

Willits Weekly

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Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 579 **Thursday, December 5, 2024**

Laytonville forum offers tips on insurance crisis

By Sara Reith, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

Everyone knows that California, like many other states, is in the midst of an insurance crisis. The pressing questions are: what can property owners do to bring costs down; and is there help on the horizon?

On the eve of the season's first atmospheric river, dozens of Laytonville residents made their way to Harwood Hall for Fire Insurance Community Forum about how they could navigate the insurance quagmire. The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, the California Department of Insurance, and United Policyholders, a non-profit consumer rights and education organization, sent representatives to take questions and offer information.

Attendees learned that, under the terms of a 2022 regulation called "Safer from Wildfires," they can be eligible for insurance discounts if they create defensible space around their homes and take steps to make their structures more fire-resistant.

Read the rest of **Tips**
Over on Page 15

Round Valley awarded \$8.8 million for Tribal housing

November 27 – The Round Valley Indian Housing Authority is proud to announce the award of \$8,776,001 through the California Department of Housing and Community Development's 2023 Homekey Tribal Program to support Phase 5 of the Tribal Winds housing development project which will create new permanent supportive rental housing units in the rural community of Covelo.

Work will include the construction of 18 single-family homes on a 9.60-acre parcel adjacent to existing Tribal Winds homes completed by the RVIHA in earlier project phases. The new homes will consist of two- and three-bedroom units and, upon completion, will be offered to eligible tribal members with priority given to applicants on the RVIHA housing waitlist.

The Homekey Tribal Program seeks to reduce barriers to affordable housing for tribal communities with a targeted focus on addressing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The Round Valley Indian

Read the rest of **Housing**
Over on Page 15



Above, from left: Elves hang out with Ryatt, mom Dani and Ryder; and Hazel, left, Oscar and Otto, right at J.D. Redhouse. The Grinch visits with Violet, left, and Kandi and Landyn, right, at the Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot. Below: The Bouthillier family smiles for a photo including, from left: Elf Madison, Hannah, Kevin, Jamie and Elf Gracie.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above, from left: Soroptimists gather with the Elves for a photo. The battle for Thanksgiving or Christmas was on between Ronnie the Thanksgiving Turkey and The Grinch. The J.D. Redhouse family including Kaleb, Aybrie, Ashtan and Jake.



At left, top: Kalani was happy to smile with The Grinch. At left: Vicente makes silly faces from The Grinch's lap.



Above, from left: Arianna holds Kyler and smiles with Leo, front, with The Grinch. Emma, left, and Grayson are all silly faces for Grinch photos. The Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot family, including The Grinch, Amelia, Saprina, Leo and Martin. Below, from left: Halcum and Lilah came dressed for the occasion to meet The Grinch. Cathy Bouthillier came to visit her granddaughter elves at J.D. Redhouse. Photographer Maureen holds daughter Maggie with the elves. At bottom, left: Colter, and Candy Cane the Elf on the Shelf, hang out with the big elves at J.D. Redhouse. At bottom, right: Little Kieran was the perfect smiley, mini Grinch.



Alaniz wins WCC seat in final results

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits City Council candidate Mathew Alaniz has won the third seat on the Willits City Council by a five vote margin over candidate Robin Leler in the final tally. Mendocino County Voter Registrar Katrina Bartolomie certified final November 5, 2024 election results on Tuesday afternoon, December 3.

For City Council, Former Sheriff Tom Allman came in on top, with 1,074 votes or 29.01%. and incumbent Gerry Gonzales received 1,004 votes or 27.12%. For third place, math teacher Alaniz received 663 votes or 17.91%, winning the third seat.

Candidate Robin Leler came in fourth, with 658 votes or 17.77%. Write-in candidate Saprina Rodriguez received 289 votes or 7.81%, and write-in candidate Bradley Thomas received 14 votes or 0.38%.

A total of 3,702 votes were cast in the Willits City Council race. Many City of Willits voters did not choose three candidates for Willits City Council on their ballots,

Read the rest of **Results**
Over on Page 15

Elves & The Grinch

Two days of fun-filled photos held last weekend for the delight of the community this holiday season

While this year's sessions were a little different than normal, local photographer Maureen Jennison was still thrilled to be able to offer two quick opportunities for kids of all ages to enjoy holiday photos. J.D. Redhouse offered Madison and Gracie Bouthillier as elves to smile with in a snowy scene on Saturday, and the Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot hosted The Grinch in a toy-filled living-room setting on Sunday. Photos are loaded now onto the gallery site: <https://photographress.zenfolio.com/pixwithsanta> Thank you to all who attended!

Willits man convicted of impaired hit-and-run

Posted by Mendocino County District Attorney

A Mendocino County Superior Court jury returned from its deliberations Thursday morning, November 14 to announce it had found the trial defendant guilty.

Defendant Clayton Joel Sternick, age 44, of Willits, was found guilty of misdemeanor driving a motor vehicle while unlawfully under the influence of a drug, driving on a suspended license, and hit-and-run driving.

After the jury was thanked and excused, the defendant admitted as true that he had also previously been convicted of misdemeanor driving on a suspended license in 2018 and 2021.

The law enforcement agencies that provided testimony during this week's retrial were the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Justice Toxicology Laboratory.

The prosecutor who presented the People's evidence at trial was Senior Deputy District Attorney Luke Oakley.

Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Keith Faulder presided over the three-day trial.

Reflecting on a year of progress: 2024 IN REVIEW

By Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez

Serving as mayor for the City of Willits this past year has been an honor and a privilege. Together, the City Council, staff, and community have worked tirelessly to implement the goals set through meaningful community participation. The progress we've seen in 2024 is the culmination of years of planning, vision, and hard work. It is gratifying to witness the tangible results of those efforts as our residents benefit from the changes.

Serving on the council is not glamorous. It's a role that demands time, focus, and, at times, emotional resilience. Yet, the work is profoundly rewarding, knowing the positive impact we've made – both visible and behind the scenes. One of my greatest joys this year has been highlighting the work of local groups and individuals who contribute so much to our community.

Here are some key accomplishments in 2024 under the leadership of the current City Council and the dedicated management of City Manager Brian Bender:

- **Infrastructure Improvements:** The city made substantial investments in infrastructure, prioritizing the replacement of aging steel water mains in some of the most problematic areas in town. This project will improve water quality for years to come, and future phases are planned. Additionally, the City Council supported improvements at the water and sewer plants, adopted water conservation policies, and enhanced well-monitoring systems to protect this vital resource.

- **Sustainability Efforts:** We expanded the city's solar energy initiatives and conducted energy

audits to reduce our carbon footprint. These steps align with our commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable practices.

- **Modernizing the General Plan:** After decades of delay, the city made significant progress in updating its General Plan. This foundational document will guide thoughtful growth, enable new housing construction, and preserve our vision for a walkable, livable small-town community.

- **Tax Sharing Agreement:** For the first time, the city finalized a master tax-sharing agreement with the county, setting the stage for potential annexations in future years.

- **Street and Sidewalk Repairs:** Willits experienced a flurry of road construction activity this year, with investments in improving sidewalks, curbs, and gutters throughout the city. Several key projects were completed, and more are in the planning stages as we continue to address the condition of our streets.

- **Strengthening Partnerships:** Collaboration has been a cornerstone of our success. The City of Willits worked closely with neighboring cities, local nonprofits, state representatives, the California Conservation Corps, the Willits Library, the Mendocino County Museum, the Willits Center for the Arts, Mendocino Transit Authority, LAFCO, and others to advance shared goals.

- **Grant Funding:** Through advocacy and careful planning, the city secured several significant grants, including the Clean California Grant, the

Read the rest of **Review** | *Over on page 4*

At right: Longtime Meals on Wheels volunteer driver, Jack Bothwell, center, and his family surround the Senior Center's Meals on Wheels truck. Willits Senior Center has honored Bothwell's years of service and his family's raising of \$17,000 towards a new truck by adding "In honor of your service, Jack Bothwell" to the side of the truck.



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

In September I was approached by a member of Jack Bothwell's family. They wanted to rent the senior center to celebrate Jack Bothwell's 100th birthday and also acknowledge Jack's many years of volunteering as one of our Meals on Wheels driver by raising money for a new Meals on Wheels truck. Their goal was to raise \$10,000.

I am extremely happy to announce the Bothwell family and friends significantly exceeded their goal and raised just shy of \$17,000 via donations and raffle ticket sales. The Bothwell family's only request for their substantial and very generous contribution was that we acknowledge Jack's many years of service by honoring him with his name on our Meals on Wheels truck. To date we have raised and set aside \$46,571.70 of the \$88,000 needed to purchase a new MOW truck.

Our senior center is very fortunate and extremely grateful for the many caring people in our community who answer the call when the senior center needs financial support. The Harrah Senior Center would like to thank the Bothwell family and friends for their financial support.

