



## Raw Farm dairy products recalled after detection of bird flu virus

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

December 5 – California Department of Public Health reports a recall of all Raw Farm, LLC dairy products after the detection of H5N1 bird flu virus in several batches. Raw Farm is located in Fresno County, California.

The recall, which was initiated following multiple bird flu virus detections in Raw Farm LLC's milk and dairy products, includes all sizes of Raw Farm milk and cream produced between November 9 and November 27, 2024. The affected lot numbers range from 20241109 to 20241127, including previously recalled lots from November 24 and November 27. Consumers who have purchased these products should immediately return them to the point of purchase.

The Division of Environmental Health has notified all affected businesses in Mendocino County and is providing guidance for the proper disposal of the recalled products. DEH is working closely with CDPH to monitor the situation and ensure the safe removal of the products from circulation in Mendocino County.

Mendocino County Public Health urges anyone who consumed the recalled milk and cream to be alert for the signs and symptoms of H5N1 infection, including red eyes, sinus congestion, and fatigue. Anyone who falls ill within 10 days of last drinking the recalled product should contact their doctor or Public Health.

The recall only affects milk and cream. However, CDPH also urges consumers to avoid products of any size from Raw Farm LLC, including milk, cheese, cream, and kefir, as well as raw milk pet food topper and pet food kefir.

There are still no known cases of H5N1 Bird Flu in Mendocino County. Usual handwashing and masking around symptomatic individuals helps reduce spread of all flu viruses, including H5N1.

The Mendocino County Department of Public Health continues to work with CDPH and local healthcare providers to monitor for emerging diseases, including H5N1. Contact your doctor if you or your child develop red eyes or fall ill within 10 days of working with or handling sick birds, cows, or any other animals who can be infected by H5N1.

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Homeless Motel Rooms program

To the Editor:

WELL (Willits Economic Localization) is grateful to be able to offer our fiscal sponsorship to the Homeless Motel Rooms program – formerly managed by Willits Community Services/Food Bank – this year being administered by Ruthanne Volz and other volunteers.

WELL is a non-profit organization working for the past 20 years to help make Willits more sustainable, through education, action, and partnering with other groups and individuals. Our mission includes issues from water and energy conservation to local food, emergency preparedness, and community wellness and housing. As a 501c3 organization, we have often helped sponsor programs through tax-deductible fundraising and for event insurance, recently including the School of Adaptive Agriculture, Willits Wellness Collective, and the Willits Shelter Action Group.

WSAG was formed from WELL's "Building Community" gatherings in 2023 and is actively seeking to establish ongoing support and shelter for the unhoused in our community. Unfortunately it's too late for them to reach the goal of overnight housing this winter. (It's a long and complicated project!)

Ruthanne Volz, who previously was director of the Food Bank and initiated the motel room program, is stepping up to provide this emergency respite program to offer one or two nights a month safe shelter per individual or family to our unhoused population. We also thank the Redwood Inn for providing rooms.

To help, please send a tax-deductible donation designated for the Homeless Motel Rooms Program (minimum \$100 please) to WELL, P.O. Box 42, Willits CA 95490. Funds raised will be ear-marked and used exclusively for the cost of this program.

If you'd like to support WELL with a membership, send a separate check (any amount over \$25) or use the PayPal link at [www.well95490.org/join-donate](http://www.well95490.org/join-donate). Or contact us at [office@well95490.org](mailto:office@well95490.org).

Madge Strong and the WELL Coordinating Committee, Willits

## Support the Willits Motel Rooms Program

To the Editor:

I am writing to inform the Willits community of a change in the usual procedure for serving the homeless in our community during the cold winter months, specifically the winter shelter motel rooms, aka the Homeless Motel Rooms Program. The food bank has chosen not to provide motel rooms for the homeless during this winter of 2024-2025.

I understand that there is lack of funding which prevents the agency from moving ahead. I started and raised funding for this essential service for five years as the executive director of Willits Community Services.

I am disappointed yet understand that funding sources and community generosity may have diminished. I wish the food bank well and appreciate all that they do to feed hungry people. I am relieved to report that Willits Economic Localization, aka WELL, is now handling donations that are beginning to come in, and WELL will facilitate payments to the Redwood Inn for this season.

Rooms will be offered to those in need who are without homes. Each person will get two nights per month during December through April. There is presently a substantial amount pledged toward this vital service. However, more is needed to reach the \$27,000 required. Your donation will help the homeless to be able to get a brief respite and to be warm, safe, get clean, fix meals, and rest well for two nights each month. Please send donations to Willits Economic Localization, WELL, designated for the Homeless Motel Rooms Program, at PO Box 28, Willits CA 95490. Thank you!

Ruthanne Volz, Willits Homeless Motel Rooms Program coordinator

## 'Hot Winter's Night' silent auction, December 12

Season's Greetings to WHS students, families and friends! The Class of 2026 is holding a Silent Auction Fundraiser at the WHS "Hot Winter's Night" performance tomorrow, on Thursday, December 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the main hall at Willits High School.

We are fundraising for this year's prom and hoping for your support. You can support the Class of 2026 by bidding at the auction or by donating items to sell. Please drop off any gently used donations at the WHS front office any time before 6 pm tomorrow, December 12. Please contact Lucy Kyne in the Counseling Office for more information. Thank you and see you at the show!

– WHS Class of 2026

# Holiday Express

## Roots of Motive Power invites families to ride antique train and visit with Santa in the engine house

Santa arrived just in time on his little yellow speeder car, waving at the kids and families waiting in line to board the Roots of Motive Power Holiday Express for their twice-around-the-circle trips, which many took prior to proceeding inside the engine house to sip some hot chocolate, eat some hot dogs and cookies, and sit on Santa's lap. Outside on the train, families, and some furry friends, took in the cool air, listened to the shrill whistle, and watched the steam billow from the old, restored engine.

Some may have noticed a car, new to the Holiday Express. Some huge logs were suspended between two "bunks" making a dynamic addition to the conveyance. "We had to do some work on this car," explained Chris Baldo, one of the founders of Roots. "The center bolster was too low. It didn't want to go around curves very well. These are actually spruce logs. There's no market for spruce, so they had a bunch of these logs and just gave them to Roots because they couldn't sell them. They usually call these skeleton cars when there's just two bunks connected by one center beam. It's an old Milwaukee Road car."

For those attendees who are curious about the equipment found and running at Roots, there is no shortage of knowledgeable volunteers who are more than happy to explain, in detail, every aspect of the machinery and the history of these, mostly logging, pieces of equipment. There are also classes for members.

"We have the Steam Engineering Safety Class coming up the first weekend in April," said Troy James, board member and past president. "The first weekend in June, we have the Railroad Safety Class. The new Dipper Stick Shovel Class, July 20 and 21."

According to the Roots website, <https://rootsofmotivepower.com>: "The weekend includes about half of a day in a classroom session plus hands-on training for the other one and a half days. The training includes the following subjects: construction and theory of digging with a dipper stick, safety, machine design, lubrication, maintenance, and operation. Please wear boots, heavy gloves and long sleeves. The beginning class will be focused on the Bucyrus Erie diesel-powered 22B and the advanced class will be on the Bucyrus Erie steam-powered 50 B (Steam Safety Class is a prerequisite for this class)."

One of Roots' most ambitious projects, the restoration of a huge steam tractor is nearing fruition as they expect a newly custom-built boiler to arrive within a couple of months, and they hope to have the tractor ready for the next July 4 Frontier Days Parade.

Even a trip around the perimeter track can be educational as well as fun. David Gilbertson who, on this day, was stationed in the caboose, imparted a wealth of knowledge to the riders. "By the late '50s, the cabooses were being moved aside and, in the '60s and '70s, they eventually did away with cabooses altogether. Nowadays, you don't have a caboose on the end of a freight train. It's all done by a beacon on the back that does what the caboose used to do when the conductor counted the cars to make sure there were the right number on there," he said as the kids clamored up to the cupola of the caboose for the best view of the route.

