasts gather in the parking lot of the Evergreen Village Shopping Center prior to the ride. Captain Albert Hinkle of the Brooktrails FD, Nick James Hinkle, and Rebecca King wait for the ride to begin. A club of veterans from Healdsburg came up to join in the ride and the party and to help gather toys.

Above, from left: Kim "Sugar B" and Rich "Pops" Venturi organized the Toy Run along with several others. Members of the Brooktrails and Little Lake fire departments get ready to lead the motorcyclists through town. Members of the Willits Wild Bunch run the raffle area: from left, Todd "BamBam" Southard, Mylinda "Bubblez" Shaul, Jerry "Top Hat" Harris, Gloria "Jinxy" Westby, Kate "Tigger" Harris and Tiffany "Pickles" Wake.

At right: The ride begins, led by the fire departments, down Main Street before touring Little Lake Valley. At far right: The Little Lake Grange dining room is filled to capacity with motorcyclists from all over Northern California.



Toy Run

Willits Wild Bunch gathers around 200 motorcycle riders to donate toys, ride through Little Lake Valley, and enjoy festive party



At left: Tiffany "Pickles" Wake collects toys, the price of admission, from the attendees. At left, below: Bike clubs came from miles away to participate in this first-of-the-season toy run. Below: Kate "Tigger" Harris shows a couple of the raffle boards to be filled in with the winning numbers.

Photos by Mathew Caine



"The weather is gorgeous and the bikes are starting to line up and come in. This is going to be a toy run," said Rich "Pops" Venturi, Willits Toy Run organizer and president of the Willits Wild Bunch. "We average about 200 riders, so we figure we're going to be close to that with this weather, as nice as it is - a little chilly but the sun's out. If everybody sees sun, they want to ride."

The motorcycle riders filled the parking lot of the Evergreen Village Shopping Center on Sunday morning. The loud roars of the throaty engines filled the air as the motorcycle enthusiasts drove in, their cycles festooned with toys and dolls clinging precipitously.

The toys were the price of admission to the after-the-ride party at the Little Lake Grange. The toys were what the gathering was all about, as they would be going to disadvantaged and deserving youngsters on Christmas Eve, in order to bring some happiness during the season.

"This year we've got 220 kids on the program. Their names are submitted by the schools, the [Child Protective Services], because they're the folks who know the

kids in need. The last time we talked to Marcy Barry, who is running the program for us, she had it at 220 kids," continued Venturi.

"This is the 31st annual Toy Run. It's the 14th year that the Wild Bunch has been putting it on. We did all the setup last night," Venturi explained. "The hall is ready to go. We've got a silent auction. We've got a live auction. We've got a raffle. We've got music by DJ Mikey T [Mike Tobin]. It's gonna be a party. He's our main man in music."

As the noon ride approached, the bikers, many who had traveled hours to be there to support the kids, began to line up.

"The Brooktrails and Little Lake Fire Departments are going to escort us all the way down Main Street from here at Evergreen Shopping Center, all the way out through town," said Venturi. "Then the Wild Bunch will do a pack ride with everybody all the way out to Reynolds Highway. We'll turn onto Reynolds Highway and ride through the valley."

"It's a beautiful ride that we've done two years in a row," he said. "Then, we'll come back up through Commercial Street across

Read the rest of **Run** Over on page 9



Above: Markers indicate where projects are underway on the North Coast. Below: Rep. Huffman celebrates funding for the SMART extension of passenger rail.



The rest of **Shopping** From page 5

December 24. We have various sales coming up. "Santa will be here on December 3 and we'll have a big toy sale that day," said Bloomquist. "Maureen Jennison will be taking photos of the kids and families with Santa. She'll be charging \$5 for a digital image. We're going to do various sales all through December to help keep people shopping local."

Willits Furniture is currently having a going-out-of-business sale, and they actually have several lower-priced gift items that would be perfect presents for someone to find under their tree, including some whimsical metal wall decorations and small pottery pieces.

Sparetime Supply is continuing its Christmas tree offerings and have their gift shop open with plenty of local artisan selections. "We had a Black Friday coupon in the Willits Weekly that people could cut out and bring in to receive 20 percent off on Black Friday and today," said general manager Brandi Enge. "At 6 pm today, those coupons are turned into a drawing ticket. They can win a \$25 gift voucher that is good until December 23 and they can be used in the holiday store or the main store." The gift store is currently being remodeled as a permanent gift and craft store.

Brewed Awakening, the drive-through coffee shop, is offering \$1 off with a purchase of a \$10 gift certificate.

Mariposa Market has an extensive gift department with reasonably priced items, which will be 20 to 30 percent off as Christmas approaches. "Our gift department has a ton of really cool items," said Mary Anne Treveyer owner of Mariposa Market. "A lot of it is fair trade. We have a really nice variety and they're not super expensive. We have cards, jewelry, tie-dyed clothing, beautiful plants, baskets, a lot of candles. There's a whole shelf of affordable gifts for kids."

The Senior Center is gearing up for Christmas with several annual sales events. "We have the Christmas Store which is opening Saturday, December 2, from 9 am to 4 pm. It will also be open on the 4th through the 7th," said Richard Baker, Senior Center executive director.

"If it's Christmas, we have it. We have trees. We have reindeer for your lawn. We have all kinds of linens, ornaments, clothing, nativity scenes, villages, wrapping paper, ribbons and bows, tons of lights. Our prices can't be beat and you're going to support the Senior Center."

"We just got in the Christmas-wrapped See's Candy," continued Baker. "We'll have those until they're sold out. We have one-pound boxes of milk, assorted, nut chews, and soft centers, peanut brittle, and a moose medley for the kids. We're also having a craft fair on the 16th which is open from 9 am to 3 pm with 20 vendors."

Willits Power's Misty Gonzales is planning on having a 12 Days of Christmas sales series, beginning December 13, with the discounted items to be determined. They celebrated Black Friday by raffling off a portable fire pit / Bluetooth speaker.