I would also like to thank the following businesses for donating raffle prizes; Willits Safeway, Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden, Kathy Uppinghouse, Loose Caboose Cafe, Scoops, First Nails Spa, Dorothy Roediger, Mountain Mike's Pizza, Bad Habit Grill, Huntington Beach Beer Company, Ukiah Brewing Company, North Coast Brewing Co., The Book Juggler, The Whistle Stop, Dave's Bike Shop, Ellie's Mutt Hut, Mendocino Book Company, Schat's Bakery Cafe, Grace Hudson Museum & Sun House, Charles M. Schulz Museum, Costeaux Bakery and Cafe, County Quilts and Fabric, Friedman's Home Improvement, Flourish and Flow, In N Out Burger, Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, B.J's Brewhouse, Grocery Outlet, Little River Inn Golf, Pacific Grove Golf Links, Brown's Corner Gas, Foxtail Golf, Hidden Valley Lake Golf, Indian Valley Golf, Ukiah Valley Golf, Frey Organic Vineyards Winery, Rooster Run Golf, Valley of the Moon Golf, The Mane House Salon, Willits Power & Hardware, Rainbow America's Country Store, The Munchery, The Skunk Train, The Three Sisters Gift Shop, Bodega Bay Golf, The Home Depot, Roots Cafe, Costco, Willits Community Garden, El Mexicano, Willits Redwood Company, T&T Market, and Mariposa Market. Happy Holidays!

Richard Baker, director, Harrah Senior Center

Toy Run 2024

Willits Wild Bunch gathers gifts for children at annual party and ride event

The Willits Wild Bunch carried on the tradition of the Willits Toy Run in grand fashion. Last Sunday, the Evergreen Shopping Center parking lot was filled with motorcycle enthusiasts, some in clubs and some who ride independently, for the Toy Run, in which they bring unwrapped toys to the Little Lake Grange, after socializing and touring the valley. Other citizens were invited to participate and bring their gifts directly to the grange. Toys or donations were the price of admission to one of the biggest parties of the year.

"This year the Willits Wild Bunch is the sole sponsor and producer of the Toy Run," stated Richard "Pops" Venturi of the Willits Wild Bunch and organizer of much of the event. "The Willits Rotary Club, who has produced the Toy Run in past years, has a philosophy. They get projects to a place where they are actually working, and they hand it off to somebody else. We've been in partnership with the Rotary for the last 10 years or so. Now they've handed it off to us. They handed off the Christmas Program to Frontier Days. So, Willits Frontier Days is now solely taking care of the Christmas Program.

"We try and support all the other toy runs," Venturi continued. "Fort Bragg is next week. Some of us will go over there and support their toy run. Ukiah has one coming up on the 21st, I believe. We'll be there, helping them out. We get groups from everywhere. It's all about the kids. The biker community is the biggest, number-one sponsor for kids in the world.

"One thing I wanted to add," said Venuri, "is the cooperation we get from Little Lake Fire Department and the Brooktrails Fire Department. This year, we have an ambulance. We don't see that in a lot of different communities at their toy runs. Willits is phenomenal."

After touring Little Lake Valley, the bikers adjourned to the Little Lake Grange, where they deposited their toy donations and were given a chance to participate in several raffles, including a 50 / 50 raffle where the winner would go home with half the pot. The big raffle offered 108 prizes.

"People purchase raffle tickets and then we put the numbers up on a board as we pull them from the bin," explained Kat, better known as "Tigger." "We put it up on the wall and then people come and collect their raffle tickets. Each prize has a specific number and the number on the board corresponds to each prize. One ticket for \$1, 12 chances for \$10, and 25 for \$20." There was also a well-stocked silent auction and a three-item live auction.

DJ Mikey T, as usual, provided the music to keep the spirit light in the building. But there were some bittersweet moments during the afternoon. Gloria Westby's cousin, Victor Durand, is battling pancreatic cancer and there has been a GoFundMe set up to help his family with expenses. Those who wish to donate can go to: www.gofundme.com/help-victor-durand-through-chemotherapy.

Venturi also, per custom at the event, read the names of those who are no longer with us: Gary Lafferty, Lynn Kennelly, Al and Elaine Robinson, Neil "Hotrod Leftover" Orr, and Shelly "Sugar Shaker" Revling. A toast was hoisted in their memories.

The meal was provided by El Mexicano Restaurant and Flying Dog Pizza. Cookies and desserts came from Jolene Carrillo, Magoo, and the Junior Frontier Days kids.

Marcy Barry, of the Willits Frontier Days, brought the junior club members to help out with the food service. They were joined by members of the local FFA. "Frontier Days took over the Tag Tree Program, where we make sure the kids get all the toys, get them wrapped," said Barry. "Our trees were out by Black Friday and we would like all the tags in by December 15. We were lucky enough to get the old Dahvi's Kitchen donated to us by Thy from 101 Burgers. If somebody is so inclined to give us a building year-round, we would love it, so we could do various drives during the year, so the community isn't hit so hard at Christmas time. They can contact me at 707-272-5395. We have a 501(c)(3). The juniors program is amazing. They were down there stuffing stockings and they provide all the stockings to the children.

"If someone wants to fulfill the requests on the trees, they can go to J.D. Redhouse, Les Schwab, Coast Hardware, or Roots Restaurant," Barry explained. "All the tags are on there. If you pick a tag, we ask that you try to get everything on the tag. Otherwise, we have to go shop it. If you would rather just drop a jacket or a toy in there, you can put them in the bucket at J.D. Redhouse, Les Schwab, Chamber of Commerce, and Coast Hardware. We will also take money donations. We have a lot of people that adopt families. Our community is very generous."



Above, left: Independent veteran bikers come to support the cause and help children have a merry Christmas. Above, right: This young boy and his mom, Rebecca, meet the Grinch. Below, left: As usual, the Toy Run is well attended by bikers and supporters from several cities. Below, right: Richard "Pops" and Kim Venturi raise a glass to beloved supporters and club members who have passed away.



Above, left: Two members of Wino's Crew check their raffle tickets against the list of winners. Above, right: These two sisters drop off toys they thought the recipients would enjoy.

At left: The Willits Wild Bunch leads their friends from other clubs through a tour of Little Lake Valley.

Below: Members of the Harley Owners Group came up from Ukiah to enjoy a Little Lake Valley ride and some great food.

Photos by Mathew Caine



THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT End-of-year update 2024

By Supervisor John Haschak

As the end of the year is near, here is my version of a wrap-up of the year. There are successes and celebrations, controversial decisions, and pending issues.

Round Valley Library was named the Best Small Library in America!

There is a budget carry forward of \$11 million. On the plus side were supplemental and regular property taxes, cannabis taxes, and the Cost Plan recovery fees which more than offset lower sales and Transient Occupancy Taxes. This enabled us to pay back the loan from Measure B for the Mental Health wing of the County Jail.

The plan to balance the budget was presented in February. I worked on a voluntary retirement incentive, the transition of the museum to the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum non-profit, and restructured the administration of county libraries. Together these saved almost a million dollars.

The State Controller's Office conducted an audit of Mendocino County's fiscal operations. The findings (except for the lack of doing a risk assessment for the consolidation of the Auditor/Controller and Treasurer/Tax Collector positions, which I voted against) are cleared up now.

Negotiations were settled for all of the county's bargaining units.

Construction began on both the Psychiatric Hospital Facility and the mental health wing of the County Jail.

Making our communities safer, the county received 1. a \$12 million Local Transportation Climate Adaptation grant for the environmental analysis and design work for a second access route for Sherwood Road; 2. a second grant for an access project on Redemeyer Road east of Ukiah; and 3. \$3.5 million for the first phase of the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant for fuel reduction, vegetation management, and home hardening in the Brooktrails area. Additionally, the special assessment election for maintaining emergency access routes for the Sherwood Road area passed with overwhelming support.

The Veterans Services Office returned to their home location in Ukiah. Veterans made their voices heard and heard again until the move to the Public Health building was rescinded. The Board of Supervisors approved a Master Tax Sharing Agreement and increased density of cannabis permits which I opposed. Litigation is still proceeding regarding the Auditor/Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector.

Ongoing proposals which I support are: a low intensity camping ordinance; prohibiting digital billboard advertising; limits on short-term rentals; a proposed noise ordinance; and contribution limits to campaigns.

Talk with the Supervisor is set for Thursday, December 12 at Brickhouse Coffee at 10 am. I am available by email at haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-972-4214.

May your Holidays be full of good health and love.

Book Fair at WHS Library

Submitted by WHS Library

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to the Willits High School Library next week, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. The Book Fair will be open to the public from 3:15 to 4 pm. Come and check out the books and fun trinkets, and support our school. Books make great gifts for all! We are hoping to sell 200 books this fair, please help us meet our goal! You can support your students by contributing money to their scholastic ewallet. Check out our website www.willitsunified.com/whs/page/library or scan the QR code below, or ask Teacher Librarian Jill Dorman for more information at (707) 459-7700 x 1518. Can't wait to see you at the fair!!



The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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Above, left: Tara Moratti, with her Rotary Club apron on, and fellow volunteer Adrian Bustamante of Lakeport get ready to dish out turkey, mashed potatoes, and gravy in the Senior Center kitchen. Above, right: Dr. John Glycer, treasurer of the Willits Community Services Board of Directors, with Thanksgiving Kitchen Manager Yvonne Wagenet.



Photo by Marcy Barry

Many volunteers serve hundreds of diners at this year's Willits Community Thanksgiving dinner

By Kim Tippet, for WCS

Dozens of volunteers showed up to the 35th annual Community Thanksgiving dinner to help us serve, wait, and bus tables and greet guests as they arrived. So many volunteers that we had to turn so many away. We at Willits Community Services are so thankful for those who helped us serve and for those willing to serve! We appreciate all of their kindness and willingness to help!

Emandal - A Farm on a River made 800 rolls for us. Over 100 pies and caked donated by Safeway, Seventh-Day Adventist Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and Saint John's Lutheran Church as well as many individuals. \$8,500 was donated by Sherwood Casino to help pay for the cost of dinner, as well as hams donated by Willits police and fire departments.