"The guys in charge, they have a heart

Roots Over on page 15



Above, left: The annual Roots Holiday Express shows its holiday spirit with a giant wreath. Above, right, top: Roots volunteer David Gilbertson explains much of the history of cabooses to the riders. Above, right: Two young girls sit on Santa's lap and let him know their wishes for Christmas. Above: Kids crowd around Santa as parents take photos. At right: Santa's holiday tree is festooned with railroad-themed ornaments. At far right: Piper happily munches on fresh popcorn while she waits to visit with Santa. At bottom, left: Engineer Shane Grupp brought his family to ride the train and speak with Santa. At bottom, right: Families and extended families love to show off their tickets and ride the train around the .75 mile track.



Photos by Mathew Caine

## Fraudsters impersonating financial institutions locally and nationwide

Submitted by SBMC

Savings Bank of Mendocino County is alerting the community about scam phone calls from fraudsters impersonating bank employees. The fraudsters are "spoofing" the bank's phone number, in other words, the scammers are using deceptive technology that makes it seem like those calls are coming from the bank by deliberately falsifying the Caller ID to disguise their identity. This scam is targeting customers of many different financial institutions locally and coast to coast.

"We cannot emphasize enough how important it is to NOT give out your personal identifying information over the phone, by text, or email," said Stacy Starkey, Savings Bank president and CEO. "The bank will never contact you to ask you for that information."

In recent attempts, the fraudsters are informing the person that they are calling because their account has been the target of fraud and asks them to verify their debit card number, PIN, and requests them to verify personal information. The fraudster will use that information to contact the bank to attempt to impersonate the customer and attempt to gain access to the customer's accounts to initiate large debit card transactions. Remember, the Savings Bank and other banks will never contact our customers and ask them to verify a debit card number, PIN, or account information.

Savings Bank is advising that if you do receive an unsolicited phone call, text message, or email from someone claiming to be from your bank, hang up and call your bank immediately using the phone number on your bank statement, not from the call's Caller ID.

Your financial security is our top priority. To further protect our customers, Savings Bank has placed increased restrictions on debit card transactions. To reduce your risk, we strongly urge our customers to insert their chip card at the checkout terminal when making purchases.

## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto: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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WILLITS CENTER FOR THE  
**ARTS** Presents  
The 37th Annual  
**Willits Holiday Craft Fair**  
40 Booths with quality, handmade crafts  
Friday, Dec. 13th, 12pm -7pm  
Saturday, Dec. 14th, 10am -5pm  
Live Music and Food both days.  
2 locations  
City Hall, 111 E. Commercial  
Willits Center for the Arts, 71 E. Commercial  
[willitscenterforthearts.org](http://willitscenterforthearts.org)

Mendocino Transit Authority can get you home for the holidays!  
Traveling within Mendocino County or making connections beyond.

**CC RIDER**  
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Santa Rosa

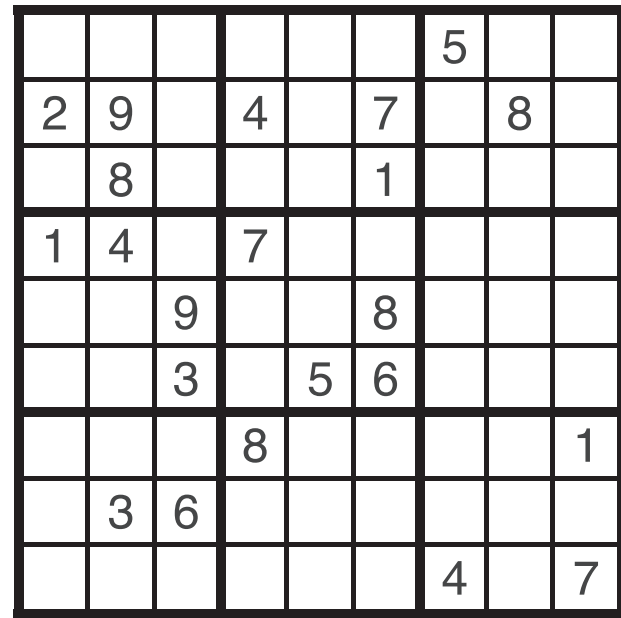
**North State Express**  
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Level: Advanced

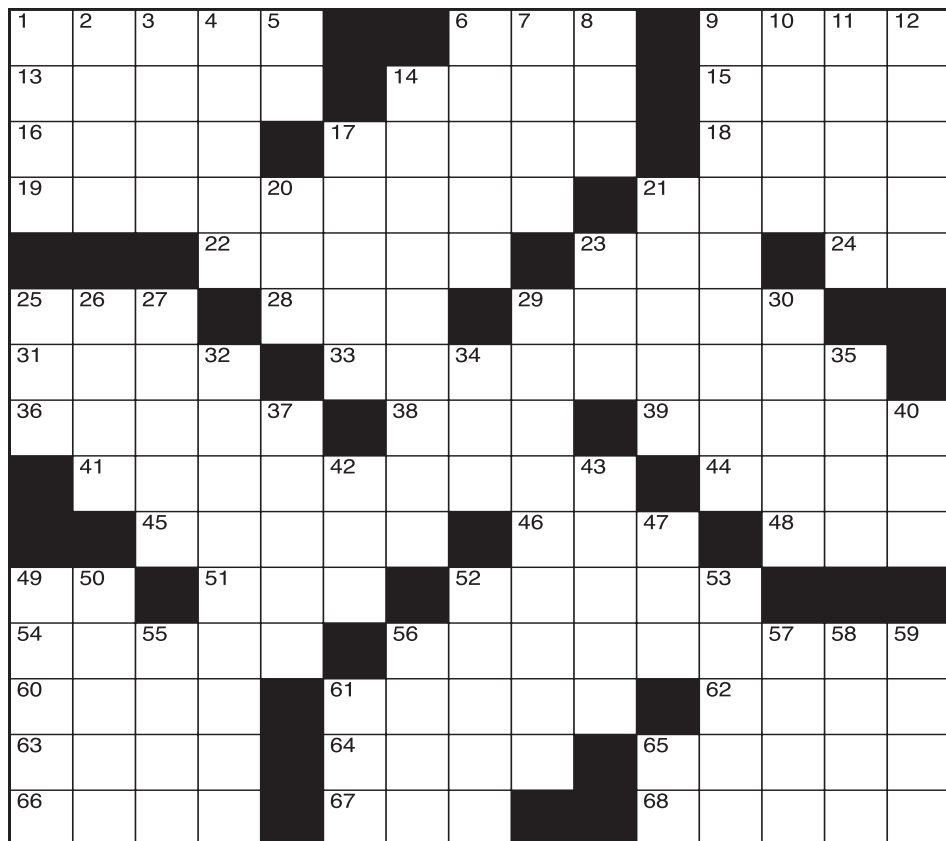
HOW TO  
SUDOKU

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!

CUSTOMER WORD SEARCH



Table with 3 columns: AGENT, FOLLOW-UP, PRIORITY. Rows include terms like ATTENTION, BUSINESS, CONSISTENCY, CUSTOMER, ESCALATION, ETIQUETTE, IMPACT, IMPROVE, LOYALTY, MANAGEMENT, METRICS, PERCEPTION, PERFORMANCE, QUALITY, REPEAT, RESOLUTION, SATISFACTION, SERVICE, SHOPPING, SUPPORT.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Thou \_\_\_ do it
6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
9. Brainstem part
13. Town in New York state
14. Little (Spanish)
15. Continent
16. Retch
17. Short-billed rails
18. Small period of time (abbr.)
19. Confused
21. A team needs one
22. Woman in ancient times
23. Republican Party
24. Spanish be
25. 'The Godfather' character Johnny
28. Not around
29. City in Zambia
31. A type of beginning
33. Numb
36. Gurus
38. Small, gray-headed crow
39. Vehicle type
41. Disorders
44. One point east of southeast
45. Indian soldier
46. Tree type
48. Midway between south and southeast