Coast Hardware owner Wendy Morgan has a Shop Small sign in the front of the store "because I believe in that for year-round, not just one day. For the holidays coming up, there's a bunch of 'bargains of the month.' All our Christmas lights will be on sale. Sometimes, I'll run a tax-free sale. True Value will be discounting items around Christmas with some good savings. I'll do 30 to 50 percent off on some items on aisle 25, lights, garlands, balls and bags."

With quality goods and discounted holiday prices, it makes sense to keep dollars local as one shops. A thriving local economy benefits all residents.

The rest of **Run** From page 8

Main Street to School Street and then end up at the Grange. We'll get there about 12:30 and that's when the real party starts."

The Willits Wild Bunch has been transitioning to take over all aspects of the program and Toy Run, in an attempt to maximize the amount of money that they have available to buy presents for the kids. They are now handling their own bar at the party and rely on DJ Mikey T, a volunteer, to fill the room with music.

After the ride, the motorcyclists filed into the Grange to donate their toys and enjoy fellowship with other bikers from several locations. Big Earl's BBQ provided grilled chicken and Pete Swanton's Flying Dog Pizza provided pizzas. As they have done for several years in the past, the Willits Rotary Club provided side dishes and served

The rest of **Recuse** From page 1

\$68,000 in pay received by Kennedy during the COVID pandemic that had not been authorized by the county board of supervisors. Cubbison has said she allowed the payments because Kennedy had reached the salary agreement with now-retired Auditor Lloyd Weer, who has not been accused.

Payroll Manager Kennedy's court date was also continued until December 19.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, in a non-agenized item on October 17, suspended Cubbison without pay.

According to reporter Geniella's November 29 story, Cubbison's attorney Andrian warned on Wednesday that "the DA's past run-ins with suspended Auditor Chamise Cubbison, and his role in her eventual suspension without pay by the county Board of Supervisors, represent serious conflicts of interest, and sets the stage for likely civil litigation."

Adrian, a noted Sonoma County criminal defense attorney, said Wednesday "the 'responsible decision' for Eyster would be to voluntarily recuse himself, or 'in the alternative, at a minimum' notify the state Attorney General of his belief that he should step aside," the story reported.

"If he declines to do so, Ms. Cubbison requests that the Office of the District Attorney of the County of Mendocino be recused from this case," declared Andrian, in the formal motion he filed with Mendocino County Superior Court.

Judge Keith Faulder scheduled a hearing for December 19 on the latest twist in the high-profile Cubbison case.

Celebrating two years of the bipartisan infrastructure law

Submitted by U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman

In the two years since President Joe Biden signed the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we've invested in more than 40,000 projects across the country to build a better America - from repairing roads, bridges and highways to creating safer, greener, and more accessible transportation systems.

I've been focused on making sure the North Coast gets its fair share of these transformative federal dollars. And I'm happy to say our district has received investments for projects up and down the coast and they are already making a difference. Here is a snapshot of just a few of the projects for which I'm proud to have helped secure funding:

- \$8.5 Million for Humboldt Bay port development
- \$32 Million for SMART extension of passenger rail to Healdsburg and purchase of low emission freight locomotives
- \$400 Million for the seismic retrofit of the Golden Gate Bridge
- \$41.4 Million to help put better, cleaner buses on the roads in Marin and Santa Rosa
- \$65.9 Million for Trinity River fish hatchery upgrades
- \$13.5 Million for Round Valley Indian Tribe's broadband infrastructure deployment

To see more details about these North Coast projects, visit <https://huffman.house.gov/media-center/press-releases>.

In addition to creating millions of well-paying jobs and strengthening the

economy, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is:

- Increasing access to clean drinking water
- Building safer sidewalks and bike lines
- Improving freight and passenger rail, airports, and ports
- Upgrading our wastewater and stormwater infrastructure
- Expanding access to high-speed internet
- Creating a nationwide electric-vehicle charging network
- Advancing our climate goals and reducing carbon emissions
- Delivering cheaper and cleaner energy to households and businesses

To see more about how Democrats' historic investments are impacting our district, check out my dedicated webpage and our interactive map of the many projects underway on the North Coast at <https://huffman.house.gov>. As a reminder, I've compiled a Grants Summary Guide to help you navigate the hundreds of grants and programs for which you may be eligible.

And don't forget: whether it's help working with a federal agency, or providing information about legislation and policy, my staff and I are here to help. If you're in need of assistance, you can submit a Casework Authorization Form on my website. To keep up with the work I am doing as your representative, please subscribe to my newsletter, and follow me on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Threads.

Laytonville Holiday Bazaar

JOIN OVER 40 LOCAL ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS TO KICK-START YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

Sunday December 3rd
10am-4pm at Laytonville Tin Gym
(200 Branscomb Rd.)
More info: 707-984-8089

NEW LOCATION, AT THE "TIN GYM!"

It's important to take care of your health, and that starts with understanding your health risks and recommended screenings at each stage of life.

WOMEN'S HEALTH Healthy at Every Stage

Yearly visits are the best way to detect any changes in your health before they develop into bigger issues. We're here to care for you.

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We accept Medi-Cal, Medicare, Partnership and other insurance. MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

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From far left: Tejay Woods, #80, waits on the line of scrimmage for the snap. Rickey Ramirez, #22, looks light on his feet on the field. Kolbe Bufardeci, #2, carries the ball down the field. Kooper Dockins, #7, gets some help from his teammate during Friday's game against Ferndale.



Above: Holding the ball, Kolbe Bufardeci, #2, tries to fend off the Wildcats. Above, right: Quarterback Kooper Dockins, #7, looks to make a pass during Friday's game.

Photos by Ava Dockins

Second at sections

Willits High School Wolverines finish 7-14 at North Coast Sections

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Despite a gallant effort by the Willits High School Wolverines, they came up a touchdown short at the final game for the North Coast Sections when they played against the Ferndale Wildcats last Friday night.