Over 600 dinners were served. Over 176 meals were delivered to house-bound seniors.

Thank you again to everybody who helped with the 2024 Willits Community Thanksgiving dinner.

As we gear up for our winter program, we need donations to prepare for the severe weather this winter season and to help with operational expenses associated with the increased demands placed on the food bank, such as our food distribution, winter motel program, coat program, Christmas, and more.

Please send all donations to: Willits Community Services, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.

Above, from left: Debi Menesini, warehouse manager for WCS, left, and Gail Warner from the Willits Community Services Board of Directors greeted guests as they come in.

The Thank You Banner for all who helped with this year's Community Thanksgiving Dinner was put up over the door, and tables were set with placemats decorated by Willits Charter Elementary School students and Grayson Bailey, age 3.

Little Lake Fire's Engineer/EMT Harry So, Dr. John Glycer, treasurer of the WCS board of directors, and Rick Williams of the Brooktrails Township board greet guests at the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Senior missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Collette and Ronald Harmer, pose with Debi Menesini, warehouse manager for Willits Community Services. The Harmers drive over every Wednesday from Lake County to help at the food bank and arranged the missionaries from the church to help on Thanksgiving Day.

Photos by Willits Food Bank employees



Kitchen manager Yvonne Wagenet and volunteers from CAL FIRE's Parlin Forks Conservation Camp in the Senior Center's kitchen.

2024
Dec 13: 12noon-5pm
Dec 14: 11am - 5pm

LITTLE LAKE GRANGE HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

291 School St., Willits

Bring a special gift or craft to trade with the community!

Holiday Crafts Fair at the Little Lake Grange

Submitted by Little Lake Grange

The Little Lake Grange presents its Holiday Crafts Fair set for Friday, December 13 from 11 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, December 14 from 12 to 5 pm. This is going to be a lovely weekend in Willits with many opportunities all over downtown to visit with the whole family, browse, get presents, meet local artisans and crafters, learn about crafted herbal and flower remedies, and see hand-knitted warm cozy gifts at a good price.

At the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, you can get yummy food and drinks too. There will be Aztec chocolate and Chinese food, and you can get food to go. Reza's popular Holiday Dresden "Rezden" Stollen will make its seasonal debut.

All donations and income from this event will go to the Grange Roof Fund. Thank you for shopping at the Grange. Community rocks!



Mystic Candle Line

About: Mystic Candles and other offerings from the Ministry of Divine Consciousness will be available. Below: Reza Breadery's popular Holiday Dresden "Rezden" Stollen will make its seasonal debut at the Grange's Holiday Crafts Fair. Below, left: Check out hand-knitted goods like this cozy scarf and mittens at the Grange's Holiday Crafts Fair.

'Believe!' Christmas play at WCT, opens December 14

"Believe!" a feel-good Christmas play with traditional music, will show at Willits Community Theatre from December 14 through 22. A play for the whole family written by Faye Couch Reeves and directed by Robert Ford, "Believe!" tells the story of Alex, a teenage boy disillusioned with Christmas until his family and community help restore his faith in the meaning of the holiday.

"Believe!" will show on Saturday, December 14 at 7 pm, Sunday, December 15 at 2 pm and at 7 pm, Friday, December 20 and Saturday, December 21 at 7 pm, and closes on Sunday, December 22 with a show at 2 pm.

Tickets are \$20 and available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org and at the door



OBITUARY |

Suzanne Kidwell

Suzanne "Sue" Lynette Kidwell (Bickett), age 63, died in her home in Willits on November 29, 2024. She was a 1979 graduate of Enterprise High School. She went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management at Chico State University in 1983. She earned her Teaching Credential the following year.

She married Wayne Kidwell in 1983. In 1989 they moved to Mendocino County, where she taught at Mendocino College and Willits High School. She retired from teaching in 2021. She was a beloved and respected teacher. Her ability to connect with her students made her a student favorite.

Sue loved to travel. She rode her Harley all over the western half of the United States. She also traveled to Europe several times.

She is survived by her husband, Wayne; their daughters, Kaylin (Marcus) Wetter of Millville, and Meghan (Donald) White of Willits; four grandchildren, Cloey, Mia, Natalee, and Grant; and her father, Darold Bickett of Redding. She is also survived by several siblings, nieces, nephews, and many cousins.

A Mass will be held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Willits at 3:30 pm on Friday, December 6. Burial and graveside services will be held at the Millville Cemetery in Millville, California, on December 7 at 11 am. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 am on Saturday, January 4, 2025 at the St. Anthony's Catholic Church Parish Hall in Willits.

Donations in Sue's memory can be sent to City of Hope at www.cityofhope.org/giving/ways-to-give.

NEWS

BREAKING NEWS //

ELVES HAVE SAVED CHRISTMAS FROM GRINCH

Local Elves arrested Grinch in Imagination Station Educational Toy Depot in the early hours of the morning. In Celebration the Toy Depot will be offering 10% off to all who bring in this news article until 12/11/24

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Mr. Skunk's GIANT CHRISTMAS Tree

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Cine Noyo. Movies in Spanish!
Sunday - Dec. 8

Moana - 12:15 (shown in Spanish)

MOANA 2

(PG)
1 hr 40 mins
Fri.: 4:15 & 6:45
Sat.-Sun.: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15 & 7:45
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 6:45

GLADIATOR 2

(PG)
2 hrs 28 mins
Fri.: 4:00 & 7:15
Sat.-Sun.: 12:45, 4:00 & 7:15
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:00 & 7:15

OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners, laser projection beer and wine sales

WICKED

(R) 2 hrs 41 mins
Fri.: 3:30 & 7:00
Sat.-Sun.: 12:00, 3:30 & 7:00
Mon.-Thurs.: 3:30 & 7:00

Tightwad Titles for Tuesday (Dec. 10) are in RED. All tickets at just \$8!

Thursday, December 5

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

Friday, December 6

'Exploring Modernism and Beyond': Willits Center for the Arts presents 'Exploring Modernism and Beyond: A Journey Through Art from 1940 to 2000.' Join us on Friday, December 6 at 6:30 pm as we delve into the remarkable evolution of artistic movements that defined the 20th century." Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Admission is free. More info: visit willitscenterforthearts.org

Leza and Donnie & Friends at Shanachie: Leza is a Brazilian psych-pop/surf rock band formed in São Paulo (Brazil) by Gustavo Athayde AKA Gusley. Donnie & Friends features our local harmonica (aka Mississippi Saxophone) player Donnie, joined by local friends and fellow musicians, playing an improvisational variety of Chicago style Blues, Rock, Funk, Latin & West African music. Friday, December 6 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, December 7

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Flag-Raising: Willits, American Legion Post 174 will conduct a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Flag Raising at Babcock Park, on Saturday, December 7 at 8 am. The park is located on South Main Street, just below the location of the "old" Willits Hospital.

Senior Center's annual Christmas Store: opens Saturday, December 7 at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, closed Sunday, December 8, continues December 9 to 12, 9 am to 4 pm. "Come see some of the fabulous finds in our Christmas Store - a wide variety of great Christmas items to choose from. Don't forget, See's Candies sold here." All proceeds to benefit the Senior Center.

37th annual Roots Holiday Express: Come join Roots of Motive Power for their FREE annual Holiday Express family event, Saturday, December 7, 11 am to 4 pm at the Roots yard, 420 East Commercial Street in Willits. FREE train rides; meet Santa and receive a small gift; Wagon Full of Toys Raffle at 3:30 pm; free admission and crafts at the Mendocino County Museum; Trees, Refreshments, Decorations; and more. More info: www.rootsmotivepower.com or check out the "Roots of Motive Power" page on Facebook.

Kid's Winter Craft Fair at the Library: Join us at the Willits Branch Library for the Kid's Winter Craft Fair, and help support our local young artists and artisans as they market their homemade crafts and goods on Saturday, December 7, from noon to 2 pm in the Library meeting room. More info: www.mendolib.org or 707-459-5908.

Clay Hawkins Duo at Shanachie: "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart" by slide guitarist and songwriter Clay Hawkins and longtime co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass. Saturday, December 7 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, December 8

Laytonville Holiday Arts & Crafts Bazaar: Find unique hand-crafted items for great gift-giving from over 40 local vendors at the Holiday Arts & Crafts Bazaar, Sunday, December 8 from 10 am to 4 pm inside the "Tin Gym," 200 Branscomb Road, Laytonville. No charge to enter. Plus See's Candies, Visit with Santa, and Snack Bar. More info: 707-984-8089.

Monday, December 9

Senior Center's annual Christmas Store: continues December 9 to 12, 9 am to 4 pm. All proceeds to benefit the Senior Center. See December 7 listing for more details.

Tuesday, December 10

Good Farm Fund Winter Feast: the Good Farm Fund is hosting its 8th annual Winter Feast on Tuesday, December 10 at Ridgewood Ranch in Willits from 5 to 9 pm. The Winter Feast menu, created by a team of local chefs, features Mulligan Gardens' pastured chicken pot pie, complemented by a vegan version from Fogaeter Café. A "potluck salad" will feature ingredients sourced from as many local farms in Lake and Mendocino counties as possible. Guests can also enjoy a selection of appetizers, Reza's Breadery focaccia, and a dessert prepared by Emandal Farm, including ice cream made with honey from Carson and Bees. More info and tickets: visit goodfarmfund.org.