- 49. It cools your home
51. Corn comes on it
52. Ship's deck
54. A way to bake
56. Improvised
60. Butterfly genus
61. Baseball fields have them
62. Designated space
63. Discharge
64. Two of something
65. Once more
66. Part of your face
67. Tax collector
68. Cassia tree
CLUES DOWN
1. One-time Aaron Rodgers target
2. Wings
3. Overly studious person
4. They protect your valuables
5. The Volunteer State
6. Non-hydraulic cement
7. Horse mackerel
8. Jackson and Diddley are two
9. Splendid displays
10. Mountain in NE Greece
11. A daughter or your brother or sister
12. German surname
14. Having more than one husband at a time

- 17. Romanian city
20. Energy
21. Makes less hot
23. Gas diffusion electrode
25. Former CIA
26. Set an example for others
27. Support of a particular person
29. One from the Big Apple
30. Mountain range
32. Violate the sanctity of something
34. Supervises flying
35. Talks
37. Persian male given name
40. Born of
42. Forcibly take one's possessions
43. Discounts
47. Knockouts
49. Posh Colorado destination
50. Form of therapy
52. British rock band
53. Type of virus (abbr.)
55. The U. of Miami mascot is one
56. Volcanic crater
57. Middle Eastern nation
58. Sinn \_\_ Irish organization
59. Ethiopian lake
61. Bits per inch (abbr.)
65. Equally

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**POLICE LOG**

November 25 to December 1

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 53 incidents in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

November 25

No incidents to report.

November 26

4:37 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

8:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of Locust Street and issued a citation.

10:39 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.

November 27

10:19 pm: CALDWELL, Cody Walker (25) of Willits was contacted in the 700 block of Central Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

11:52 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Margie Drive and Alice Drive.

November 28

5:56 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 21000 block of Locust Street.

11:13 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

12:10 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of Creekside Drive and issued a warning.

The rest of KMUD | From page 1

This year, we've worked hard to serve our community by:

Reporting on important community events like the Wailaki people celebrating the return of a traditional redwood canoe to the Eel River after 170 years and the Wiyot Tribe Seeing its Largest Land Return in Modern History.

Covering emergencies like the evacuation orders & warnings that were issued for Humboldt County during the Bomb Cyclone turned Atmospheric River which brought record-breaking rainfall.

Investigating the Ferndale horse racing deaths and homeless campfires that ignited concerns among Redway residents

Kept local government accountable by covering the Humboldt County Planning Commission, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors meetings, and interviewing local representatives like Natalie Arroyo, Michelle Bushnell, Steve Madrone, and Congressman Huffman.

This grant is an opportunity to continue that work. KMUD is set to receive approximately \$100,000 over a two-year period in unrestricted funds. These funds can be used for general operating expenses such as wages, equipment, and leadership support, but we also aim to use them as a powerful tool to grow. We plan to leverage these monies to attract more funding through matching grants, ensuring we can serve Northern California for years to come.

The Press Forward grant will allow KMUD to expand its engagement and journalistic impact by enhancing local reporting, particularly in rural areas, and supporting the next generation of local reporters. Here's how we plan to use the funds:

The rest of Shamrock | From page 1

aircraft may be visible in the area.

This project adds to significant work underway throughout the state and brings California one step closer towards meeting state fuels reduction goals directed by the California Fire Plan and the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan at https://wildfiretaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/california-wildfire-and-forest-resilience-action-plan.pdf

To track the progress being made, both in your community and throughout California, visit the CAL FIRE fuels reduction dashboard at www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/fuels-reduction

Have something to say? Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com REMEMBER: Deadline is end of day Monday for each week's Thursday edition.

2:21 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of South Street and Central Street.

November 29

10:23 am: Officer responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and Railroad Avenue.

4:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

5:20 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:37 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Holly Street and issued a citation.

10:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Blosser Lane and issued a warning.

10:57 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of Grove Street.

November 30

11:23 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 1

12:26 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

• Youth Journalism Training: KMUD will continue providing journalism training for young reporters in local schools and expand these programs, creating new opportunities for students to participate in broadcasting and media production.

• Journalism Training for Native Reporters: KMUD News is partnering with Native media makers, including the founder of KIDE in Hoopa, to train Native journalists. This collaboration with tribally owned and operated community radio stations will increase coverage of the region's First Peoples and their sovereign nations.

• Travel Support: Additional funding will help cover travel expenses, enabling reporters to reach rural and underserved areas that have been difficult to cover due to high costs.

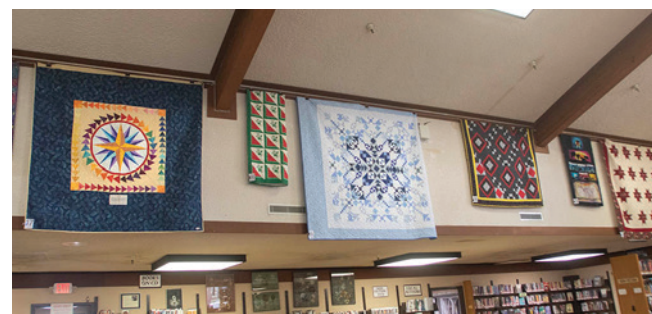
• Digital Access and Archiving: KMUD plans to enhance digital accessibility by creating a searchable archive of past broadcasts. We will partner with the Library of Congress to preserve and ensure long-term access to these valuable stories.

• Sustaining Operations and Expanding Partnerships: In the face of economic challenges, the grant will help sustain newsroom operations by funding staff, reporters, and community news programs. KMUD will also explore new opportunities for fundraising and underwriting, expanding partnerships with businesses and organizations that serve diverse communities.

While this is a moment to celebrate, we also need local support to ensure long-term sustainability. Support our newsroom here: https://kmud.org/donate/one\_time\_donation/



At right: Some of Madison Maciel's stocking and mitten cookies. The Willits Library's Sit & Sew group are displaying their designs at the Willits branch. Soren Fredericks show the loom that he and his sister Ivy use to create their potholders.



Above, from left: A prospective customer peruses some of Madison Maciel's cookies and other goods. Young Ivy Frederick displays one of the paper star ornaments that she and her brother Soren are selling. Dalen Richardson and Silesa Leon brought some yummy baked goods and homemade Christmas cards.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Kids' Winter Craft Fair

Willits Library hosts young vendors showing off their crafts and wares

"This is a Kids' Winter Craft Fair," explained Willits Branch Librarian Denise Jessie. "Someone approached me and said, 'why don't we have a kids' craft fair like they do in Ukiah?'" Shannon helped me, and she found some of the vendors.

Mathew Caine Features Writer willitsweekly@gmail.com

"We have five vendors," Jessie continued, "and they've made a variety of things. We have hot pads. Somebody made jewelry. I think it's a good avenue for young people to learn a trade and do a craft and sell it and feel good about making their own money. I hope that people show up to support them and let them know that we appreciate their crafting."

There were seven vendors signed up for the mini craft fair, but unfortunately two could not make it, but the five that were in attendance offered a variety of entrepreneurial choices. Seemingly, the most popular vendor was the "Charm Bar," which had a plethora of charms from which to choose. The charms would then be attached to either a bracelet or a necklace, creating a custom design which was perfect for gifting or for the customer to keep for themselves.

This booth was the creation of Aria Evans, who, along with her mother, Carolina Evans, worked tirelessly to fill the orders of the attendees. "You choose whatever charms you would like, whatever fits your personality, and then we make a necklace or a bracelet out of it. This is Aria's first show. We'd like to get into the upcoming show at the Art Center," said Carolina Evans.

One of the vendors had two booths to show off their wares. Ivy Frederick and her brother Soren manufacture potholders which are also being exhibited in the Willits Center for the Arts Small Works Show. Soren brought their

small loom to demonstrate how the potholders are made, while Ivy was busy making large paper snowflakes. Their mother, Shannon, was one of the organizers of the market, and was busy tying mistletoe for the people to hang in appropriate places in their homes to instigate holiday kisses.

Ivy explained her craft to Willits Weekly. "We're also going to be at the Grange Craft Show. We make the snowflakes with scissors, paper, and tape. It's really easy. You cut out a square and then you fold it to a triangle and then fold it one more time into a smaller triangle, and then you cut diagonally, and then you fold it over. You make six of them and then put them together. Then you put a string on it, and it's a Christmas ornament."