The game was played in Ukiah, creating a neutral ground for the two teams, but evening the playing field in that regard wasn't enough for the Wolverines to take down the Wildcats, who have won the North Coast Sections title already several times.

"The Ferndale team is very good," said Wolverines coach Brandon Norbury. "They've won sections several times, but our boys held their own for quite a while, though. The score was tied at half-time, 7 to 7, after we got the corner route to Finn Lessner, #33, at the 1 yard line. Then we were then able to punch in the touchdown on a run play. Even though the penalties beat us up pretty bad, I'd say we still could have beat them."

Read the rest of **Football** Over on page 11

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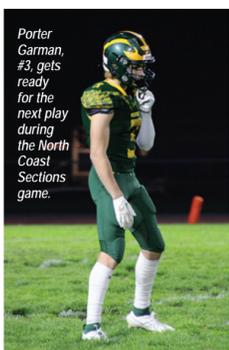
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Finn Lessner, #33, holds on to the ball through the Ferndale defense.



Porter Garman, #3, gets ready for the next play during the North Coast Sections game.

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The rest of **Depot** From page 3

Rodriguez and her husband, Marlin, own the buildings that span the north side of East Commercial Street from Marin Street down to the parking lot at the railroad tracks to the east: Imagination Station Preschool and Childcare Center at the west end, then the Educational Toy Depot, then Ace Copy and Shipping, and then a soon-to-be added new business at the far east end: The Whistlestop.

"We're excited to start the next phase of our grand vision for the block in the spring," explained Rodriguez. "We will be updating the façade on the Ace Copy and Shipping Building, and then adding in the Whistlestop. It will be a sweetshop offering smoothies, coffee, and treats and dining in the outdoor courtyard space, too."

Creating all these new businesses and really committing her vision of a vibrant section of Willits - which has been relatively quiet for many previous years - is a monumental task, and one which Rodriguez hopes will be seen as a benefit to locals, and traveling shoppers, too.

"While we are fortunate to have a few around here, across the country, toy stores have been declining, and going out of business a lot," explained Rodriguez. "But we're hoping to offer some great services that will continue to keep us thriving in our small community."

The some 30,000 or so ever-rotating SKUs offer a giant selection of toys, games, costumes, puzzles, projects and more which span in interest level from newborn to adult.

"I saw a post which I think really summed up my feelings about what we offer," said Rodriguez. "It said: 'You can find toys from your youth, and you can find new and modern toys, and you can find unusual items, too.' I really liked that, and it's true. We try to offer a huge selection of items and all of them at affordable prices. I really try and be price-conscious and am a good wholesale shopper in terms of pricing. I know what the price points are that the community needs, and I want to stay competitive with Amazon and online retailers so that you can get it here, support local, and not have to wait even two

days for shipping."

For now, getting through the holidays and finding places to add the quantity of merchandise which will be coming into the store over the next few weeks is at the top of the to-do list. Even with the expansion, the shelves inside the stores are already filled up with goodies for the holidays.

"And then we have four pallets of new things coming in the next 10 days," Rodriguez laughed.

The store is open seven days a week: Monday through Saturday, from 9 am to 5:30 pm, and Sundays, from 10 am to 4 pm. They plan to be open late when events are happening, and by request, they can open early or stay open late by appointment or for those wishing to shop in limited numbers due to health concerns and needs.

The Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot is located at 262 East Commercial Street and can be reached by calling (707) 459-8697 or emailing imaginationstationtoydepot@gmail.com

At top, from left: The appearance of the toy store building, and the then empty space next door, when Saprina Rodriguez purchased it in 2018. Lots of construction that was needed to transform from open warehouse to toy-filled store. The firewall was constructed between the buildings and needed a crane to be moved to its final place. Framing up the new space soon to be filled with toys and games in the new expansion.

Photos submitted by Saprina Rodriguez

Above, left: Ariana and Kristina Ayres, holding baby Penelope, came to shop and enjoy the new Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot during the Saturday grand opening event. Above, right: A large crowd of family, friends and supporters came to gather for a photo before the ribbon was cut.

Below, from left: Dee Ora won a koosie from the prize wheel.

Teacher Erin from Imagination Station Preschool came to see the large selection of games, toys and more in the new space.

Martin Rodriguez, holding grandson Leo, chats with Aida and Victoria Hernandez at Saturday's opening event.

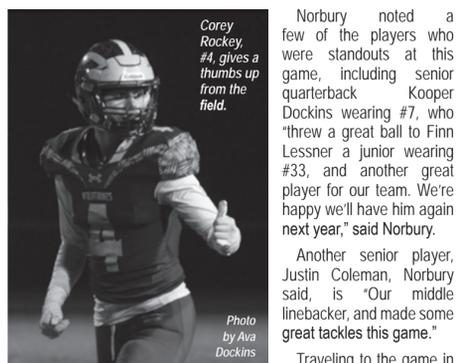
Photos by Maureen Jennison



The rest of **Football** From page 10

Norbury has been coaching the high school team for five years, but has been coaching these particular kids since they were in middle school.

"I am the PE teacher at Baechtel Grove Middle School, and I've had these kids since they were in 6th grade," explained Norbury. "They're like family now, and it's been great getting to see them grow and develop their skills and even seeing some of the older kids go on to play college ball like Jacob Arms who is now playing for the College of Idaho."



Corey Rocky, #4, gives a thumbs up from the field.

Norbury noted a few of the players who were standouts at this game, including senior quarterback Kooper Dockins wearing #7, who "threw a great ball to Finn Lessner a junior wearing #33, and another great player for our team. We're happy we'll have him again next year," said Norbury.

Another senior player, Justin Coleman, Norbury said, is "Our middle linebacker, and made some great tackles this game."