Wednesday, December 11

History Makers at the Museum: The Mendocino County Museum presents after-school family friendly themed crafts and activities on Wednesdays in December from 2 to 4:30 pm. The Wednesday, December 11 activity is "Pine-cone Forest Creatures." 400 East Commercial Street.

What's Happening Around Town

Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission. Enjoy free admission on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. Info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365

Thursday, December 12

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the season, at Little Lake Grange, 391 School Street. Thursday, December 12, 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats and hot drinks, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

WHS Hot Winter's Night: Willits High School's Visual & Performing Arts Department presents an evening of Art, Music and Poetry by Willits youth. Thursday, December 12 from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Allen Garcia Auditorium, Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Introducing Baechtel Grove Middle School musicians and artists. Soup dinner in the Wolverine Cafe from 5:30 to 6:30 pm before the show.

Sherwood Firewise Online Meeting: Sherwood Firewise Community's general meeting on Zoom, Thursday, December 12 from 7 to 9 pm. Reviewing the many accomplishments during 2024 and presenting plans for new programs in 2025. To join by Zoom or phone go to sherwoodfirewise.org for information

Friday, December 13

WCA Willits Holiday Craft Fair: Shop local, shop creative at the Willits Center for the Arts 37th annual fair, with 40 booths featuring fine artists and artisans offering unique gifts and work including soaps, ceramics, jewelry, cutting boards, knives, herbal gifts and more. Friday, December 13, 12 to 7 pm; and Saturday, December 14, 10 am to 5 pm. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street and also at Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Free admission; free music, and food available for purchase. "Small Works," featuring a diverse collection of small, handcrafted pieces by local artists, with all works available for purchase, is also showing at WCA. More info: willitscenterforthearts.org or call 707-459-1726.

Holiday Craft Fair at the Little Lake Grange:

"Visit with the whole family, browse, get presents, meet local artisans and crafters, learn about crafted herbal and flower remedies, and see hand-knitted warm cozy gifts at a good price..." Friday, December 13 from 11 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, December 14 from 12 to 5 pm. 291 School Street. Plus Aztec chocolate and Chinese food (to go available). All donations and income from this event will go to the Grange Roof Fund.

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." Friday, December 13 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, December 14

Christmas Arts & Crafts Vendor Faire: Agape Bible Church and Awana Treks invite the public to the Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair, Saturday, December 14 from 10 am to 4 pm. Agape Bible Church, 290 South Lenore Avenue. "Looking for that perfect and unique gift? We will have a variety of crafty gifts from local vendors. The Vendor Faire will have something for everyone!" More info: call Kelly Thrift at 707-621-3965

WCA Willits Holiday Craft Fair: Shop local, shop creative at the Willits Center for the Arts 37th annual fair, with 40 booths featuring fine artists and artisans offering unique gifts and work including soaps, ceramics, jewelry, cutting boards, knives, herbal gifts and more. Saturday, December 14, 10 am to 5 pm. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street and also at Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. See Friday, December 13 listing for more details.

Holiday Crafts Fair at the Little Lake Grange: "Visit with the whole family, browse, get presents, meet local artisans and crafters, learn about crafted herbal and flower remedies, and see hand-knitted warm cozy gifts at a good price..." Saturday, December 14 from 12 to 5 pm. See Friday, December 13 listing for more details.

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, including Saturday, December 14, Kyle Madrigal and/or Gustavo Amaral will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main street. "You're invited to bring any instrument, meet new musicians, discover new genres, and explore your creativity!"

Light Up the Park: hosted by Willits FFA at Bud Snider City Park, Saturday, December 14 at 7 pm. "Join us at for a magical evening filled with Christmas

Carolers, Vendors, Food Trucks, and fun. Vote for your favorite tree decorated by local businesses." Willits FFA is an Agriscience and Ag Mechanics program at Willits High School.



'Believe!' Christmas play at WCT: "Believe!", a feel-good Christmas play with traditional music, opens at Willits Community Theatre Saturday, December 14 at 7 pm; plays Sunday, December 15 at 2 pm and at 7 pm, and runs through Sunday, December 22. A play for the whole family, "Believe!" tells the story of Alex, a teenage boy disillusioned with Christmas until his family and community help restore his faith in the meaning of the holiday. Tickets are \$20; available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org and at the door

Friends Anonymous at Shanachie: a Punk Rock band from Northern California – they like to plug in, go loud and proud, and put on a good time. Their music is fun but also full of complex emotion. Saturday, December 14, at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, December 15

'Believe!' Christmas play at WCT: "Believe!", a feel-good Christmas play with traditional music, continues at Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, December 15 at 2 pm and at 7 pm, and runs through Sunday, December 22. See Saturday, December 14 listing for more details.

Special History Makers Program: Friends of the Mendocino County Museum present a special Sunday, December 15 program from 2 to 3:30 pm, "Crescent Moon Craft." 400 East Commercial Street. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission. Info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Gladiator 2'

"The best revenge is not to be like your enemy." – Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius

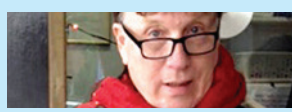
The Story: In "Gladiator 1" Roman General Maximus Meridius (Russell Crowe) is captured through the vile treachery of Emperor Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix). Maximus is forced to fight as a gladiator.

(Warning, a few plot points.) Now, in "Gladiator 2" It's decades after the death of Maximus. Lucius (Paul Mescal), former orphan who has grown to become a noble and powerful warrior, witnesses his beloved wife being killed in battle with Rome. Lucius swears revenge for her death, which is the essence of this story.

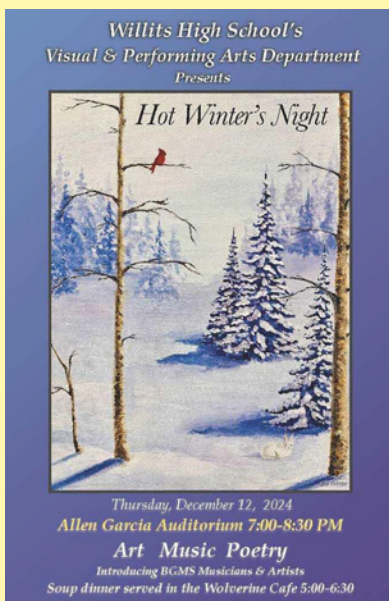
Then, during the fighting, he is captured alive. He is sold to Macrinus (Denzel Washington), a charming and quite cunning business man who provides gladiators to amuse Roman citizens (and also me and my fellow Willitsians) with sweaty, to-the-death combat on the dry white sands of the Colosseum. Huge and brutal spectacles of blood are, I confess, quite thrilling.

My Thoughts: Directed by Ridley Scott, this is a great movie. It's an epic. The first "Gladiator" movie was also directed by Ridley Scott. He is one of cinema world's greatest living filmmakers. This movie has a moral center and soul. It was made to entertain, and to illustrate, and to genuinely celebrate the innately moral wisdom of Marcus Aurelius. And thus: a colossal "Thank-you and amen!" to Ridley Scott, and to all other filmmakers who put their souls into their art.

Parents: Much too bloody for children. Teens and up. *Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.*



Dan Essman
Columnist



December 22. See Saturday, December 14 listing for more details.



The Book Fair is coming to WHS!
Dec. 9 - Dec. 13
Monday - Friday
7:45 - 4:00

Books make great gifts!

No cash? No problem, Set up your Book Fair eWallet now!

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EVERY THURSDAY from 3 pm - 5 pm
Little Lake Grange • 291 School Street, Willits

Contact the Community Wellness Collective:
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JB Gems and Minerals, above: Artist Julia Sotomayor of JB Gems and Minerals, Northern California, will show multimedia paintings, sculptures, and hand-carved stone jewelry.



Mermaizing Scents, above and at left: Charissa Franklin of Mermaizing Scents, Laytonville, makes cold processed soap and body products with hemp seed oil and fresh ingredients. She enjoys making special holiday designs for the Craft Fair.



Cobre de Luz, above and below: Jeweler Stephen Nepove will show his Cobre de Luz jewelry – primarily rings – created with hand-cut unique beautiful stones, combined with complementary jewelry designs in sterling silver. The rings are made in many sizes to fit all people, sizes 5 -16.



Artist Brenda White, above: Artist Brenda White, a longtime resident of Willits, will be selling her hand-made stained glass pieces – many designed to hang in your window - at the Holiday Craft Fair again this year.



37th annual WCA Holiday Craft Fair, December 13 and 14

Shop local, shop creative, be creative at the 37th annual Willits Center for the Arts Holiday Craft Fair. This is one of the few Fine Art and Craft shows in inland Mendocino County, with 40 booths featuring fine artists and artisans offering unique gifts and work, including soaps, ceramics, jewelry, cutting boards, knives, herbal gifts and so much more.

The WCA Holiday Craft Fair is set for Friday, December 13, 12 to 7 pm, and Saturday, December 14 from 10 am to 5 pm, at two locations. WCA at 71 East Commercial Street, and the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Admission is free. There will be free live entertainment throughout the show, and food available for purchase.

The Craft Fair coincides with the "Small Works" show in the main gallery of the Willits Center for the Arts showing through December 24 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, featuring 25 additional artists with artwork for purchase in all media, including gift cards. For more information: willitscenterforthearts.org or call 707-459-1726.