Also vending were Silesa Leon and Dalen Richardson, who brought a variety of sweets, including some tasty pumpkin cupcakes with a cream cheese icing and Rice Krispie treats. They had hand-made Grinch holiday cards as well. Madison Maciel had mitten and stocking cookies, candles, cups, soap, wax melts, whipped sugar scrubs, amongst her other goods. Haley Hood and Emily Reyn brought bracelets which sold for \$5 or \$10.

The Willits Library is more than just books. As Librarian Jessie sees it, the library should be a place for the community to have a space that is utilized for creative pursuits as well as a place to find books, videos, DVDs, CDs, and much more.

"I came in this morning," Jessie said, "and I looked out, and there were three families with kids wandering around and there was an adult doing a puzzle, somebody else was sitting at a table reading, there were a couple people at the back table playing a card game, and obviously people browsing for books."

"I looked at them and I said, 'this is exactly what we want this library to be,' a quiet community center - not so quiet that the kids couldn't giggle when they found an elf," she said. Jessie also explained about the current scavenger hunt going on at the Willits branch.

"We have about 1 inch baby elves, and they each have on a different outfit so they're 100% unique," said Jessie. "There are 18 of them hidden throughout the library, and the kids enjoyed it so much last year, so we had to do it again this year. They're the same elves who have come back to visit, but they're in different locations."

"We have a laminated sheet with pictures of all the elves which can be checked off with a dry erase marker when the kids find them. If they find all the elves, the kids will get a candy cane and a bookmark with winter-themed animals on it that they can take home and color. We like it because kids are exploring parts of the library that they normally don't see."

Currently, the Willits Library is displaying several quilts that are hanging around the main room, created by the once-a-month Sit & Sew group. A rather sizeable quilt created by the participants is available by a raffle, the proceeds of which will go back to the library to purchase new chairs for the meeting room. The old ones are uncomfortable and have been there since the library was built.

The Willits Library is home to many fun and educational activities, books and reference materials, and entertaining ways to occupy young and grown-up minds.

The Willits Library is located at 390 East Commercial Street. It is open Tuesday through Thursday, 10 am to 7 pm, Friday, 10 am to 6 pm, and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. More info: www.mendolibrary.org/visit/willits or 707-459-5908.

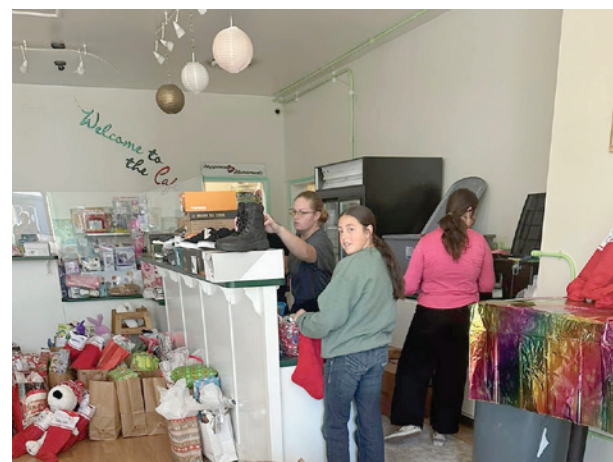
BLUE ZONES PROJECT Because of you MENDOCINO COUNTY IS A HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER PLACE TO LIVE

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Food Review The Whistle Stop ... Cerra Jewel Hunting ★★★★★ 280 E. Commercial St. Willits, Ca. 95490 The Whistle sausage panini was bomb! New Favorite!

BEST BY LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024 SPARETIME -GARDEN CENTER- BRING IN THIS AD RECEIVE 20% off YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE \*Limit one per customer. While supplies last. (707) 459-6791 208 E. San Francisco Ave. sparetimegardencenter.com HOLIDAY HOURS Mon-Sat 9 am - 6 pm Sunday 10 am - 4 pm



Above, left, top: Willits Frontier Days Juniors members help stuff stockings for the Willits Christmas Program. Above, left: the Grapevine Quilters of Mendocino County donated quilts to the program this year. Above, center: The inside of 349 South Main Street has been converted to Tag Tree Headquarters where elves help wrap presents and stuff stockings for the 2024 season. Above, right: Tags for boys and girls hang on trees around town, bearing the wishes and wants of children this holiday. At left: A pile of colorful art supplies and toys were donated by J.D. Redhouse for the Willits Christmas Program. At left, below: The haul of donated items from the Willits Wild Bunch's Toy Run will help fill many of the requests for this year's children. Below: This tag requests make up and outdoor sports items.

## Tag Tree Update

### Return those tags by December 15 to help wrap up 2024 Willits Christmas Program

It's getting down to the last few days for the Willits Christmas Program, with elves shopping, wrapping, and distributing gifts to kids and families in need this season – but there's still time if you want to help. This year, Willits Frontier Days has taken over the program and are excited to continue to offer gifts, and continue their Willits Frontier Days Juniors Christmas stocking program again this year, too.

"If you haven't gotten a tag yet, go to J.D. Redhouse, they took the overflow of what was left of the tags, and there's still a lot there to select," says Willits Frontier Days Head Elf Marcy Barry. "If you have a tag, we would love to have them turned in by December 15 so we can get presents to the kids. Thank you for all the donations – we have such a great community that comes together to make this program so successful."

If you fill one, or all, or if you change your mind and fill none, of the requests on the tag, it's all fine – the tags just need to come back to the group so they can complete them by Christmas. Drop-off barrels are located at the Willits Chamber of Commerce office, J.D. Redhouse & Co., Willits Les Schwab, and Coast Hardware.

You can also check in with the elves at their 2024 headquarters at 349 South Main Street (the former Dahvi's Kitchen) or call Marcy Barry at 707-272-5395 for more information.

— Maureen Jennison

# New City Lights

## Holiday decorations along Main Street feature new designs, LED bulbs

The citizens of Willits may have noticed something different in the holiday decorations on Main Street this year. The old lights – presents on icicles, a snowflake and wreath, a bell, and a tree – have been retired. In their place, new efficient LED substitutions – a multi-colored Christmas tree and a blue-and-white snowflake star and swirl – have been installed on the light poles, at least the ones with available AC power.

Mathew Caine  
Features Writer  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

According to Willits City Manager Brian Bender: "The City Council approved the purchase of new seasonal decorations as part of the city's American Rescue Plan Act budget. A total of \$15,000 was allocated to replace the aging decorations, which had been in use for decades and were literally held together with duct tape.

"Following the council's approval," Bender wrote: "Staff explored various options to find suitable replacements that would also fit the existing light pole brackets. The final selection was a collaborative staff effort, with Assistant City Manager Cathy Moorhead working closely with the vendor to secure the best possible price, ensuring the purchase stayed within budget."

The new lights have several advantages over the old ones. "It's something we all agreed on as a team, at the city," explained Kenan O'Shea, superintendent of Streets and Parks. "We wanted to upgrade to something newer and more energy-efficient and more efficient with the staff time. The old ones were really starting to fall apart. It would usually take a couple people almost two days to switch out all the bulbs and test everything, just to prep them to put them up.

"We wanted to get something a little stouter, a little more modern, to go with the times," O'Shea said. "These new ones have LED bulbs, so they're not going to use as much power, which is always a good thing. And they're part of a set, so they match. The armatures are all the same, whereas the old ones were kind of a menagerie of different decorations that had been acquired over the years."

According to O'Shea, the old holiday lights are available to interested non-profits that may have use and the facilities for them. "We're trying to find a home for the old decorations," said O'Shea. "If there is an organization out there in the area that would be willing to come and look at them, I'd be happy to provide pictures. We'd like to see them go to a 501 [c]3 or someone who is going to utilize them or somebody who doesn't have the ability to purchase them for themselves.

"They do require 110-volt power so it's just a plug for each one. O'Shea said. "If someone would like to inquire about obtaining the old lights, they can contact me at my email koshea@cityofwillits.org. I can send them pictures. I think I may have some extra bulbs. I'd like to see them go to a school or a non-profit. I think we have about 25 that are in decent shape."