Photo by Ava Dockins

Traveling to the game in Ukiah, the team enjoyed a siren-filled escort out of town Friday with emergency personnel following and leading the bus down Main Street, to the delight of cheering family and friends, who were stopped along the sidewalks, holding signs, balloons, confetti poppers, and cheering for the team.

"We were also so grateful to all the fans who came and supported the team at the game," said Norbury. "The home stands were packed, and it was a great game!"



The rest of **Gifts** From page 1

the community are hung on trees in hopes of being selected by a community member, items purchased, and dropped off for wrapping and distribution.

This year, trees are located at J.D. Redhouse, Coast Hardware, and Les Schwab, which also serve as drop off centers, and trees can also be found at Sparetime Supply, 101 Trailer and RV Supply, and Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital.

In addition to the toys and clothes listed on the tags, the Willits Frontier Days Juniors club also wanted to ensure that each child receives a stocking, too. The club fundraises and creates these stockings independently from the Willits Rotary Christmas Program.

All efforts to put on the program each year are 100-percent volunteer, and are funded by the contributions of the community.

"We really want to stress how much the community's giving makes this program possible," said Marcy Barry. "We want to honor and appreciate the financial toll that it takes on the people who donate, and buy toys, clothes, games and more for kids and families, just out of the kindness of their heart. We have continued to refine the selection process for those who qualify to be included in the program, and are only accepting those with referrals that come directly through the Willits Unified School District. This helps to ensure that those who really need assistance this holiday are the ones getting it."

Requests on these tags include some of the usual favorites: Barbies, building blocks, and art supplies, and the elves noted many requests this year for Legos, RC cars, baby dolls, anime items, and Polly

Pockets. All dolls that are given also include a baby blanket, many of which have been handmade by the Sit 'n Sew sewing group.

"Books are also something we're seeing a large request for this year," continued Barry. "We also love to see board games come through, which can also be a great family gift allowing everyone to enjoy playing together."

"We are all set on teething, however, we don't need any more of those!" laughed Barry.

Gifts need to be dropped off, unwrapped, with the associated tag attached, and the elves will work to ready the presents for the parents to pick up and stow away until the big day. J.D. Redhouse and Les Schwab are two locations receiving the gifts back, or they can be brought back to the new HQ, the old Willits Pulse Fitness building in the Safeway Shopping Center.

After needing another location again this year, the team reached out to several empty building owners, hoping to be able to use the location for the project, Willits' Norma Hanson answered the group's call.

"We're so thankful to Norma for letting us use this space this year," said Marcy Barry. "We do need to find a permanent location, however; that way, we could accept donations year-round, store things in an organized fashion, and decorate the space to have a great festive atmosphere. We are a 503(c) non-profit and could offer a tax-donation letter to anyone who would be willing to help us with a permanent location."

For more information: Marcy: 707-272-5395 or Hailey: 707-272-1088

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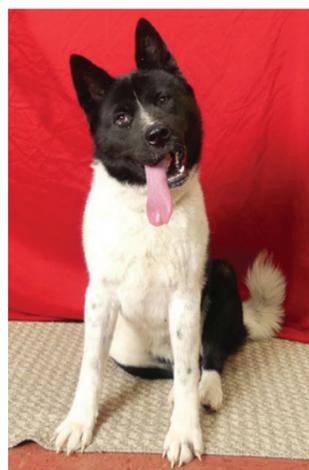
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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Charming Sakura

How adorable is this face? Sakura is a delightful girl who prances around when she's happy, and it's totally charming to watch, and WAY adorable! She's mellow inside and likes to be with people. We really enjoyed hanging out with this nice dog and are sure you will too!



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.mendoanimalshelter.com.

Clever Pongo

Pongo is a real ball of energy, with enough enthusiasm to keep you going all day long. Due to his excitement, Pongo can be a little mouthy at times, so you might want to invest in some sturdy chew toys! Despite his playful nature, Pongo is also one smart cookie. He's always eager to learn new tricks and commands, and with the right training, he's sure to be the top dog in no time.



However, it's worth noting that Pongo may need some extra guidance when it comes to being around kids. He's still learning the ropes, but with patience and lots of treats, he'll be the perfect family pet in no time.

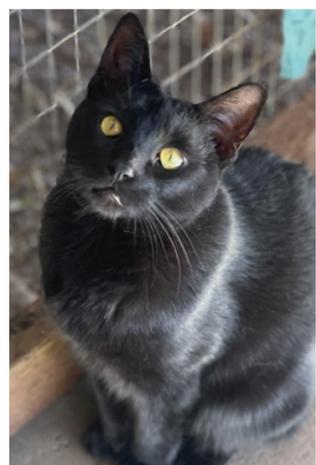
To learn more about Pongo or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 707-459-4900.

Independent Acai

Acai is a misunderstood shy guy. He can play hard-to-get when it comes to affection, but just needs some time to get to know you before he's willing to accept your love. Acai loves to play with the feather wands and dreams of being a great hunter someday.

Adopt Acai as a companion-in-progress or as a working cat. He can also wear both hats too!

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.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



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Above: Santa and the Grinch visit with smiling friends at the 2022 events including, from left: Roger and Vicki Ham, Skyler, and Mariah Rodriguez. At left: The Grinch will also accept holiday letters from opportunistic kiddos like River and Alaska Handschug were last year. At left, below: Little Weston smiles with Santa during his first Christmas last December.

Holiday Photos

Photo fundraisers coming up with Santa at J.D. Redhouse and the Grinch at Imagination Station's Educational Toy Depot

Whether you're Team Red for Santa, or Team Green for the Grinch, there will be a chance to see each and have a photo taken again this year.

Santa will be stopping by J.D. Redhouse on Sunday, December 3 from 12 to 6 pm, and the Grinch will be stopping by Imagination Station's Educational Toy Depot on Saturday, December 9 from 10 am to 5 pm.