– Willits Center for the Arts



Artisanna Farms, above: Artist Anna Judd of Artisanna Farms in Willits will show original oil paintings, cyanotype prints on fabric, handmade organic tallow soaps & balms, wild-crafted ornaments, and medicine wreaths. Anna's creations are inspired by the medicine we find in nature and connection.



Honora Bacon, above: Artist Honora Bacon, Santa Cruz, creates beautiful ceramic pieces to enrich the eating experience and to add character and warmth to each meal. The ocean waves, redwood forests, and rolling hills are the central subjects of her pieces.



Limited Edition Dresses, at right: Designer Helena Thornton of Limited Edition Dresses will be offering dresses and accessories for little girls. "Handmade with love, bringing joy and charm to every child's wardrobe. Our unique designs blend quality craftsmanship with whimsical flair."



At top, from left: Finely crafted tiles by Eric Ward are for sale in the WCA Small Works Show. Kale Haschak offers a variety of handmade glass ornaments for \$22 each. Animal ornaments painted by Teresa Robertson are hand painted with much detail.

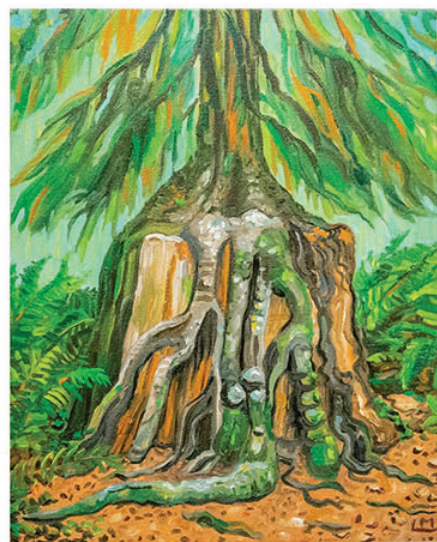
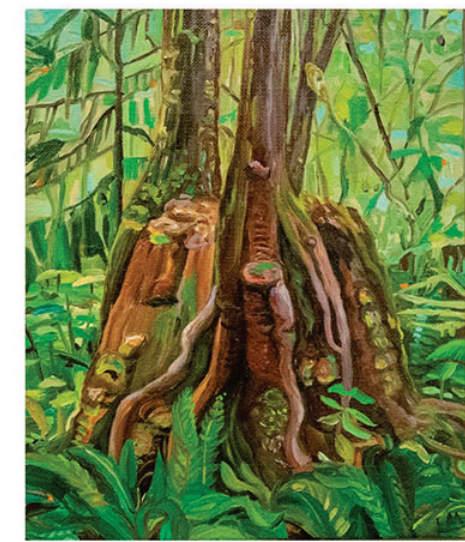
Above, from left: Laura Corben shows her work, which mostly sold out at the artist reception. Soren and Ivy Thornburg have a business creating and selling these well-crafted potholders. Several shoppers browse and buy inexpensive artistic gifts at the WCA Small Works Show.

At right, top: A beautiful selection of ceramic creations by Daphne Gillen are the perfect size for gifts.

At right: Nan Trichler is known for her quilted patterns.

Below: These art pieces by Linda MacDonald highlight the beauty of tree roots.

Photos by Mathew Caine



ROOTS OF MOTIVE POWER PRESENTS:

HOLIDAY EXPRESS

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

- FREE Train Rides
• Meet Santa & Receive a FREE Small Gift
• Wagon Full of Toys Raffle at 3:30 p.m.

- FREE Admission and Crafts at the Mendocino County Museum
• Trees, Refreshments, Decorations and More!

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



'Small Works'

Local artists offer up handmade, affordable gifts at Willits Center for the Arts annual holiday show

'This is my last show at the Willits Center for the Arts,' said Willits Center for the Arts Curator, Gary Martin. 'It's a semi-curated show. Martin has been at the Center for around 10 years and has curated over 100 shows, as well as performed his duties as teacher and lecturer. He was honored with a retirement dinner called 'Roast and Toast' the previous week and 'was deeply touched by the event. It wasn't really a roast. Everybody said nice things. I was quite pleased,' he recounted.

'This show is a Small Works Show. Members [of the Willits Center for the Arts] can put in anything they want,' said Martin. 'It's a semi-curated show. They can put up to six pieces in the show. We have 21 artists. The paintings can't be any larger than 12-by-16 inches and three-dimensional items can't be very large. These are mostly gift items that are reasonably priced. People can come in and find something they can't live without or want to gift to someone in their family or a close friend.'

Indeed, the small and reasonably priced paintings, small sculptures, ceramics, wooden bowls, photographs, and jewelry pieces were so appealing that by the end of the evening of the Meet the Artists night, many of the pieces had already been purchased.

'This Small Works Show is right before the holidays,' explained board member Eric Hart, 'so we wanted to get a larger number of artists in with smaller works that are more accessible for people to buy as presents and give the artists exposure, too. We have everything from paintings and photographs to jewelry and all kinds of gifty stuff, all reasonably priced. We've had Kale Haschak's work here every year as far as I can remember. He does beautiful work, and he does other things as well, like animals and seashores. The ornaments are a big seller around this time of year.'

The Willits Center for the Arts kicks off their member drive this month. 'We'll be sending out letters and our email newsletter will have opportunities to make a donation,' said Gallery Manager Sasha Thomas. 'That's the only way we make it year after year. We currently have about 350 active members, but we have about 500 patrons. The lowest level is only \$30. We're doing the email drive as well as a much larger mailing drive that was sponsored by some generous person. We bought a mailing list that goes beyond our mailing list. We hope spreading a wider net will bring more donations. People can go online to donate at www.willitscenterforthearts.org. There's a 'donate' button on the first page or they can go to one of the membership tabs. There are opportunities to volunteer through Sonja Bursal.'

According to Hart, donations will go toward some much-needed improvements around the gallery. 'The gallery is in sore need of repainting work,' explained Hart. 'We need to reinforce the drywall because it has had works hung on it so much over the years. It may be time for some patchwork or new drywall. It's one of many infrastructure and facility projects that we have planned. Fixing up the galleries is important. You can hear the lights buzzing in the back gallery. There's an issue with those lights that we've been wanting to get fixed for a while. The classroom / kitchen area is one place we would like to fix up so it can be a usable event kitchen. We'd like to have a stove in there, fix up the plumbing. Provide more usable counter space to make it more usable to people when they rent the space.'

Many of the artists showing at the exhibit were being represented for the first time. Susan Walker, who brought some watercolors and soft pastels, said, 'It makes me happy to be able to do this work and show it to people.'

Kenneth Scarberry brought watercolors from his students. Read the rest of WCA Over on page 13

Laytonville Holiday Arts & Crafts BAZAAR. Find unique handcrafted items for great gift-giving, from Over 40 Local Vendors! SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH 10am - 4pm. FREE ENTRY! Inside the 'Tin Gym' 200 Branscomb Road, Laytonville



Above: A feijoa hangs on the branch of a large Willits bush. Below: Several fruits have already fallen to the ground this year, which you can see when you peek through the branches of the trees.



Tranquil Tobias

Tobias is a gentleman who loves to sit with his paws crossed while calmly keeping you company. He is completely potty-trained and sleeps well at night. And while he is very peaceful, he loves to take long walks. He is GREAT on car rides. He hops right in and loves to stick his head out of the window. He no longer pulls on the leash (unless he sees a squirrel - they are his kryptonite). He is great in public spaces. He can be a bit anxious around sudden movements, so it's best to keep a watchful eye when introducing him to kids or other dogs. But if you're looking for someone to add to your pack and keep you company around the house, Tobias is your guy.

To learn more about Tobias, or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet

Fruiting Willits Guavas

While tricky, pineapple guavas indeed are possible to grow in Willits, and once a keen eye is developed to spot their road-side foliage, one will start to notice bushes all around. It is true that further south in our county and in Sonoma County, they do grow much more easily - and larger - and the ones shown in the front page of the November 14 Willits Weekly were indeed grown in, and delivered with glee from, Sonoma County.

However, a large, fruiting bush, and another right around the corner in Willits' East Mendocino Avenue neighborhood, and one up from the Willits Post Office have been past locations for guava collection (with permission, of course), and a giant hedge of bushes used to line the perimeter of the Redwood Meadows senior housing fence line, which would drop fruits constantly during the winter season.

A bush out Locust Street has also had fruiting success in the past, but some of the challenge in successful guava growth seems to be the requirement for a LOT of water, which has left it fruitless for several years.

Mariposa Market recently posted that they had guavas available, and in the past, Farmers Market vendors have had the fruits available for sale, too.

This pineapple guava lover is excited to plant a bush this year, and baby it with lots of water. Hope to have good news and lots of guavas soon!

- Maureen Jennison



Above: Some are small, some are bigger, but they're all delicious! Below: This Willits bush is a giant specimen located right in downtown Willits.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Cuddly Wazoo

Wazoo is a fun-loving kid who is all about those cuddles. He has the cutest white freckles here and there and you can see him coming from a mile away due to his glowing orange eyes and thick tail. Wazoo's adoption fee is sponsored, so he can go home with you for free.

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



Sweet Romeo

Romeo is a typical, happy-go-lucky, young dog. He loves to play with toys and was eager to meet another dog during his behavior evaluation. Romeo will need to learn doggie manners and would definitely benefit from basic obedience and leash training. (Ask us about canine classes in the Ukiah area). This handsome guy would make a great addition to any family.