The holiday decorations end at Safeway, in front of the Willits Arch, due to the lack of outlets on the poles located south of that point.



Above, left: Christmas trees are a familiar symbol of the holiday season. Above, right: A closer photo of the blue-and-white star and swirl holiday light. Below: The lights have been installed on streetlight poles along Main Street where there is an outlet.

Photos by Mathew Caine



At left: Over the years, the old lampost decorations were photographed while being installed along Main Street including, from left: the presents on icicles, the snowflake and wreath, the bell, and the tree.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

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# Christmas Comes Early Event!

Daily: 500 Points per Entry into the Grand Prize Drawing to

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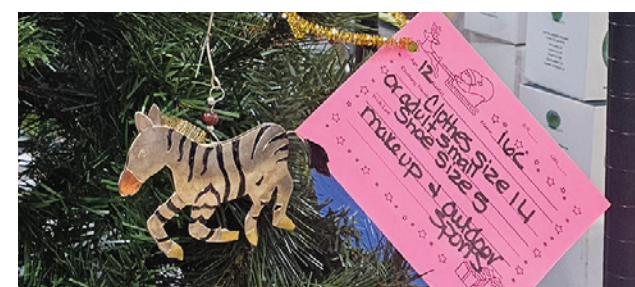
Sunday, December 15th at 8 PM

All Players' Club Members will receive 1 Free Entry on the day of the drawing from

### Christmas Comes Early Bonus Entries

Friday(s): Random Hot Seat Drawings for 5 Bonus Entries into the Christmas Comes Early Grand Prize from 10 AM - 10 PM

See Guest Services for details. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER



### Happy Holidays and a safe and healthy New Year

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The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Bicoastal Media is a vote-based contest for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are finalized and make up the official Best of Lake and Mendocino voting ballot. The audience can then vote on one choice in each category. Voters are allowed to nominate without limits and once the voting period has begun, one vote per category per 24-hour period is allowed. Listing in this publication and/or award is not a guarantee of future investment success. This recognition should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor by any client. No compensation was provided directly or indirectly by the recipient for participation or in connection with obtaining or using the third-party rating or award.

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### MOANA 2

(PG)  
1 hr 40 mins  
Fri.: 4:15 & 7:15  
Sat.-Sun.: 11:45, 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15  
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:45 & 11:45

### HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

(PG)  
1 hr 45 mins  
Fri.: 4:30 & 7:00  
Sat.-Sun.: 11:30, 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00  
Mon.: 4:30 & 7:00

### THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALANCE

(PG-13)  
2 hrs 3 mins  
Tues.-Thurs.: 4:25 & 7:00

### KRAVEN THE HUNTER

(R)  
2 hrs 7 mins  
Fri.: 4:00 & 6:45  
Sat.-Sun.: 1:15, 4:00 & 6:45  
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:00 & 6:45

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

Tightwad Titles for Tuesday (Dec. 17) are in RED. All tickets at just \$8!

**Thursday, December 12**

**Closing Day Senior Center Christmas Store:** "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." Last day is Thursday, December 12, 9 am to 4 pm. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. All proceeds to benefit the Senior Center.

**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

**Matt Michienzie Band at Shanachie:** Special Thursday night show, December 12 at 7 pm. Rippin' Southern California bluegrass on a Northern California tour with this countrified, bluesified, and grassified band. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

**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: "Imagined 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

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**Sit-N-Sew:** Second Saturdays at the Willits Library, December 14 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in - bring your sewing project and have fun. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

**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!"

**Commonwealth Garden Holiday Lights:** Come enjoy holiday cheer and holiday lights in the orchard at Howard Hospital's Commonwealth Garden, hosted by the garden and the Howard

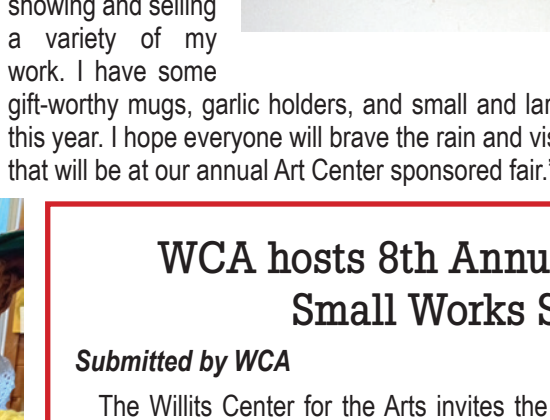
# What's Happening Around Town



**Trek Fundraiser**  
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 on 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 fun 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.



**Bonnie Belt. at left and right:** "I love being at the Willits Craft Fair," says Willits artist Bonnie Belt, "and I will be showing and selling a variety of my work. I have some gift-worthy mugs, garlic holders, and small and large sculptures on display again this year. I hope everyone will brave the rain and visit all the wonderful craft booths that will be at our annual Art Center sponsored fair."

December 15, from 12 to 4 pm, 400 East Commercial Street. Book signing and author talk by Karen Rifkin, author of "The History of Ukiah's Palace Hotel," from 1 to 3 pm. Crescent Moon Craft from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Special Gift Store items, Fairy House Scavenger, and more.

More info: visit [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum) or contact [museum@mendocinocounty.gov](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.gov) or 707-234-6365.

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**Special 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](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum), [museum@mendocinocounty.gov](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.gov) or 707-234-6365

**Commonwealth Garden Holiday Lights:** Come see the holiday lights at Howard Hospital's Commonwealth Garden this holiday season. Sunday, December 15, from 5 to 8 pm. See Saturday, December 14 listing for more details.

**Tuesday, December 17**

**Willits Gem & Mineral Society Meeting:** Join the Willits Gem & Mineral Society for a free monthly meeting, on Monday, December 16 this month. Come hang out with local rockhounds, lapidary artists, jewelers, and fellow rock enthusiasts. Bring a wrapped present for the gift exchange. 7 to 8:30 pm, at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street.



**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.

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**Wednesday, December 18**

**The Harmony Keepers at Brickhouse:** Duo Kate Black and Anita Blu perform at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street, Wednesday, December 18, from 12 to 2 pm, and on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Beautiful vocal harmonies, with guitar and keyboard, and some songs with dulcimer or ukulele. Music from Joni Mitchell, Carole King, James Taylor, Phoebe Snow, Laura Nyro, Leonard Cohen and more.

**Willits Stamp Club:** The monthly meeting of the Willits Stamp Club is on second Wednesday this month, Wednesday, December 18, 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Bring your collection and enjoy time perusing stamps. All are welcome. Refreshments served. Info: [talsofam@pacfic.net](mailto:talsofam@pacfic.net)

**Willits Farmers Market:** The last farmers market before Christmas, Thursday, December 19 at Little Lake Grange, 391 School Street. 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 (also the last Willits Weekly edition of 2024), and more.

**Thursday, December 19**

**Willits Farmers Market:** The last farmers market before Christmas, Thursday, December 19 at Little Lake Grange, 391 School Street. 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 (also the last Willits Weekly edition of 2024), and more.

**Friday, December 20**

**Book Lovers Discussion Group at the Library:** This group meets monthly to discuss books, authors and genres, this month: Friday, December 20, 12 to 1 pm. Come talk about why you love books! All adults welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: [www.mendolibrary.org](http://www.mendolibrary.org) or 459-5908.

**Winter Solstice Celebration and Spiral Dance at the Grange:** Come join in the circle to celebrate the return of the light! Friday, December 20 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Ceremony includes a story suitable for children and includes children, songs, candle lighting, and drums. Doors open at 6 pm; ceremony begins at 6:30 pm, when doors will close. Followed by a community Spiral Dance. 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.

**Those Guys at Shanachie:** Michael Canavos and Chris Rovetti as Those Guys are "a dynamic collective that

seamlessly blends rock, country, blues, and folk influences into a sound that is distinctly their own." Friday, December 20, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**Saturday, December 21**

**Nectar at Shanachie:** featuring vocalist Nicole Aguilar. Saturday, December 21, 8 pm. With Jeffrey Brooks, guitar; Andrew Robertson, bass, Aaron Luedeman, and Paul Scott Haley. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.