As always, photos will be taken by local photographer Maureen Jennison and will be offered for only \$5 per group. Images will be available online to download from <https://photographress.zenfolio.com/pixwithsanta>.

This will be the 11th year Jennison has offered Santa photos at J.D. Redhouse, and the second year at the Toy Depot with the Grinch – all past

years' images are also available at the same link.

Each day will be a fundraiser event, too, with half of the proceeds from the Santa session going to the Soroptimist International of Willits, and half of the proceeds from the Grinch session going to the Willits Charter School.

Both groups benefited last year also, with the Soroptimists receiving \$627.50 and the charter school receiving \$455.

Sessions are first-come, first-served, there's no need for appointments, just come by during the time window and get in line. Well-behaved pets are always welcome, too.

Questions: 707-972-7047

– Maureen Jennison

Below, from left: Erika, Bennett and Michael Quinliven sit with a happy Grinch during last year's fundraiser at Imagination Station's Educational Toy Depot. Ryder, left, sits on Santa's lap with sister Paisley, at J.D. Redhouse. The McCoy brothers wear matching Marvel shirts to see the man in red. At bottom, from left: Kiddos smile from the lap of the Grinch including, from left: Carson, Colter and Mason

Photos by Maureen Jennison

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

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!

GIFT GIVING WORD SEARCH

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

BAG	FAMILY	LIST	RIBBONS
BOX	FRIENDS	PRIZE	SHOPPING
BUDGET	GIFT	PURCHASE	STORE
CONSIDERATE	GREETING	RECEIPT	TISSUE
COWORKER	HOLIDAYS	RECIPIENT	UNWRAP
DECORATE	IDEA	RETAIL	WRAPPING PAPER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
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CLUES ACROSS

- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Requesting
- Give temporarily
- Happiness
- Military branch
- ___ denotes past
- Middle Eastern city
- Air hostesses
- Partner to Pa
- Percussion instrument
- Popular computers
- Decrease light
- Valley in the Osh Region
- To ___ his own'
- Absence of difficulty
- Notice announcing intended marriage read out in church
- Trims by cutting
- Impact
- Military member
- A French river
- Member of prehistoric people in Mexico
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Musician Clapton
- Greek sophist
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Narrow valley

CLUES DOWN

- Colorless fluid part of blood
- Of a main artery
- Photographic equipment
- Confirms a point
- Developed over time
- Not the leader
- ___ Lang (country singer)
- Adults need one
- Nests of pigeons: Flyers
- Antelopes
- One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- Japanese three-stringed lute
- Type of cat
- Cools your home
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Pouches
- Trigraph
- Form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan
- ___ route
- Body part
- Bridge building degree
- Indicates position
- Political action committee
- Tasty snack
- Part of a quadruped
- Locate
- Pitching statistic
- Of I
- City in Utah
- Football players in the trenches
- Hammer is one
- A 'nightmarish' street
- Performers
- Stang for cut or scrape
- More breathable
- Most slick
- Provokes
- Home to college's Flyers
- Sodium
- Large fish of mackerel family
- Zero
- ___ and behold
- The Palmetto State
- Popular Tom Cruise movie franchise (abbr.)

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

October 30 to November 3

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 77 incidents in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

October 30

8:29 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of West Highway 20 and issued a citation.

3:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and Casteel Lane and issued a citation.

October 31

8:38 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

12:50 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Marcela Drive and issued a citation.

5:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of North Main Street and State Street and issued a citation.

7:40 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Alameda Avenue.

8:40 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Main Street.

10:58 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

11:03 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

November 1

12:04 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Sherwood Road and Brooktrails Drive and issued a warning.

12:50 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:16 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:22 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Manor Way and South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:41 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Alder Lane and issued a citation.

9:05 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:14 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:22 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:52 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:32 pm: LAFLIN, Adam Powell (47) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of shoplifting, carrying a concealed dirk or dagger, and failure to appear.

3:32 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of North Street.

9:11 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

1:33 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Kawi Place and issued a citation.

2:09 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:34 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Madden Lane.

3:51 pm: PATTY, Franklin Arthur (57) of Ukiah was contacted in the 300 block of North Street. He was arrested pursuant to 21310 PC (Carrying a Concealed Dirk or Dagger), on felony weapons violations, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

11:11 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Valley Street.

8:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

12:15 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of North Street.

12:50 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:16 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

November 2

9:11 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

2:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Madrone Street and issued a citation.

November 3

5:35 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

9:46 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of North Street.

1:20 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

2:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:32 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue.

3:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing near the intersection of West Van Lane and Catherine Lane and issued a warning.

4:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:58 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Baechtel Road and South Main Street.

6:04 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

November 4

8:51 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

9:24 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1600 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:15 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of North Street.

1:33 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Kawi Place and issued a citation.

2:09 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:34 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Madden Lane.

3:51 pm: PATTY, Franklin Arthur (57) of Ukiah was contacted in the 300 block of North Street. He was arrested pursuant to 21310 PC (Carrying a Concealed Dirk or Dagger), on felony weapons violations, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

November 5

1:11 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Valley Street.

8:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

Winter Solstice Celebration and Spiral Dance, December 20

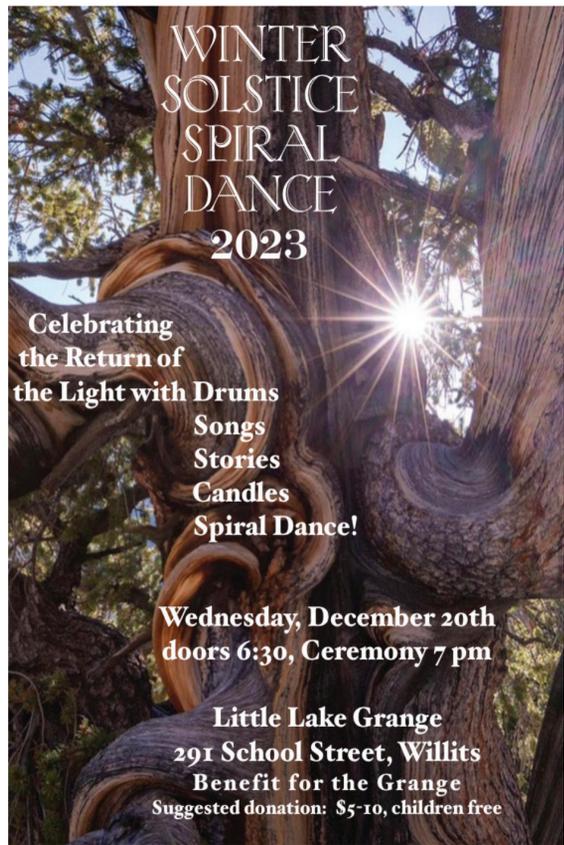
Submitted by Little Lake Grange

Come join community in the circle to celebrate the Return of the Light!

There is a Ceremony that includes a story that is suitable for children and includes children, songs, candle lighting and drums. This is followed by a community Spiral Dance.

All are welcome to attend. Rehearsals on December 15 and December 18 at 6 pm at the Grange for children and adults wanting to participate in the story and/or ceremony, to sing in the choir, etc.

Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, in Willits. Doors open at 6:30 pm, Ceremony begins at 7 pm, followed by the Spiral Dance. Suggested donation: \$5 to \$10. Children are free. A benefit for the Little Lake Grange.



Above: Dr. Wenbo Yin, left, and Ben Rueb of Mulligan Gardens will join Spencer Brewer in a private concert to benefit the Willits Center for the Arts.

Composer / pianist Spencer Brewer returns to the stage after a 25-year hiatus performing locally.

Spencer Brewer and Friends perform private concert benefitting WCA

Submitted by Willits Center for the Arts

Willits Center for the Arts presents "A Rare Intimate Evening Concert with Spencer Brewer and Friends," a private benefit concert for Willits Center for the Arts featuring Mendocino Piano Quartet, Ben Rueb, Dr. Wenbo Yin, and composer / pianist Spencer Brewer. Brewer returns to the stage after a 25-year hiatus performing locally.

This inaugural entertaining event kicks off a new concert series coming to the WCA Great Room with their new baby grand piano.

The concert is on Saturday, December 16, at 7 pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance and at the door on the day of the concert, after 5 pm. Tickets will go fast, so purchase in advance at www.willitscenterforthearts.org.



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Small Works Show
Handmade gifts by 40 artists.



Open
Dec. 2
Through D
Dec. 23

71 E. Commercial St
Willits 95490

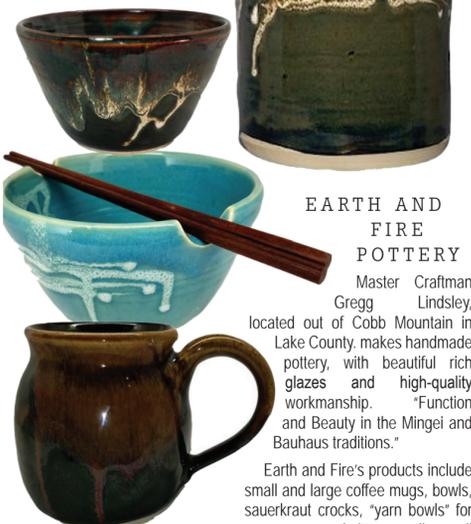


DZIGA ARTS

Rachel Dziga of Dziga Arts is an American artist who works in painting and printmaking mediums. She teaches plein air workshops in the beautiful Texas hill country and the Tuscan countryside of Italy. She is currently doing a five-week visiting printmaking workshop series at the Mendocino County Museum. She will be bringing her all original cyanotypes, hand printed in plein air, to the Holiday Craft Fair this year. "Time folded into velvety indigo; creating nostalgic blended spaces found only in the subconscious mind."

More info: www.Racheldziga.com

At right: Earth and Fire's large Sauerkraut Crock. Below, from top: A small cereal bowl. Earth and Fire Pottery's handmade rice bowl with chopsticks. Earth and Fire's small coffee mug, one of their best-sellers.



EARTH AND FIRE POTTERY

Master Craftman Gregg Lindsley, located out of Cobb Mountain in Lake County, makes handmade pottery, with beautiful rich glazes and high-quality workmanship. "Function and Beauty in the Mingei and Bauhaus traditions."

Earth and Fire's products include small and large coffee mugs, bowls, sauerkraut crocks, "yarn bowls" for knitters, olive oil dispensers, French butter crocks, sponge holders, and more.

For more info, visit www.earthandfirepottery.net or the "Earth and Fire Pottery" page on Facebook.



DONNA D'TERRA

Donna d'Terra will be exhibiting her "Earthfans" at the Willits Holiday Craft Fair, which are assemblages using nature materials, such as wood, feathers, crystals, shells, lichens, etc. She will also be selling "Earthvoices," handmade paper wall hangings that include inspirational quotes that speak about the Earth.

At left: One of Donna d'Terra's "Earthfans," made with materials from nature.



At right: Friends of Organic Attire, from left, Carita Bryant, Christylee Long, and Cheryl Evans, wearing the colorful, hand-dyed and hand-printed organic cotton clothing. Organic Attire's "Redwood Grove" design. Organic Attire's "Black-Eyed Susan Vine" in a trapeze top.



ORGANIC ATTIRE

Janae and Gary Stephens are visual artists who live and work on a solar and hydro powered homestead southwest of Willits. As Organic Attire, they've worked together to create a line of unique, hand-dyed and hand-printed organic cotton clothing with a nature theme of flora and fauna.

They start with organic cotton fabric, design their clothing with a pattern maker and then work with a company in San Francisco that cuts and sews their garments to their specifications. They then hand-dye each garment and apply their artwork with a combination of block-printing, screen printing and hand-painting, with wonderfully vibrant non-toxic, water-based acrylic inks that produce a print that is soft to the touch and long-lasting.