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

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church. 803 Coast Street P.O. Box 489, Willits. Worship Service - 5:00 p.m. Pastor Kris Strickland 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. Sacramento Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom. A University for Soul, Spiritual Living Courses, 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. Worship Service 10 a.m. For appointments call: (707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. 61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490. Father Aaron Bandanadan. 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. Francis Episcopal Church. 1 North Main Street, Willits 707-272-0177. Sunday Service - 10 a.m. In-person and on Zoom. Call for information. ALL ARE WELCOME. The Rev. Betsy Brunenu

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 Jaime Rogers-Fairchild. Sunday Worship at 10:30 am 286 School St. (at Pine) 707-459-2855. www.unc@outlook.com www.willitsumc.org Facebook: facebook/willitsumc. If you want to be included in this column please call: April Tweddell (707) 972-2475 april@willitsweekly.com

Mendocino Transit Authority can get you home for the holidays! Traveling within Mendocino County or making connections beyond. CC RIDER Route #65 Fort Bragg-Willits-Ukiah Santa Rosa. North State Express Route #101 Laytonville-Eureka Smith River. Wishing you a Safe & Happy Holiday. 800-696-4MTA www.mendocinotransit.org

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Above: Willits City Councilmember Madge Strong, at right, has a conversation with Susan Mahoney of the Mendocino County Museum. Below: Laura Rowland and Claudia Wenning attend the annual WELL get together. At bottom: WELL members have many conversations about issues facing the Willits community – infrastructure, regulations, tax help, courses on grant writing, etc. are discussed.



Madge Strong introduces herself prior to asking the attendees to do so themselves.

WELL Gathering

Willits Economic Localization board members get together to discuss local issues and plan for the future

Willits Economic Localization, also known as WELL, has just completed its 20th year of helping create an economically stable environment in Willits. To celebrate, WELL had a gathering to socialize, hear the progress that has been made in their efforts, vote on new board members, and discuss possible projects and aims for the coming year.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"We've made some progress over those 20 years, but there is still a long way to go, trying to make our community more self-sufficient," explained Madge Strong, one of the founders of the organization. "That's the mission of WELL. We do that through our own activities, having educational forums, sometimes hands-on how to do things, like emergency preparedness, how to do canning, how to grow your own garden, etc. We also collaborate with other organizations.

Adaptive Agriculture. We also have insurance, so if some organization wants to produce an event, we can provide it."

Strong placed four sheets of paper out on a table for members and visitors to write down suggestions of topics to be covered by WELL. The headings included: "Changes we'd like to see in Willits and what role could WELL play?" "Topics of interest for forums and workshops." "What are obstacles that keep you from participating in community gardens or other community improvement projects?" "Other bright ideas – visions for the future."

After everyone introduced themselves individually, the discussions of ideas to improve the efficacy of the organization began with member Laura Rowland writing them on a large white board to have a visual record of the topics.

"One of the things we can offer," said Strong, "as a non-profit 501(c)(3), tax-deductible organization, we can help other organizations that are wanting to do good things by acting as a fiscal umbrella. One of the ones we are already doing is the Wellness Collective, which provides free or very low-cost health products for people. They go to various locations to offer that.

"The Willits Shelter Action Group is working diligently," Strong said, "trying to get a winter shelter for people who are out in the cold. We might serve as a fiscal sponsor of the motel voucher system that was, in the past, sponsored by the food bank. We also sponsor the School of

"To become a member of WELL, one can go to our website which has a 'donate and become a member' page," explained Strong. "https://well95490.org/. Or they can send a check to PO Box 42, Willits, 95490. The bottom end of the sliding scale for membership is \$25 for an individual or \$40 for a couple. We have the organization and non-profit status. We have a board that has been reinvigorated with new members. We have an opportunity to expand and really respond to what people want to see happen. Willits is a wonderful community, but it is pretty dependent on everything from the rest of the world out there. We want to really make it thrive and be as self-sufficient as possible."



Above, left: Laura Rowland writes down suggestions and issues that are brought up by the attendees. Above, right: Laura Rowland considers some of the suggestions and adds a few of her own. At left: David Drell speaks about some of the issues that concern him in the city of Willits.

Photos by Mathew Caine

707.459.5193

JOHN FORD RANCH
RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

Harrah Senior Center Presents Our
Annual Christmas Store

1501 Baechtel Rd. Willits, CA 95490

Don't forget your **See's CANDIES** Sold Here!

A wide Variety Of great Christmas Items to Choose from!

Come see some of the fabulous finds in our Christmas Store.
All proceeds benefit Senior Center Programs.

Christmas Store Hours

Opening Day - Dec. 7th
Closed - Sunday Dec. 8th
Continues Dec. 9th-12th.
9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

HAPPY PAWLIDAYS!
-FROM-

Willits Animal Hospital

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

Photos With Santa!

Sat. December 7th @ 3-5pm
Thurs. December 12th @ 3-6pm
Sat. December 14th @ 11-1pm
Thurs. December 19th @ 3-6pm
Sat. December 21st @ 11-1pm

No Appointments Needed!
Packages Starting At \$7.00

SSS TRIPLES CAMERA 260 S. School Street Ukiah 707-462-3163

LEGAL NOTICES

WW522

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willits will conduct a public hearing, on December 11, 2024 at 6:30 P.M., to discuss future applications for funding under the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and to solicit citizen input for possible activities to be included in future CDBG applications. After discussion, the City Council shall consider adoption of a resolution approving application for funding and the execution of grant agreement and amendments thereto from the Community Development Block Grant Program. Said application (with Mendocino Community Health Clinic, Inc. acting as a subrecipient) will be for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to support the planning of a comprehensive health center campus at 1 Madrone Street, Willits, CA 95490.

The purpose of the public hearing is to give citizens an opportunity to make their comments known regarding what types of eligible activities the City of Willits should apply for in the next available and additional future opportunities under the State CDBG program as well as comment on the proposed funding application.

The following information related to the project is available at Willits City Hall 111 E. Commercial Street between the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Monday-Thursday or by emailing the contact listed below:

- Amount of funds available and range of activities that may be undertaken.
- Information on proposed project(s).
- Estimated amounts of funds proposed to be used for activities benefiting persons of low- and moderate-income.
- Plans for minimizing displacement of persons as a result of activities associated with CDBG funds and plans for providing assistance to persons displaced as a result of CDBG-funded activities.
- Records regarding the past use of CDBG funds.

MEETING LOCATION: Council Chambers at City Hall located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Prior to the meeting, electronic copies of the project documents and agenda will be available on the City's website at <http://ca-willits.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/CityCouncil-1>.

Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Dusty.Duley@duley@cityofwillits.org or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, December 10th, 2024. All public comments received will be provided to the Council in advance of the meeting.

Oral comments may be presented to the Willits City Council during the public meeting.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the public meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 459-4601. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

s/Cathy Moorhead
Assistant City Manager

Publication Dates: November 27, 2024 and December 5, 2024

LEGAL NOTICES

WW525

CITY OF WILLITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES DEPARTMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS Annual Invitation for Inclusion on the 2025 City of Willits List of Qualified Bidders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that:

The City of Willits is soliciting applicants for its 2025 List of Qualified Bidders. Interested parties should complete the City of Willits Informal Bidding Annual Pre-Qualification Application for 2025 and submit to Brandy Sanderson at:

bsanderson@cityofwillits.org
or
Brandy Sanderson
City of Willits
111 E. Commercial St. Willits,
CA 95490

Re: 2025 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.

Request should be received by December 31, 2025. 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: 12/5/24

Publication Dates: December 5, 12 and 19, 2024

WW524

NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provision of the Civil Code. The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 14th day of December, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. or immediately following the GLENMARK SOUTH auction, on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK NORTH 395 North Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:

Mandy Arms 567
Andrew Augustine 206
Andrew Augustine 472
Andrew Augustine 540
Angela Bean 464
Jubal Chilson 211
Leigha Jones 413
Larissa Malnerich 511
Erica Meza 203
Karen Morales 131
Melissa Pitkin 303
Richard Pool 157
James Shields 320
Jorge Toste 227
John Wallace 455

The goods are described as: Tools, furniture, auto parts, camping gear, misc totes/boxes.

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.

Glen Green
Bond-#70784656
(707) 459-4628

Publication Dates: December 5 and 12, 2024



Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Corrections Deputy**
\$58,136 - \$67,308
- County Health Officer**
\$185,224 - \$225,139
- Deputy Director – Social Services (Family & Children's Services)**
\$120,411 - \$146,390
- Deputy Probation Officer I & II**
\$55,577 - \$74,505
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner**
\$84,323 - \$102,460
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner in Training**
\$25.33 - \$30.78 Hourly
- Director of Nursing – Public Health**
\$127,753 - \$155,292
- Eligibility Specialist I**
\$44,304 - \$53,830
- Eligibility Specialist III**
\$53,851 - \$65,457
- Environmental Health Specialist I/II**
\$58,448 - \$78,332
- Health Program Eligibility Worker**
\$38,334 - \$46,612
- Public Health Nurse**
\$92,040 - \$111,883
- Public Safety Dispatcher**
\$53,643 - \$65,187
- Registered Nurse**
\$78,977 - \$95,971
- Senior Public Health Nurse**
\$101,296 - \$123,136
- Social Worker I – IV-D**
\$51,729 - \$97,448
- Substance Abuse Counselor I/II**
\$46,196 - \$56,160
- Youth Corrections Officer – Extra-Help**
\$26.61 - \$32.34 Hourly

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:

www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs

EOE

CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

Brooktrails 3 bedroom, 2 bath home for rent. Large yard. Pets possible. Available now: \$2200. (707) 380-5819.