**FOWL Winter Pop-up Book Sale, through December 19**

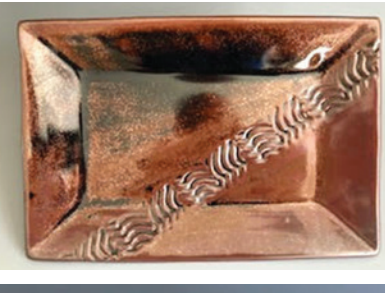
The Friends of the Willits Library are hosting a pop-up book sale at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Sale started December 3 and runs through Thursday, December 19. Stop in to find some great deals and support your local library. All books \$1. The Willits Library is located at 390 East Commercial Street, and is open Tuesday through Thursday, 10 am to 7 pm, Friday, 10 am to 6 pm, and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. More info: [www.mendolibrary.org/visit/willits](http://www.mendolibrary.org/visit/willits) or 707-459-5908.

**Free Take & Make Fall Craft Kit**

Drop by the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial and pick up your kit to create some beautiful autumn leaves. Kits will be available at the circulation desk during library open hours while supplies last. One kit per child in a family. This craft is best suited for ages 3 and up.



**Irwin Pottery, above and below:** Gerald and Linda Irwin have been making ceramic functional ware since 1996 in Mendocino County. For over 15 years we participated in the Mendocino College Ceramics Department as students and leaders in the College Ceramics Club. We sold our work in both the annual Holiday Sale and the Spring Plant Sale at the college. This will be the first time that our work will be for sale at the Willits event. Linda's work is known for the painted floral decorations."



**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](http://willitscenterforthearts.org) or call 707-459-1726.

- Willits Center for the Arts

**Anne Vander Horck, below:** Fabric artist Anne Vander Horck is offering her handmade dolls, quilted table runners, beverage coasters, baby bibs, and other beautiful and useful delights again this year at the Willits Center for the Arts Craft Fair



**Can You Help A Laytonville Child Experience A Merry & Bright Christmas?**  
 Pam and Susan's North Pole Toy Express, Laytonville's Toy Drive for over 35 years, is asking for your support. Donations are being requested to help make Laytonville kids' Christmas Holiday a little more merry & bright. Last year, we wrapped presents for over 120 kids.

**Santa's Wishlist**  
 Board games  
 Arts/crafts supplies (coloring books, crayons, markers, craft kits, etc.)  
 Basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, volleyballs, etc.  
 Kids/teen books  
 Gift cards to local stores such as Graveler's Chevron, Pour Girls, 101 Grill, etc. so teens can get snacks/lunch (\$20 or more)  
 Toys for all ages, such as Barbies, Legos, RC Cars, building blocks, etc.  
 Stuffed animals, Squishmallows, cuddly things  
 Packs of socks for teens (adult sizes) any color, style  
 Warm hats/beanies, scarves, gloves for teens (adult sizes) any color, style  
 Any new toy or game or outdoor activity  
 Monetary donations can also be made, and we will shop for you!  
 Check can be made to "Harwood Memorial Park-FRC" with NPTE in memo line or cash can be dropped off at Laytonville Healthy Start. Thank you!

Donations can be dropped off at Laytonville Healthy Start (next to Harwood Hall) by December 13. For more information, please call (707) 984-8089.



Above: The full cast of "Believe!", a powerful up-beat Christmas show written by Faye Couch Reeves and directed by Robert Ford, which opens Saturday, December 14 at 7 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. Photo by Sanja Burgal

**'Believe!', a Christmas play with traditional music, runs December 14 to 22 at WCT**

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

This holiday season, don't miss "Believe!", a feel-good Christmas show with traditional music, written by Faye Couch Reeves and directed by Robert Ford.

A play for the whole family, "Believe!" tells the story of Alex Norton, a teenage boy who has become disillusioned about the meaning of Christmas. To Alex, Christmas has become over-commercialized, so much so that he thinks most people have forgotten "the reason for the season." As the play unfolds, various things happen to Alex which lead him to change his mind and to "light a candle rather than curse the darkness."

Director Ford says: "The play is about hope, about the boy's family helping him as he's going through a hard time - instead of criticizing him. The real message is that what we do means something. When we're helping people, we're bringing hope into their lives."

The play has a full complement of teens and children playing Alex's friends, as well as angels, sheep, and shepherds in the local church's Christmas pageant.

**Believe!**  
 Written by Faye Couch Reeves  
 Directed by Robert Ford  
 A Play with Traditional Christmas Music  
 Saturday, December 14, 7 PM  
 Sunday, December 15, 2:30 PM and 7 PM  
 Friday, December 20, 7 PM  
 Saturday, December 21, 7 PM  
 Sunday, December 22, 2:30 PM  
 Performances at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane  
 Tickets \$20 available at the door and at www.wctperformingartscenter.org

Main actors in "Believe!" are William Hahn playing Alex, Desa Holt playing his sister Emma, Rebecca King playing Mom, Corey Gaus playing Dad, and Finn Shipp playing Alex's brother Sid. Pastor Jim Semisch plays a character in the play named Pastor Jim, and Soren Thornburg plays Alex as a child.

"Believe!" opens on Saturday, December 14 at 7 pm at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, in downtown Willits. On Sunday December 15, there are shows at 2 pm and at 7 pm. The following Friday and Saturday, "Believe!" plays at 7 pm, and the Christmas play 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.

"Believe!" is a Willits Community Theatre-Gateway to the Stage production and is sponsored by ENJ Construction and Landscaping and by Calvary Chapel of Willits. Season sponsors for WCT are Community Foundation of Mendocino County, Sparetime Supply, NC Financial, KZYX Radio, and Jerry Drew Painting.

The Howard Foundation & The Commonwealth Garden Present:

**HOLIDAY LIGHTS**

Family Fun, Lights, Bonfire, Cookies, Cocoa, Santa & More!

Saturday, December 14th 5pm-8pm  
 Sunday, December 15th 5pm-8pm

90 Heale Creek Dr  
 Willits, CA 95490  
 (Across from the Hospital)

A Free Event

Donations Accepted at Entrance  
 For questions and donations contact:  
 The Howard Foundation at (707) 459-2777



**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, cider and refreshments from Roots will also be available, and everyone is welcome to come see Santa! Decorations have been done by the Commonwealth Garden, Howard Foundation, Sparetime Supply, and students from the Willits Charter School Garden Class. Come by the garden, located just across the road from Howard Hospital, from 5 to 8 pm. More info: (707) 459-2777

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 1221 N Main Street Fort Bragg CA 95434

**DONATIONS WANTED FOR Pam & Susan's North Pole Toy Express**

Christmas Toy Drive for Laytonville kids  
 Pick a gift tag off the "Giving Tree" & purchase the item listed

Trees are located at:  
 Savings Bank-Laytonville branch,  
 101 BBQ & Grill & Healthy Start

Drop-off Location:  
**Laytonville Healthy Start** 44400 Willits Avenue  
 (next to Harwood Hall)

Drop off toys (unwrapped) by Friday, December 13  
 For more info call (707) 984-8089

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Sat. December 7th @ 8-5pm  
 Thurs. December 12th @ 8-6pm  
 Sat. December 14th @ 11-1pm  
 Thurs. December 19th @ 8-6pm  
 Sat. December 21st @ 11-1pm

No Appointments Needed!  
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OBITUARY | **Mildred Lee Joy**

Mildred "Milly" Lee Joy passed away on November 14, 2024 at 104 years old at home in Baechtel Creek Village in Willits, where she lived for the past 34 years.

Mildred was born September 13, 1920 near Humeston, Iowa to Elmer and Linda (Warrick) Lee. She was the fourth of five children. Predeceased by parents Elmer and Linda Lee, sisters Vera and Lena and brothers Kenneth and Robert.

Her parents were farmers. Mildred attended a small one-room country school. Her father passed away at 45 when Mildred was 11. Her mother left the farm and moved with Mildred and her youngest brother, Robert to the small town of Woodburn, Iowa where she graduated from high school. In 1939, Mildred married Wilbur Joy and became a farmer's wife in Iowa and Missouri.