More info at www.organicattire.com or the "Organic Attire" page on Facebook.



HIDDEN GEM CANDLE CO.

Emilie Cavallari of Hidden Gem Candle Co. will be at the Community Craft Fair, showcasing her fragrant coconut wax candles made in Willits that contain 24 karat gold flakes. The medium and large candles contain a special crystal.

Candles can be purchased in person at Hidden Gem Candle Co.; more info: email Emilie Cavallari emiliecavallari@gmail.com

The candles can also be found at Moon Lady, and at Sparetime Supply. Some scents include "Botanical Garden" with fruit blossom and almond, and "Vaycaymode," with coconut and citrus.

At right: Hidden Gem candles, made in Willits in small batches, contain 24 karat gold flakes.



WCA Holiday Craft Fair

Local artists offer their handcrafted wares, December 8 to 10

The Willits Center for the Arts Holiday Craft Fair 2024, December 8, 9, and 10, will be the 36th annual Willits fair. The annual holiday fair is one of the few Fine Art and Craft shows in inland Mendocino County, with over 35 fine artists and artisans offering unique gifts and work including soaps, ceramics, jewelry, cutting boards, clothing, knives, herbal gifts, and more. The fair provides free live entertainment throughout, and food available for purchase from the Willits Charter School. Admission is free.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS Presents

The 36th Annual Holiday Crafts Fair!

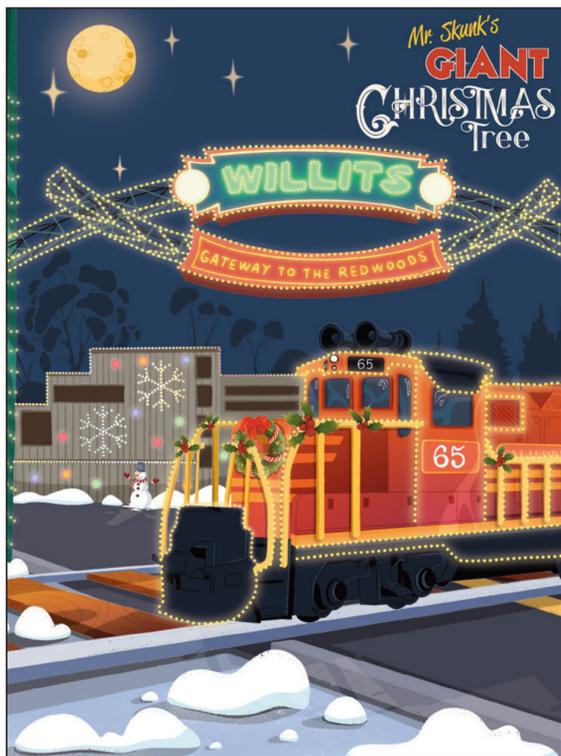
Live Music, Booths hosted by artists and crafters, Food and Beverages. Raffle will be drawn at 2pm Sun, Dec. 10th

DECEMBER

FRI. 8th 3pm - 6pm
SAT. 9th 10am - 6pm
SUN. 10th 10am - 4pm

Willits Center for the Arts
71 E. Commercial St.
&
Willits Community Center
111 E. Commercial St.

For more information: willitscenterforthearts.org



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For the Whole Family
NOV. 25-DEC. 31

Trains leave from downtown Willits located just off Highway 101.

Tickets regularly \$59.95
Local's Price Up to 50% Off
(Depending on Zip Code)

Locals price for residents of Mendocino, Lake, and Humboldt Counties
Tickets claimed in person upon showing ID with address

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SANTA & GRINCH PHOTOS
BY MAUREEN JENNISON!



SEE SANTA Sun 12/3:
12 to 6 pm
at JD REDHOUSE

SEE the GRINCH Sat 12/9:
10 am to 5 pm
at TOY DEPOT

\$5 DONATION PER GROUP - DIGITAL IMAGES ONLY

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FREE EVENTS:

- Train Rides pulled by our Steam Locomotive
- Treats in the Beautifully Decorated Engine House
- Visits and Pics with Santa and a Small Toy

The Sober Grad kids will be selling lunch! Mendocino County Museum will hold a book sale and Take and Make Craft in the Wonnacott Room

420 E. Commercial Street in Willits

Calvary Chapel Willits Presents

CHRISTMAS In The Park

Join us at Bud Snyder Park!
FRIDAY DECEMBER 1ST @ 6PM
Tree Lighting - Carols - Cookies - Hot Cocoa



Annual Christmas Store
5 DAYS ONLY
Dec. 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2023
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Decorations, toys, clothes, Christmas music and more!

See's CANDIES
1 lb. boxes of Christmas Wrapped See's Candy
Get it while it lasts!
Available for purchase at our Thrift Store or in the Senior Center lobby.

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WILLITS
707-459-6826

MID MANAGEMENT, LLC
707-972-0675
LIC # 100267

Michael Quinliven
Manager
707-972-0675
mdtreemanagement1@gmail.com

Dustin Gregg
Manager
707-354-0950
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The Willits Post Office's Philip Laurent and Dee Baca smile with the Santa Mailbox.

Letters to Santa

Willits branch of the U.S. Post Office unveils 2023 Santa mailbox for upcoming holiday

Now through December 20, the official Santa Mailbox will be ready to accept letters to the man in red at the Willits Post Office.

The mailbox is set up by the desk clerks, inside the interior lobby of the main building located at 315 South Main Street, therefore, kids of all ages are welcome to bring their letters for delivery to the North Pole during business hours.

While mail left in standard business or residential outgoing boxes, or dropped off at the blue collection boxes around town, does require a postage stamp, letters for Santa that are brought to the special mailbox at the post office do not need a stamp to be delivered.