For Rent

2 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Close to town and Howard Hospital. New, well-appointed kitchens with granite counters and large pantry. Spacious bedrooms. Laminate floors throughout and window coverings. 1200 sq. ft. \$1800.00/mo. 707-489-1080.

Indoor Yard Sale

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

John Ford Ranch Beef

John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049. (Prices change effective 6/25/23)

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

Yard Cleanup

Yard cleanup, Fall leaves removed and pruning of roses, hedges and small trees. I'll cut back blackberries also. Mike: (707) 354-5650

The rest of



From page 10

started teaching art classes at the Willits High School for Gary since he's retiring," said Scarborough. "It's Carolyn Bakewell's class. This is a great show. I'm always surprised how good everything is."

Ivy and Soren Thornburg, two elementary school students, brought some finely crafted portholders which they created on their home loom. "We hand wove them and then at the end, we took it off of the loom, with the metal hooks," said Ivy. "We've made over 105 of these. We only brought 15 of them here to sell. We've sold the rest in different class sales."

Soren added: "We're going to be in the Craft Fair here and one in Ukiah. We're so booked up. We have this show today. We wanted to do the show in Laytonville."

"We got some loops and a loom for Christmas a couple years back," Ivy explained. "We started weaving then. We really didn't know what to do with them. So then, we just started gifting them to people. Then we went door-to-door with them and asked if people wanted to buy one. Now we're in two different craft fairs and in a show." They've decided to save their money rather than spend it on Christmas.

The Willits Center for the Arts, located at 71 East Commercial Street, is open Friday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. For more info, visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org or email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW523

NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provision of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 14th day of December, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK SOUTH 1788 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:

Aleesha Balson C94
Israel Elizonda F07
Miranda Rico Dalbesio D22
Davian Steffen B05

The goods are described as: Surfboards, furniture, camping gear, misc totes.

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.

Glen Green
Bond-#70784656
(707) 459-4628

Publication Dates: December 5 and 12, 2024

Word search grid with words like CAROLS, PHBB, TEMO, FVH, CHIHNER, NLELVE, VNG, NWC, UGSKP, LAKI, SLEB, GAT, PR, L, C, ER, CNX, OWT, THBY, SSSR, REA, GR, SKP, PWO, I, FN, KR, G, R, SKP, O, C, T, D, S, F, D, N, N, E, A, F, T, A, V, M, S, H, U, L, P, R, A, G, U, S, O, N, E, A, F, M, A, S, W, Z, E, E, S, H, O, D, C, K, T, G, E, O, M, A, S, W, I, T, D, O, R, Y, E, V, I, X, E, R, D, M, S, Z, T, D, G, T, E, G, T, E, N, K, F, F, E, R, B, O, E, L, S, V, N, A, H, E, A, T, V, Z, R, W, H, O, R, K, S, H, O, P, P, R, S, (S, N, O, W, N, A, M, L, E, O, D, Y, Y, V, O, K, E, A, N, O, R, T, H, P, O, L, E, I, D, N, F, S, E, R, P, S, U, T, R, E, E, R, H, B, C, W, R, E, A, T, H, D, A, S, E

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'Exploring Modernism and Beyond' Art Talk at WCA, December 6

The Willits Center for the Arts is pleased to announce "Exploring Modernism and Beyond: A Journey Through Art from 1940 to 2000," an exciting Art Talk exploring that transformative period in art history. Join us on Friday, December 6 at 6:30 pm as we delve into the remarkable evolution of artistic movements that defined the 20th century. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Admission is free.

This presentation will highlight key developments in art, including the rise of Abstract Expressionism, the pop culture explosion of Pop Art, the conceptual breakthroughs of Minimalism, and the dynamic innovations of Postmodernism. From the revolutionary works of Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol to the cultural critique of artists like Barbara Kruger, this period reshaped the boundaries of creativity and artistic expression.

The event will also examine the sociopolitical and technological shifts that influenced art during this era, including the impact of World War II and the dawn of the digital age. Attendees will gain insights into how these forces shaped the art we know today.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the art that defined a century of change and creativity. For more information, visit willitscenterforthearts.org



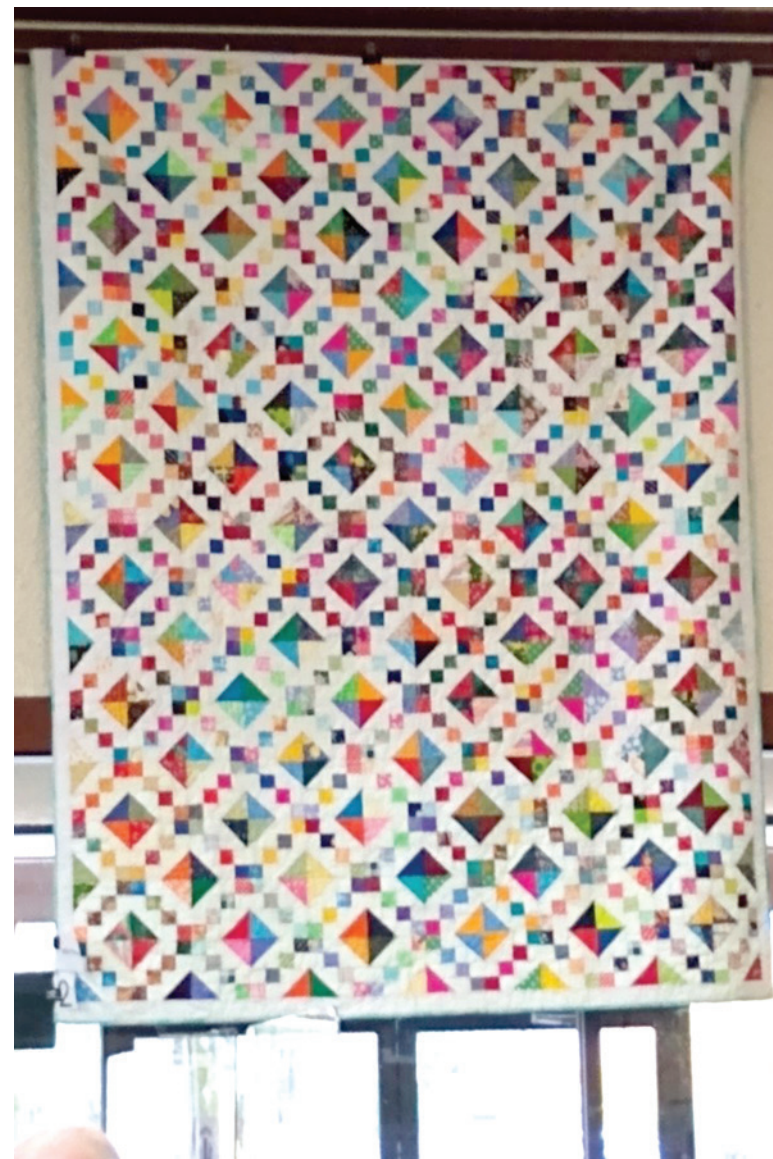
Winter Solstice Celebration and Spiral Dance, December 20

Submitted by Little Lake Grange

Come join in the circle to celebrate the return of the light! The Winter Solstice Celebration and Spiral Dance is set for Friday, December 20 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. There is a ceremony that includes a story that is suitable for children and includes children, songs, candle lighting, and drums. Doors open at 6 pm; ceremony begins at 6:30 pm. We will close the doors once we start... don't be late! This is followed by a community Spiral Dance. All are welcome to attend. Rehearsals on December 15 and December 18 at 5 pm at the Grange for children and adults wanting to participate in the story and/or ceremony, singing in the choir, etc. Suggested donation: \$5 to \$10, children are free.



Above, left and right, and at bottom, right: Multiple quilts by members of the Willits Sit & Sew group are being displayed at the Willits Library, Tuesday, December 3 through Saturday, December 21. Below, left: This is the beautiful "Jewel Box" quilt, which is up for raffle for \$1 a ticket, to benefit the Willits Library – tickets available at the library, 390 East Commercial Street.



'Quilts in the Library,' December 3 to 21 at the Willits Library

Submitted by Lani Nagy for Willits Sit & Sew

This quilt showing is the first to be shown at the Willits Branch Library. The quilts will be shown from Tuesday, December 3 through Saturday, December 21.

The quilts are works from the members of Willits Sit & Sew. Members include: Kathleen Bray, Rachel Cash, Tina Cresswell, Penni Greer, Juanita Lucero, Kelly Kartub, Lani Nagy, Vicki Titus, and Patricia Wilson.

There is a "Jewel Box" quilt that is being raffled, and proceeds will go to the Willits Branch of the Mendocino County Library. Raffle tickets are still on sale for \$1 each, at the Willits Library.

Special thanks go to Salon 707, Tri Counties Bank, Country Quilts and Fabrics, and Mendocino County Library, Willits branch, for assisting with ticket sales.

The Willits Sit & Sew meets on the second Saturday of the month, from 1 to 5 pm. Anyone is welcome to come and sew.

Advise that children under 16 be accompanied by a parent, who can sew. Bring any working project you want, by hand or bring a sewing machine and supplies. Everyone works on their own projects, but there are people who can answer questions.



The rest of Results

From page 1

as indicated by the total of 2,304 undervotes in the race.