They moved to Riverside, California where they lived a long time. Mildred worked at various types of employment, dental receptionist, real estate secretary, newspaper proofreader, and photographer assistant. She enjoyed them all and changed her work, as she desired, always anticipating learning something new and interesting. Mildred's two children graduated from high school in Riverside. Karen married and had a daughter, Serena. Michael went to college in Northern California.

Mildred and Wilbur divorced, and she moved to Willits. Mildred loved the Baechtel Creek Village and had many wonderful friends.

Mildred aged gracefully and was fortunate to have the best caregiver in the world, Kathy Thomas. Mildred loved and appreciated all that Kathy did for her all those years. Michael was a good son and was extremely helpful, visiting Milly often and caring for her needs.

Karen and Serena were too far away to be with her often and Mildred loved and appreciated them.

Mildred is survived by her son, precious granddaughter, many nieces and nephews, and her many friends, who will not forget the many times they laughed together.

A Celebration of Life for Milly: Sunday, January 12, 2025 at Baechtel Creek Village Community Room from 2 to 4 pm. All are welcome.

For appointments call: (707) 459-3106

**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-6:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday Bible Study-7:30 p.m.

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

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- 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  
 Willits, CA 95490  
 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://santhonywillits.org/  
 saintanthonywillits@gmail.com  
 We welcome All Walks of Faith

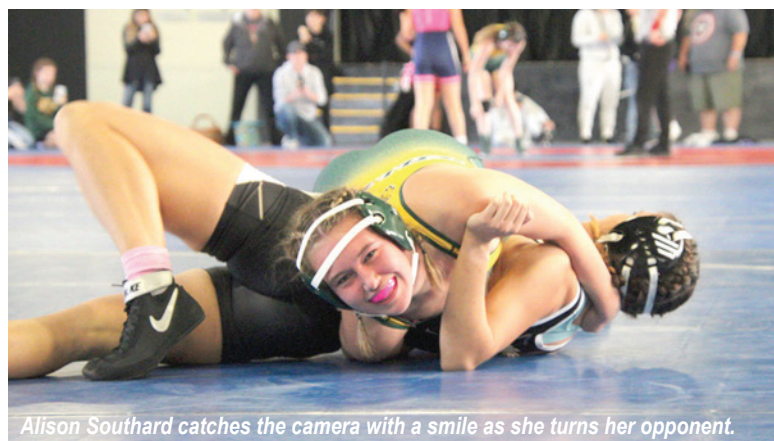
**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
 1 North Main Street, Willits  
 Willits, CA 95490  
 707-272-0177  
 Sunday Service - 10 a.m.  
 In-person and on Zoom  
 Call for information.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
 The Rev. Betsy Brunenau

**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

## WHS Wolverine basketball and wrestling teams are eager to begin winter season



Alison Southard catches the camera with a smile as she turns her opponent.



Above: The WHS Wrestling Team poses for a photo: from left, top row, Tabitha Glenn, Head Coach Brian Bowles, Ely Bowles, Dana Karkar, Brian Bowles, Donald Glenn, Jayden Finley, Delia Siderakis, Alison Southard, Ava Dockins-Kline, Stormie Nowlin, William Burcell, Zain Marshall, Aiden Punahaole-Figueroa, Coach Will Dunaway, Emma Hulsey, Bella Glenn, Yumalay Meza, Emelia Owsniany, Serenity McCartney and Ashlyn Alvarez; bottom row, Athena Marino-Defrates, Naya Post, Ember Hetherington, Roe Weidaw, Vada Morgan, Chey Thurman and Cassidy Noonan.



Above, left: Grady Cooley goes for a layup at the last second. Above, right: Lyly Herman gets some air as she shoots. At right: Ava Dockins-Kline gets a hand raise at her first-place match. Below: Donald Glenn works tediously for the pin.



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Willits High School Wolverines winter sports have officially begun! Another set of trailblazing game / tournament schedules have been released that will keep this community of athletes, coaches and families buzzing through the holidays, and into the New Year.

**Sheri Dockins**  
Sports Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

There will be a plethora of JV / varsity girls and boys games. There will also be two duals and the CMC League Championship Tournament for Willits Wolverines Wrestling. All held here in our iconic Steve Short Gymnasium.

These talented young athletes thrive on the support from our community. Schedules are posted at the school, and on the "Wolverines Den" page on Facebook. See you there! Let's GO Wolverines!

Varsity basketball new head coach eager to take on new season

These are exciting times for the Willits Wolverines Basketball team! They are kicking off the season with energy and determination under the leadership of new head coach Trey Henson. In his debut season, Henson is fostering a culture of resilience, teamwork and growth that has already been evident in these early match-ups.

"Last Wednesday the Wolverines beat the Laytonville Warriors with a commanding 57-24 victory, setting a high standard for what this team is capable of achieving," said Henson. "While they faced challenges in the following games, including a tough 61-23 loss to Pinewood, a high-caliber Bay Area team, and a nail-biting 60-57 tournament game against Anderson Valley, the team has shown remarkable grit and potential.

"Notably, the Wolverines played both games without their big man, Jayden Schlegel, who was unavailable," Henson said. "Despite his absence, the team stepped up and gave everything they had in two very different, but competitive, matches. I praised my players for their effort and heart. It was one heck of a game! The way these guys responded without Jayden in both games shows the heart, and determination this team has. I couldn't be prouder of how they battled!" said Henson.

"The good news for Willits fans? Schlegel will be back and ready to make an impact in the Wolverine's first home game against Credo on Tuesday night December 10, 2024," assured Henson. "This marks a key moment in the season as the team looks to make a statement on their home court."

Coach Henson and the varsity basketball team are calling on the community to pack the stands and cheer them on to fuel them with a supportive energy as they grow. The next home game will be January 7 against Calistoga.

**JV basketball determined to make it happen in new season**

JV basketball boys hit the court running in the high school tournament this last weekend. They won 1-3 games and learned some of what this team is made of for the season ahead. Jaden Stephens played solidly the entire tournament, and was the highest scoring player. Ricky Valencia had a couple of impressive three-pointers, and was the second-highest scoring player. All the boys fought hard and showed their fierce determination for this game.

"I'm very proud of the boys and how they played this weekend," said Coach Guy Vaccaro. "It was very exciting to see them come together and execute what Coach Ray and myself have been working on with them. We are looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish as a team for our high school

and community."

The JV basketball team's next game is Tuesday, January 7 against Calistoga.

**JV girls basketball strives for a passionate beginning**

The JV girls basketball team is positively putting in effort on another fantastic season. Their record so far is 3-3.

"WHS JV girls played in a tough tournament this weekend with some high-level teams," said Coach Amanda Pierson. "It was a great way to get ready for league. The girls have quiet chemistry and are very passionate about their sport.

"The team this year is hungry and never gives up," said Coach Gary Williams. "We have some great team leaders. I'm very proud of our team. We rebound well and play solid defense. We have learned a lot and are ready for league play!"

**Varsity girls basketball sets out to believe and achieve in the new season**

"I am so excited to be back on the court this season with this incredible group of ladies!" said Coach Dawn McClelland. "We have two captains this season that are beginning their third season on varsity. We are lucky to be led by senior Mia Chavez and junior Cecily Potter. Also returning for their second seasons are sophomores Chloe Wright and Leah Blakely. We gained five members from last year's NCL 1 JV championship team: juniors Jazmarie Henson, Lyly Herman, Ava Holmen, Arion Martin and Kate Winter. Rounding out this year's team are senior Jocelyn Galvan and junior Estrella Mendoza. These girls have a fighting spirit and are learning to play together. I see a very successful season coming their way! My motto for this season is: one team, one mission - believe and achieve! Let's go Lady Wolverines!"

Basketball is an extremely cardio-driven sport. These kids go hard and give it all they got out there on the court. Their spirit is infectious! They also practice hard while maintaining good grades to participate in the sport they are passionate about. You have to hand it to all of these amazing kids for the exertion and dedication put in.