Senders are welcome to cut out the below letter and bring it to the post office, or letter forms are also available inside the post office from the desk clerks, too. Of course, custom-made, unique letters are always welcome also.

Regardless of the type of letter, Santa's elves at the post office urge parents and adults to remember to please include the child's return address so that Santa can reply!

Little ones are also welcome to bring their letters to Santa to the Santa photos event on Sunday, December 3 at J.D. Redhouse from 12 to 6 pm if they would like to hand them to Santa in person.

— Maureen Jennison



Below: The red mailbox is ready for Santa letters in the main lobby of the Willits Post Office.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Dear Santa,

This Christmas, I am _____ years old.

This year, I have been... good all of the time
 good some of the time
 naughty (but nice!)

What I would like most this Christmas is...
 _____ and _____

And I promise to leave out _____ for you!

Merry Christmas, Santa!

Love, _____

P.S. Please Say "Hi" to _____ for me!

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GET ALL YOUR HOLIDAY SHIPPING DONE HERE!

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24 Monroe St. Willits, CA 95490

LEGAL NOTICES

WW461
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2023-F0451

The following corporation is doing business as EuRoad Travel Guides, 1816 Buckeye 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

Willits Weekly can run legal notices including fictitious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and more. Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@gmail.com

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

CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES DEPARTMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS Annual Invitation for Inclusion on the 2024 City of Willits List of Qualified Bidders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that:

The City of Willits is soliciting applicants for its 2024 List of Qualified Bidders. Interested parties should complete the City of Willits Informal Bidding Annual Pre-Qualification Application for 2024 and submit to Brandy Sanderson at: bsanderson@cityofwillits.org or Brandy Sanderson City of Willits 111 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490

Re: 2024 Qualified Bidders List

Bidders are hereby advised that the previous bidders list will be replaced with the new list and no contractors will be carried over from the previous list.

REQUESTS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY December 29, 2023 Questions concerning this notice should be directed to Brandy Sanderson at bsanderson@cityofwillits.org. The application can also be found on the City's website on the Engineering page; <http://www.cityofwillits.org/147/Engineering>.
CITY OF WILLITS: s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
DATED: 11/30/23
Publication Dates: November 30, December 7 & 14, 2023

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: 707-456-9210
Publication Dates: November 16, 22, and 30, 2023

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Mendocino County invites applications for:

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Community Health Worker II \$18.48 - \$22.47 Hourly
Corrections Deputy \$54,184 - \$65,873
Deputy Probation Officer I/II \$51,937 - \$69,617
Deputy Public Defender I-IV \$81,785 - \$154,960
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II \$62,628 - \$87,214
Director of Nursing - Public Health \$123,406 - \$150,009
Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help \$24.38 - \$29.63 Hourly
Legal Secretary I/II \$38,188 - \$53,851
Public Safety Dispatcher \$53,102 - \$64,542
Registered Veterinary Technician \$52,832 - \$64,230
Sheriff's Services Technician \$37,065 - \$42,889
Supervising Juvenile Corrections Officer \$61,734 - \$75,046

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

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-F0514

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

WCS Community Thanksgiving 2023

Volunteers, from left, Ken Mace, Patsi Broeske, Senior Center Director Richard Baker, and Debi Menesini work the day before to prepare for the 34th Annual Willits Community Services and Food Bank's Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Several hundred hungry people were fed on Thanksgiving Day, many more than expected. Unfortunately, we ran out before all could be served.

Thanks to all who donated goods, time, money, and labor to make the event successful.

— Ruthanne Volz, director, WCS

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Room for Rent
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RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/p>

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 Broller). Saturday, December 9 - 8 am to 4 pm



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— Ruthanne Volz, director, WCS



PEO Club offers scrubbys again this year at the Willits Senior Center Craft Fair

The PEO Club will be offering their popular \$3 scrubbys, body creams, candles and more again at this year's Willits Senior Center Craft Fair, happening at 1501 Baechtel Road on Saturday, December 16.

The sale will start at 9 am and run until 3 pm with several vendors offering all sorts of craft and holiday items.

Come support all the vendors, and help contribute to the PEO Club's scholarship fund which will award funds to a female high school graduate.

- Submitted by the PEO Club



PEO sisters Erla Barr, left, and Kay Wright smile with scrubbys and more that will be available at the sale.



Holiday Shopping

The Senior Center Christmas Store opens December 2, offering a wide range of Christmas ornaments, decorations, wreaths, trees, and more

"Before you do any of your Christmas decorations shopping, stop by and see what we have, our prices can't be beat!" said Richard Baker, executive director of the Willits Senior Center. The Christmas store opens Saturday, December 2, and then continues Monday, December 4 through Thursday, December 7. Store is open 9 am to 4 pm.

All proceeds support essential Senior Center programs and services.

"We also have our Christmas-wrapped See's Candy available at our thrift store and in the lobby of the center," continued Baker. "You can pick up candy boxes Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm."

- Submitted by the Willits Senior Center



Lots of holiday goodies were available at last year's sale; stop by this year for new finds!

Photos by Maureen Jennison

Full-service Bathing & Grooming
Bath & Brush
Face, Feet & Fanny Trim

1200 East Hill Road in Willits

Call or text for an appointment: 707-459-5236

East Hill Veterinary Clinic All pets must show proof of current rabies and bordetella vaccine

City of Willits Employment Opportunity: City Planner

Annual salary is \$71,329.23 - \$86,701.06 DOQ/DOE

Application Deadline: Friday, December 15, 2023, by 4:00 P.M.

For a full job description and application instructions contact: Human Resources at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org

Go to our website: <https://cityofwillits.org/219/Employment-Opportunities>



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RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

See's CANDIES



JUST ARRIVED!

1 lb. boxes of Christmas Wrapped See's Candy.

Get it while it lasts!

Available for purchase at our Thrift Store or in the Senior Center lobby.

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WILLITS
707-459-6826



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