Countywide, a total of 39,837 voters participated in the November 5, 2024 election. Out of a total of 54,640 registered voters in Mendocino County, that's a 72.91% turnout.

"Overall I think [the election] went very well," Voter Registrar Bartolomie said. "We always have some confusion at the polling places, now that everybody in California is sent a mail-in ballot. That is confusing, and we hope the state can help us make that easier."

Asked about any recount requests in the Willits City Council race, Bartolomie said she hadn't received any such requests. As part of the vote verification process, the voter office has already done their usual double-checking recounts. "We do check at least one precinct in every race we have. We make sure at least 1 precinct in every race is manually tallied in full to verify the results," she said.

Final results in other local races didn't change any of the rankings.

Willits Unified School District board had two seats open, and final results show April Lamprich, with 3,067 votes or 42.84%, and David Liker, with 2,400 votes or 33.52%, won the two seats. Candidate Dianne McNeal received 1,693 votes or 23.65%. A total of 7,160 votes were cast for school board candidates, with a total of 5,076 undervotes.

For the Mendocino County Office of Education board Trustee Area 3 seat, representing Willits, Laytonville and Covelo, Michelle Hutchins won, with 3,435 votes or 56%. Candidate David Strock received 2,699 votes or 44%. Total vote in the MCOE race was 6,134 votes, with 1,388 undervotes.

As per the certified tally, Mendocino County voters chose Kamala Harris for president by 61.32% (24,049 votes) compared to 34.49% for Donald Trump (13,528 votes). The final local numbers for the presidential race show a swing toward Trump compared to initial results, based on Election Day voting. More Mendocino County voters reported as "Election Day" voters chose Trump (1,164 votes) than chose Harris (1,161 votes). The 2,441 total of Election Day ballots is only 6.6 percent of the total 39,837 ballots cast in Mendocino County in the November 5, 2024 election.

The "Vote By Mail Status" database on the Elections Office website has been updated. You can check your ballot status at www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections/vote-by-mail-absentee-status. Voters with questions can call the voter office at 707 234-6819.

The rest of Tips

From page 1

Visit www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/200-wrr/ Safer-from-Wildfires.cfm to learn more.

And, since one of the risk factors in a fire is how well the neighbors have prepared to meet disaster, Firewise and Fire Risk Reduction Communities also come in for a break. With insurance harder and more expensive to obtain, it's more essential than ever not to lose your home.

The California Department of Insurance is rolling out its Sustainable Insurance Strategy, an agreement it says could go into effect by the end of the year. Visit <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/180-climate-change/ SustainableInsuranceStrategy.cfm> to learn more.

The Department of Insurance cannot compel companies to do business anywhere, but if the current plan succeeds, insurance companies that have left the state might be enticed to start writing policies in wildfire-prone areas again. The plan is currently under review by the state Office of Administrative Law.

Rural areas have been especially hard hit by insurance non-renewals. Mendocino County is one of 28 counties in the state that the Department of Insurance has designated a "distressed area," meaning that insurance companies have rated more than 20% of the properties at high or very high risk of wildfire. Top insurance companies like Allstate, State Farm and Farmers have at times stopped writing new policies in California.

This leaves the FAIR Plan, originally intended as the insurance of last resort, as the only available option for many people. The FAIR plan is a high-risk pool that only covers basic fire protection for people who can't find another option. It is bare bones and usually more expensive than traditional insurance. Within Mendocino County, Laytonville's is one of the zip codes deemed especially distressed, with a FAIR Plan penetration rate of 15% or more.

Durriya Syed, an outreach analyst with the California

The rest of Housing

From page 1

Tribes members face an extreme housing shortage and often endure poor living conditions and access to basic necessities. Securing funds for Tribal Winds Phase 5 marks a significant step in addressing this shortage and enables RVIHA to continue its commitment to creating affordable housing opportunities and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life of vulnerable members. Construction is likely to begin in 2025.

Lewis Whipple, executive director of the Round Valley Indian Housing Authority, stated: "This funding is a significant step forward for Tribal Winds and the RVIT community. We all know how significant the need for affordable housing is in Round Valley, and we're thrilled to partner with Housing and Community Development to secure these funds and create 18 new homes for the Tribal community."

RVIHA is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity of the Round Valley Indian Tribes and was established in 1975 to provide safe and sanitary housing for low-income tribal members. As the designated recipient of the annual Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act Indian Housing Block Grant, RVIHA currently owns and manages numerous single-family and multi-family residential dwellings as well as commercial properties. RVIHA's current efforts with the Tribal Winds development have resulted in millions in grants secured through state-level programs, further advancing its mission to address prevailing housing needs within the RVIT community.

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, December 5: Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy

Friday, December 6: Pork Chops, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Monday, December 9: Chicken Casserole, Biscuit

Tuesday, December 10: Fish Tacos, Rice & Beans

Wednesday, December 11: Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Thursday, December 12: Salmon Bowl w/Rice, Veggies, Poke Sauce

Friday, December 13: Pork Tacos, Rice & Beans

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 14 this month, 8 to 11 am. Menu choices are: 1. All-you-

can-eat pancakes with 2 eggs, choice of sausage or bacon, and cup of coffee, milk or juice, or 2. Biscuits & gravy with side of eggs only. \$12; \$11 Senior Center members; \$8 children under 8. Extra sausage, bacon, eggs and juice for additional cost.

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

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

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

HMH's Commonwealth Garden features holiday lights in the orchard for upcoming event

Come see the sights at The Commonwealth Garden this holiday season! For one weekend only, Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15, the public is welcome to enjoy some holiday cheer and see the beautiful lights while taking a walk around the decorated orchard. Cookies, hot chocolate and cider will also be available. Come by the garden, located just across the road from Howard Hospital from 5 pm to 8 pm. More info: (707) 459-2777



Above: Durriya Syed, center, of the California Department of Insurance, and Scott Cratty, executive director of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, right, were among the presenters at the November 19 Fire Insurance Community Forum in Laytonville.

Department of Insurance, told attendees that the California Insurance Commission requires transparency, so that property owners can request that their insurers provide them with their fire risk score. This may help them get a clearer idea of what they need to do to mitigate against fire.

Still, sometimes the decision about whether or not to insure a property is made by the reinsurance market, the entities that insure the insurance companies, which seems to mean that even the insurance companies cannot always be sure which policies that they want to insure will be approved.

The Department of Insurance hopes that its Sustainable Insurance Strategy will bring about significant changes in how insurance is calculated. Currently California requires insurance companies to use historical data to determine risk. That means companies cannot use catastrophic modeling, which incorporates estimates predicting future risk based on expectations about the effects of climate change or the likelihood of wildfire in a particular area.

The Department of Insurance wants insurers to commit to insuring more properties in high-risk areas, in exchange for being allowed to use catastrophic modeling, which the industry believes is more accurate. These models are the focus of a new strategy group chaired by Cal Poly Humboldt Dean of the College of Natural Resources Eric Riggs. The group plans to provide Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara with its recommendations about the catastrophic models in April 2025.

The new strategy would also require insurance companies that use the models to take into account wildfire mitigation actions, like home hardening and defensible space. Companies that don't meet their obligations under the plan could be prevented from using catastrophic modeling in the future. The Department of Insurance believes its plan will improve the situation, but does not expect it to be a quick fix.

In the meantime, homeowners complain that their

insurance sometimes costs more than the mortgage; that increases can be substantial every year; and that they've been denied coverage in spite of all their best mitigation efforts.

Annie Barber, of United Policymakers, advises rigorous documentation of all communications with insurance representatives. Follow up all conversations with an email, she urged. Make sure you have a record of your belongings. Develop a thorough understanding of the value that's placed on the loss of use if your home burns down. She encouraged renters to insure their belongings, in case they lose them in a disaster.

A Tubbs fire survivor herself, Barber's research includes personal experience. She strongly advocated finding a local insurance broker who will be an aggressive ally in finding the best deal — though the best deal may still be somewhat grim, in the midst of an insurance crisis.

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council also recommends visiting both wildfireprepared.org for information about which steps the insurance industry recommends to protect your home; and the home hardening video series on its own www.firsafemendocino.org webpage.

If you'd like to learn how to protect your home from wildfire, which could eventually earn you an insurance discount, you can schedule a free property assessment from the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council. You're encouraged to get your neighbors involved, so inspectors can assess a few homes in one day. This is a non-judgmental, non-binding, non-regulatory, risk-free educational experience where you can also learn about opportunities for free or reduced-cost defensible space work. For more information, call (707) 462-3662 or email admin@firsafemendocino.org.

For a full recording of the insurance forum at Harwood Hall, you can go to the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council's Facebook page.

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WW Rain Box

Thanks to Tim Hanna of Willits for providing the Rain Box.

location	Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)							
	Mon Nov 25	Tue Nov 26	Wed Nov 27	Thur Nov 28	Fri Nov 29	Sat Nov 30	Sun Dec 01	weekly total
	Northbrook Way	0.66	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.86	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.92
Valley Rd	0.47	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.56
Canyon Rd	0.48	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.57
Pine Mountain	0.66	0.07	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.74
South Main @ East Oak	0.56	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.65
average	0.62	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.70

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

Six day precipitation forecast for the Willits area	California Nevada River Forecast Center					
	Mon Dec 02	Tue Dec 03	Wed Dec 04	Thur Dec 05	Fri Dec 06	Sat Dec 07
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

<https://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/precipForecast.php?cwa=EKA&imgNum=1&mobile=0>

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