**Wolverines Wrestling - hard work pays off from start to finish**

Willits Wolverines' dynamic wrestling team has an intensely riveting schedule for both the girls and boys this season, including two home duals on January 15 and 22. Also, the CMC League Championship on February 14.

There is a big team this year: 20 boy wrestlers, and an impressive boom of 24 lady wrestlers. They commenced the start of their season by packing two vans to head to Middletown for the CMC Novice Tournament on December 6, then returned and directly packed four vans of grapplers to travel back over to Orland and attend the Doc Petersen Tournament at the Glenn County Fairgrounds the following day. Twenty schools traveled from all over to attend this event.

"Our wrestling teams had a fantastic debut performance at the Middletown Novice and Doc Petersen Invitational," said Coach Brian Bowles. "I'm proud of their individual matches. They were fun to watch! I love seeing them apply what they learn in practice to their matches. Both teams have a great deal of potential. It's going to be a fun season!"

Read the rest of **Sports** | Over on page 13



### Mendocino County invites applications for:

- Administrative Secretary**  
\$50,585 - \$61,505
  - Chief Deputy Treasurer-Tax Collector**  
\$84,572 - \$102,772
  - 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
  - Mental Health Clinician I/II**  
\$62,337 - \$87,630
  - 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
  - Sheriff's Services Technician**  
\$37,564 - \$45,676
  - Social Worker I - IV-D**  
\$51,729 - \$97,448
  - Supervising Animal Protection Officer**  
\$57,470 - \$69,846
  - Supervising Health Program Coordinator**  
\$75,920 - \$92,268
  - Supervising Public Health Nurse**  
\$113,609 - \$138,091
  - Youth Corrections Officer - Extra-Help**  
\$26.61 - \$32.34 Hourly
- For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs)
- EOE



Above: Ely Bowles works hard to take down his Durham opponent.

Photo by Ava Dockins-Kline

The rest of **Sports** | From page 12

These devoted athletes never cease to amaze with their resilience as they practice hard, maintain good grades, travel endlessly, sleep on mats, and wrestle strenuous matches for 10-to-12-hour tournaments. Wrestling is not only a team sport, it is an astounding individual journey of growth, both physically and mentally. The pride in the wins and the learning from the losses are monumental to the nature of a person, and to life.

There is a famous quote for wrestling: "once you've wrestled, everything else in life is easy." The sheer strength, willpower and endurance of each one of these athletes is nothing short of remarkable.

"Great opening weekend for Wolverines Wrestling!" said Coach Will Dunaway. "They all wrestled tough! We have a lot of work to do on the daily. It's gonna be a great season!"

Coach Dana Karkar agreed: "We started the season out strong. I'm excited for the season ahead."

Both girls and boys teams placed fourth at the Doc Petersen Tournament.

- Placers at CMC Novice:**
- First place- 157, Jordon Shull
  - First place-132, Aiden Punahaole-Figueroa
  - Second place- 215,

- Zain Marshall
- Third place- 144, Brian Bowles
- Third place- 152, Nikolai Ritchley
- Third place- 120, Eli Rosado
- Fourth place- 120, Will Burcell
- Placers at Doc Petersen:**
- First place- 170, Ava Dockins-Kline
- Second place- 115, Lucy Vargas
- Second place- 175, Donald Glenn
- Third place- 215, Ely Bowles
- Fourth place- 144, Brian Bowles
- Fourth place- 110, Vada Morgan
- Fourth place- 120, Makiah Carter
- Fourth place- 155, Emma Hulsey
- Fifth place- 130, Stormie Nowlin
- Fifth place- 155, Chey Thurman
- Fifth place- 157, Jordon Shull
- Sixth place- 126, Pancrazio Bertolino

Congratulations to the WHS winter sports athletes on a great start! You are a bright light to this small community that continues to watch and support with admiration and love. We can't wait to hear about your accomplishments. Wolverines pride for life!

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**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:

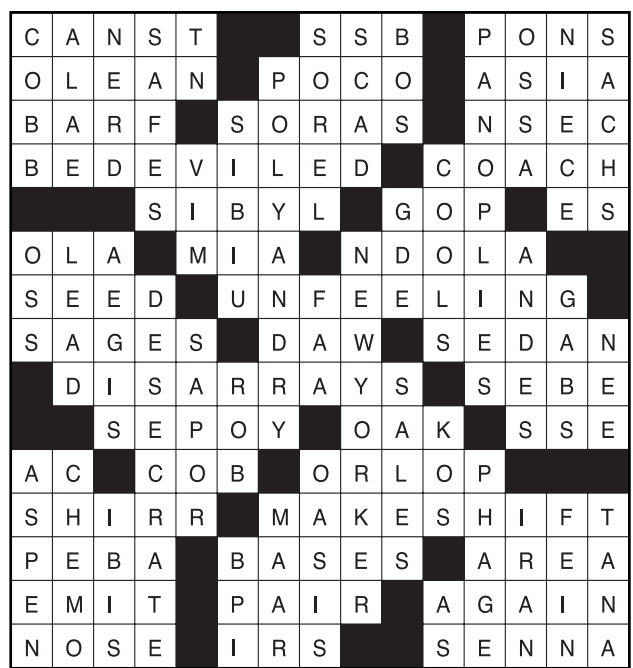
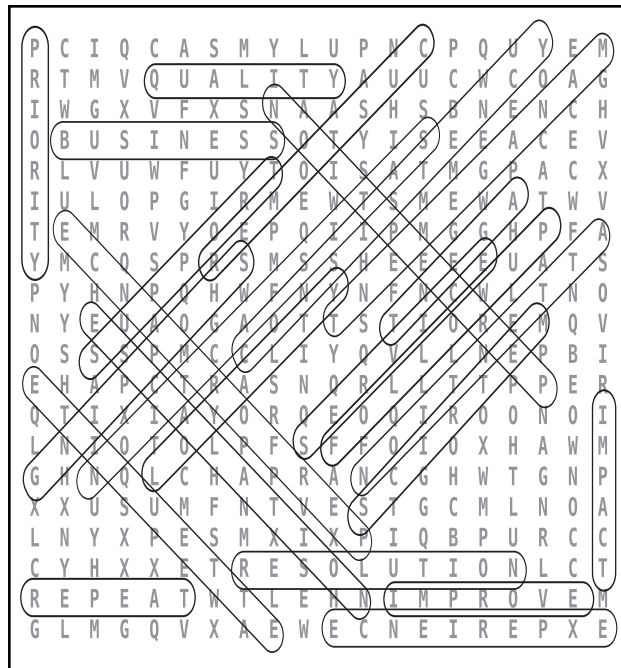
- Aleesha Balsom C94
- Israel Elizonda F07
- Miranda Rico Dalbesio D22
- Davian Steffen B05

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



## CLASSIFIEDS

- For Rent**  
1100 square foot office space available. 1115A Main Street in Willits. Call 707-459-4078, ask for Diane.
- 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.oakrivine.net>
- 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)
- 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

\$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks  
Email us your ad copy to include a classified ad here next week:  
[willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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





# Letters to Santa

Drop off with Mrs. Claus at Imagination Station's Educational Toy Depot or mail them straight to Santa at the Willits Post Office

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!



Above: Saprina "Mrs. Claus" Rodriguez will be accepting Letters to Santa on Saturday, December 14.

## Imagination Station Toy Depot

Mrs. Claus, above, will be receiving Letters for Santa on Saturday, December 14 from noon to 6 pm. Your child may bring a handwritten one, or have Mrs. Claus help your child write one! Be sure you have a return address on it.

## U.S. Post Office – Willits branch

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



Above: The box in the lobby at the USPS Willits branch is ready to accept Santa letters through December 20.

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 letter, at left, and bring it to the post office. 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!

– Maureen Jennison



## Powering the Season of Joy & Giving

As we celebrate ten years of powering our communities, Sonoma Clean Power invites you to join in the holiday spirit.

## Donate & Celebrate

Visit [sonomacleanpower.org](http://sonomacleanpower.org) to donate to your favorite local food bank or to learn more about SCP's holiday programs.

